



**Sierra Bainbridge**

Senior Principal and Managing Director, MASS Design Group

Sierra began work with MASS Design Group in 2008 focusing on landscape architecture and joined full time in 2009 to finalize design and oversee implementation of the Butaro Hospital in Rwanda, MASS' first project. Currently Sierra directs the ongoing design and implementation of MASS' planning and architectural projects and is currently overseeing The Kayanja Center, an academic facility supporting rural health care delivery and research in Uganda, a number of African Conservation Schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia, and Rwanda, and the Butaro Hospital Expansion Plan, among others. Those completed include Butaro Hospital, the Umubano Primary School, the Butaro Doctors' Housing, and the Butaro Ambulatory Cancer Center.

Prior to joining MASS, Sierra worked for four years at James Corner Field Operations, primarily in design and oversight of implementation of Section 1 of the New York City High Line. Sierra has taught graduate level studios at various universities and from 2010-2012, Sierra served as Head of the Architecture Department at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) in Rwanda. At KIST, Sierra was instrumental in shaping the current curriculum. She is invited to speak regularly, including the keynote address at the Healthcare Design Conference, serving as a Sasaki Distinguished Visiting Critic at the Boston Architectural College, and lecturing at the Carter 'Lectures In African Studies' series, the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, University of Toronto, and the American Institute of Architects, among others. Select features of Sierra's work with MASS Design Group include *A+U Magazine*, *Lotus*, *Mark Magazine*, and *Detail*.

Sierra received her Bachelors of Arts in Art and Architectural History from Smith College and her Masters of Landscape Architecture and Masters of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Naomi Davis**

Founder and CEO, Blacks In Green

Naomi aims to reinvent her childhood "sustainable-square-mile" here in the Age of Climate Crisis. She is the founder/President of Blacks In Green (BIG™), an urban theorist, attorney, activist, and proud granddaughter of Mississippi sharecroppers. Her heritage forms the foundation for BIG's course in Grannynomics™, The 8 Principles Green-Village-Building™ and The Sustainable Square Mile™ which Naomi authored and teaches nationally in lectures and workshops, and universities. Naomi serves as a bridge and catalyst among communities and their stakeholders in the design and development of green, self-sustaining, mixed-income, walkable-villages within black neighborhoods – so that every household can ultimately walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, walk-to-play – and neighbor dollars can circulate locally to limit the greenhouse gases overheating our planet. She conveys the risks of global warming; the health/wealth opportunities of the new green

economy; the power of neighbors to lead in their city's enviro-economic policy and practice; and the primacy of land ownership.

Naomi served on Governor-Elect Pritzker's Transition Team - Powering Illinois' Future, on Mayor Emanuel's Transition Team for Energy, Environment, and Public Space, and was selected as a sustainability thought leader at Groupon's First Annual Chicago Ideas Week. She is a respected community advocate for equitable development in the communities surrounding the Obama Presidential Center and has lived and worked in West Woodlawn since 2010. She was born and raised in the walkable-village of St. Albans, NY; is a graduate of Woodmere Academy County Day School, Fisk University, and John Marshall/University of Illinois Law School.



**April De Simone**

Designing for Democracy

April is a principal at Trahan Architects and a transdisciplinary designer with 20 years of experience navigating the intersectionality of architecture, planning, and systems thinking. Her work investigates the implicit and invisible relationship between architecture and human condition, connecting a deeper understanding of how inequity, supremacy (in its various forms), and dehumanization become spatialized and proliferated. In 2015, April co-founded Designing the WE where she launched the co-curated exhibition and platform, Undesign the Redline, which explores the historical and contemporary spatial reverberations of unjust policies and practices like residential racial ordinances, Redlining, and Urban Renewal. April continues to be an invited lecturer, speaker, and facilitator at numerous institutions.



**Max Dickson**

Associate ASLA, AICP-C, OLIN

Max is committed to creating socially-engaged spaces that reflect those who live, use, and experience a place. In his work, he is interested in the intersection of environmental design and cultural ecology and how the landscape has the potential to be the fabric that ties people and ecologies together. With a background in landscape architecture and urban planning, Max has worked closely with various public agencies, non-profits, and community groups on site design to large-scale master planning efforts. As a designer with OLIN, his work has focused on district-scale urban spaces, as well as leading research initiatives related to the LGBTQ+ community. Max hopes the initiatives bring greater visibility to the LGBTQ+ community in the landscape architecture, urban planning, and allied design professions and help center, empower and amplify these voices in our neighborhoods and projects. Outside of work, he serves on the Executive Committee of the American Planning Association's LGBTQ and Planning Division.



**Jane C. Edmonds**

Founding Partner, Jane’s Way, LLC

Jane is a Civil Rights icon in the greater Boston area. Founder and CEO / President of Jane C. Edmonds and Associates, Inc., a diversity leadership consultancy launched long before the term “diversity” was coined, Jane built her consultancy after her tenure as Chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the state body that investigates and adjudicates claims of discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, etc. Jane noted how mutually unsatisfying these adjudications were to all parties, even those who “won”—and she became inspired to work on prevention, changing consciousness in individuals, organizations, and communities as a way to reduce discrimination and all forms of oppression and “othering.”

