

THE RIVER EAST DESIGN CENTER

A community led design intervention

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We all know to call a dentist if we have a toothache. Or to call the plumber if the kitchen faucet is leaking. But what do you do when the park down the street is in continued disrepair or when the blighted property on the corner is collecting trash?

These issues affect the safety and health of a neighborhood, but many times they go unaddressed because of complicated regulatory processes or just lack of information. The River East Design Center is a ward 8 based nonprofit organization that guides communities through the process of addressing issues like these and helps find solutions that benefit the residents. With a mission of empowering underserved communities to shape their environments, we serve DC's ward 7 and 8 communities through educational workshops and low cost design services.

The experience of our leadership includes architecture and planning, real estate development, youth engagement and many other areas we believe are vital to shaping inclusive communities. We live and work in the neighborhoods we serve and are committed to seeing them thrive!

about us

our services

Workshops & Engagement

Our workshops are designed to equip communities with basic knowledge about the design and development process. We aim to engage everyone effected by the change (or lack of change) in our neighborhoods. We take care to reach groups that aren't typically represented in traditional public forums.

Planning & Research

We take the time to understand the history and context of a community and believe strongly that individual experience is a form of expertise that should be used in project planning. We also identify and analyze the regulatory forces (zoning, building codes, etc.) that can effect a project.

Concept Design

We offer concept level design services to community organizations and small businesses and work with these groups to build a foundation for a project that represents their values.

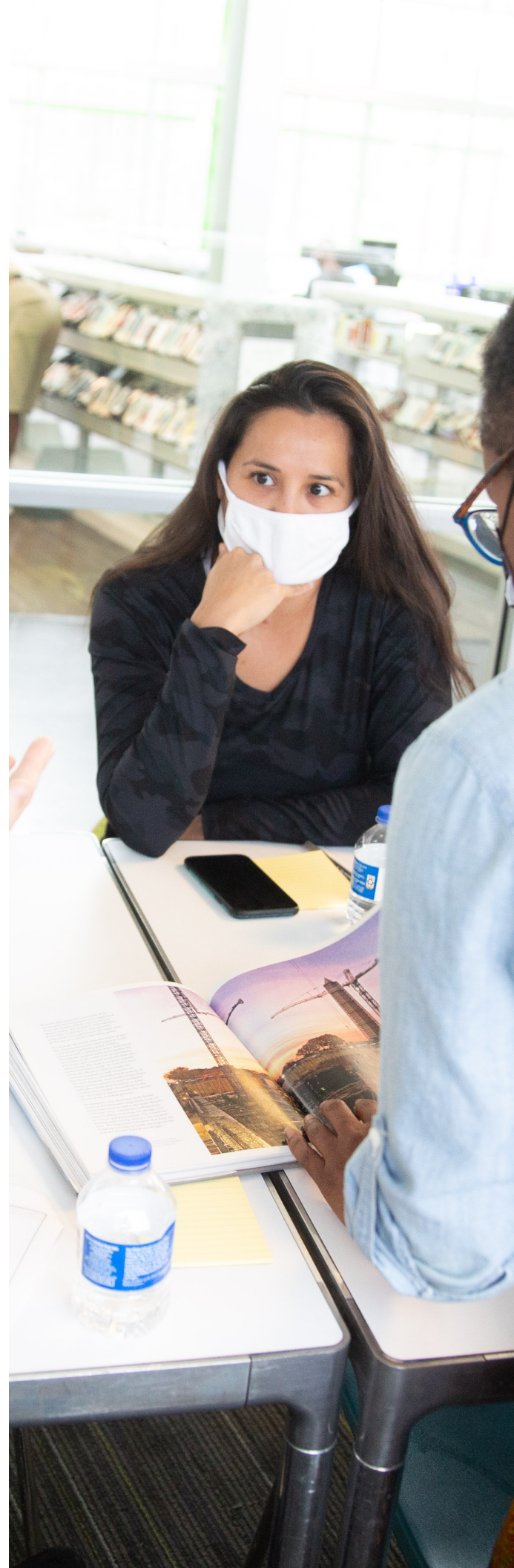


recent work

Back to Basics & Back to Basics: Mobile

Back to Basics is the educational outreach arm of the River East Design Center. Through this program, we host workshops and discuss topics like real estate development, zoning processes, affordable housing, etc. The goal of these workshops is to educate the community on the forces that shape their neighborhoods so they can use this knowledge to advocate for the policies and projects they want. We've presented these workshops both in person and virtually.

Back to Basics: Mobile is a current project that will take the Back to Basics programming on the road. The goal is still to provide useful information to residents and communities with the added goal of making the information more accessible by bringing it to formal and informal community gathering places.



recent work

Key Collaborations

The design center has delivered programing with DC's Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), the DC Public Library and Capital Impact Partners, a DC based community development financial institution. Programming has included workshops on solar opportunities in the city and podcasts and presentations that focus on the history and value of community centered design practices.

Recognitions

Executive Director Anna McCorvey was recently named a Fellow in the inaugural Public Interest Design Lab, a collaborative effort between the DC Public Library and the Goethe-Institute. As part of the fellowship, the Back to Basic: Mobile program is being developed and the design center is using the platform to build deeper relationships with ward 7 and 8 communities.





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Precious Ridout - Board President
Community Engagement Manager
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Bernard Suber - Treasurer
Co Founder & Co Director
East of the River Career Exposure
Camp

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*Our vision for the future is
that all community change
is community centered
and community endorsed.*

our board