After two decades, Jane was drawn into public service, working with people across the spectrum of identity and politics and serving in senior leadership roles in both the Michael Dukakis and Mitt Romney gubernatorial administrations. She cultivated academic credentials over many years, teaching leadership and change-management through DEI principles at Northeastern University and around the world before joining Babson College as VP of Community Outreach and Programming — and launching Jane’s Way. Jane is knee-deep in community service currently a member of several non-profit boards, commissions and professional associations, including Lahey Health, Facing History and Ourselves, The Group Insurance Commission of MA, Hebrew SeniorLife, Inc., and Delta Sigma Theta. She is a graduate of Harvard University and Boston College Law School. Jane is a convener, an empath, and an arbiter. She is laser focused on impact; in Jane’s words, the time is now.



**Gina Ford** is a landscape architect, co-founder and principal of Agency Landscape + Planning. Underpinning her two decades of practice are a commitment to the design and planning of public places and the perpetuation of the value of landscape architecture via thought leadership, exhibitions, teaching, writing and lecturing.

Ms. Ford’s work encompasses a wide range of scales and project types, from public parks and plazas to large-scale landscape planning and waterfront projects. She brings to each project a passion for the process of making vibrant landscape spaces—from the conceptual design to the details of implementation—with a particular focus on the life and use of urban, public environments. During her twenty-year tenure at Sasaki, she led the design of notable projects including Chicago Riverwalk, Boston’s Lawn on D, Council Bluff’s Tom Hanafan Rivers Edge Park and Raleigh’s Moore Square, under construction now.

Ms. Ford’s work has received awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Architects, among others. She is a former member of The Cultural Landscape

Foundation's board of directors and was the recipient of the Harvard Graduate School of Design's Charles Eliot Travelling Fellowship and Wellesley College's Shaw Fellowship.



**Dakota Keene**  
Partner, Mithun

Dakota Keene participates in community-focused, thoughtful, sustainable site design. As a landscape architect at Mithun, her focus is on cultural and educational projects, co-designing with Indigenous Communities for land stewardship, education, and living culture. The design intent of her projects evoke historical and natural influences— ranging from site planning and design at the House of Awakened Culture and at the Suquamish Museum, abstract references to traditions and relationship to the land at Wanapum Heritage Center, and immersive visitor experience for Aaw'k Village in Juneau, Alaska. She has served on the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks Executive Board, the Washington Chapter of the ASLA, the Homeless Place of Remembrance Committee and is a current member of the Stewardship Council for The Cultural Landscape Foundation.



**Angela Kyle**  
Co-Founder, Playbuild; Founder, Jennie's Legacy

Angela is a native of the Gulf South working in the urban strategy, design and planning arenas. As a social entrepreneur in 2012 she co-founded PlayBuild, a placemaking non-profit in New Orleans focused on transforming vacant lots into playgrounds. In 2021 she founded Jennie's Legacy to promote the Black history of iconic Pensacola waterway, Carpenter's Creek. Named for Kyle's great-great grandmother, Jennie Hudgins, Jennie's Legacy was established to advocate for the equitable restoration of this cultural landscape, currently under threat from decades of environmental degradation and overdevelopment. Angela holds an undergraduate degree from Brown University, an MBA and an MS in Journalism from Columbia University, and an MS in Sustainable Real Estate Development from Tulane School of Architecture



**Robin Little Wing Sigo**

Director of the Suquamish Research & Strategic Development Department

**Robin Little Wing Sigo**, is the Director of the Suquamish Research & Strategic Development Department, which includes the Suquamish Foundation. She is a member of the Suquamish Tribe and former member of Tribal Council. Ms. Sigo obtained her MSW at the University of Washington’s School of Social Work in 2006. With this she ran the Suquamish Tribe Wellness Center, provided mental health counseling, specializing in dual-disorders and complex trauma. She left this work to pursue research, as the Investigator of the Healing of the Canoe project for 10+ years, developing an adaptable curriculum to increase a sense of community belonging and reduce substance abuse among tribal youth. At the conclusion of this study, she began her current role as Director.

Ms. Sigo is a mom to four children, ages 9-17. She has also been an active member of the community serving on the Port Madison Enterprises Board, Kids in Concert Board, participating in her children’s school parent group, assisting other community organizations and has been a tribal foster parent for nearly 18 years. She lobbies in Washington D.C. for tribal sovereignty and mental health parity several times a year. In her free time, you can find her knitting, with a cup of tea of her side, a cat at her feet and thinking of ways to destroy the patriarchy and imagining her great-grandchildren playing on the shores of the Salish Sea.



**Marc L. Miller, ASLA**

President, Black Landscape Architects Network

Marc is the President of the Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN). As the President, he has the honor of working with other Black landscape architects internationally to increase their presence within the profession, create a community of designers, and support students through mentoring and scholarships.

Marc is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Pennsylvania State University. His academic interests include popular media and how it forms public perceptions of landscapes, and contemporary futurisms. Within both these interests is the goal of creating more inclusive foundations for design education. As the Vice-President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Recruiting for the Council of Educators in Landscape Architects (CELA) he is especially committed to both increasing diversity in the classroom and in the syllabus. He is organizing a reading database to provide references for learning and teaching. This is addition to coordinating a scholarship for under-represented students.

Taken as whole Marc Miller is committed to anticipating demographic and environmental change that will occur in the near future, and the need for

emerging designers capable of reconciling themselves with these familiar but still novel landscapes.



**Chelina Odbert**

Founding Principal, Kounkuey Design Initiative

Chelina believes in the power of community-engaged design to advance racial, environmental, and economic equity in neighborhoods and cities. As Founding Principal of Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), she has built an award-winning practice that brings good design to places where it is not often found, and that connects localized design interventions to large-scale policy change.

An urban planner by training, Chelina’s experience and expertise cover a range of topics from participatory planning to gender-inclusive design. She has written extensively about KDI’s community-engaged approach to planning in the U.S. and abroad, and she has been recognized by notable institutions including the Van Alen Institute, Ashoka Changemakers, and the Aspen Institute. In 2019, Chelina was named one of six Knight Foundation Public Space Fellows. In 2021, she was named an Emerging Voice by The Architectural League of New York. She has held teaching appointments at Harvard Graduate School of Design and UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. Chelina earned a BA with high honors from Claremont McKenna College. She received her Master of Urban Planning from Harvard University.



**Lee Pivnik**

Founder, Institute of Queer Ecology

Lee is a Miami-based artist, working predominantly in sculpture, video and social practice. In 2018 he graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in Sculpture and a concentration in Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies, and in 2022 he attended the Immersion Program at The School of Architecture (TSOA) at Arcosanti. His work takes inspiration from living systems and other species to imagine a future that is based on mutualistic relationships instead of extractive economies. In his artwork and curatorial projects, he attempts to help produce a more regenerative, ecozoic world. Well aware of the scale of such an endeavor, Pivnik considers his practice as an opportunity for collaboration. Pivnik has been an artist in residence at Biosphere 2 (2017), Atlantic Center for the Arts (2021), and Deering Estate (2022).

In 2017, Pivnik started the Institute of Queer Ecology, a collaborative organism that works to imagine and realize an equitable multispecies future. IQECO builds on the framework of Queer Ecology, an adaptive practice concerned with interconnectivity, intimacy, and interspecies relationality. To date, IQECO has worked with over 125 different artists to present interdisciplinary programming that oscillates between curating exhibitions and directly producing artworks/projects. IQECO has presented projects with the

Guggenheim Museum (New York, NY), the Institute of Contemporary Art (Miami, Florida), the Julia Stoschek Collection (Düsseldorf, Germany), the Medellín Museum of Modern Art (Medellín, Colombia), the Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade (Serbia), ASAKUSA (Tokyo, Japan), and the Biennale of Sydney (Australia), among others.



**Maura Rockcastle**

Co-Founder and Principal, TEN x TEN

Maura is a landscape architect, co-founder and principal of TEN x TEN. With a background in printmaking and sculpture, Maura balances a rigorous approach to leadership and design innovation with a conceptual sensibility rooted in process.

Maura moved home to Minneapolis after eight years in New York City working with James Corner Field Operations and Snøhetta. Upon her return to the Twin Cities, she established the Minneapolis office for Tom Leader Studio and managed the RiverFirst Priority Projects. In 2015 she co-founded TEN x TEN to build a practice committed to horizontal co-authorship, radical transparency, and curiosity. TEN x TEN's mission is to co-create compassionate, immersive, and resilient spaces that confront the issues of our time. Maura's professional experience is focused on cultural, institutional, and complex public realm projects, including the High Line Section 1, Times Square Reconstruction and Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization. Her work has received national awards for design excellence, preservation, and innovation. Maura holds a BFA in sculpture and printmaking from Cornell University and an MLA from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was awarded the Ian McHarg Prize for Excellence, an ASLA Certificate of Honor and the Van Alen Traveling Fellowship. She has taught design studios at Harvard GSD, Yale School of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design and the University of Minnesota College of Design.



**Danielle Toronyi**

Research Development and Knowledge Manager, OLIN

Danielle is a designer, researcher, and artist. She is the Research Development and Knowledge Manager at OLIN where she curates OLIN's information resources including an extensive library and archives collection. She also co-facilitates OLIN Labs, a community of practice committed to elevating collaborative design research and innovation in landscape architecture.

Danielle's research is situated within Universal Design and is focused on designing sensorially-accessible public urban spaces with a particular interest in the sonic environment. Her research methods are inspired by Lawrence and Anna Halprin's kinesthetic, creative processes and performance and are informed by her experience in community design, participatory research and

ethnography, and embodied ways of knowing. She works to develop more experimental and iterative research methodologies to more authentically engage with, and elevate the voices of, the communities for whom we design.

Danielle's articles include "Hidden Geographies: Design for Neurodivergent Ways of Hearing and Sensing" (Cities & Health) and "Neurodiversity in the Sensorial City" (KERB). She has also served as an advisor in the development of ASLA's Universal Design Resource Guide.