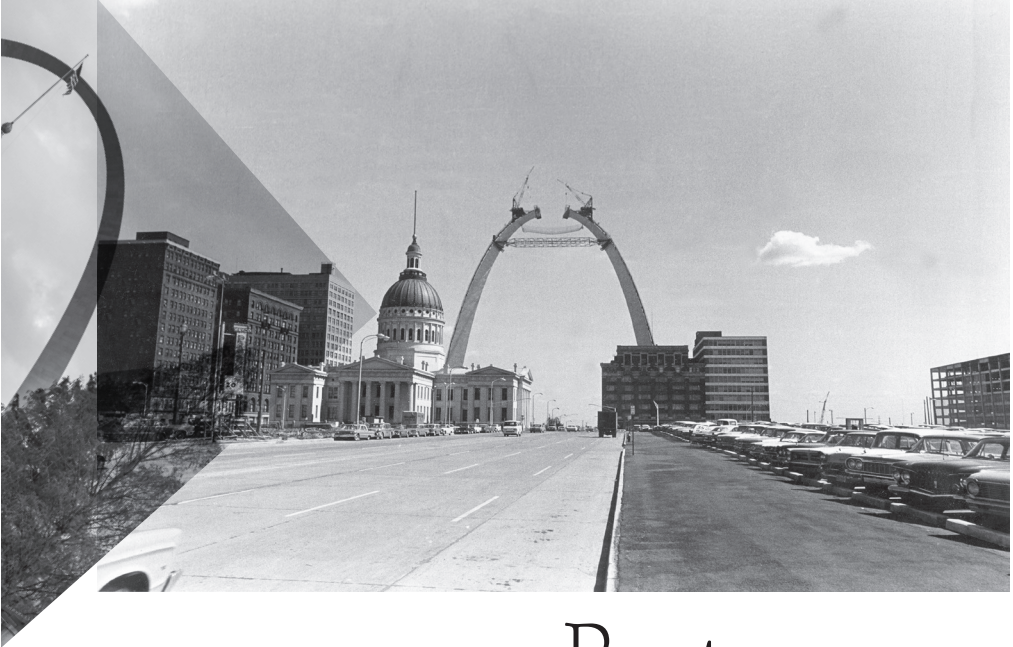


Voices & Visions of St. Louis:



Past,
Present,
Future

MARCH 30–APRIL 1, 2016
Piper Auditorium, Gund Hall · Free and open to the public

The Harvard University Graduate School of Design, in partnership with the Mellon-funded Divided City Initiative, a joint project of Washington University's Center for the Humanities and the College of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Design, is convening a three-day event intended to kick off a multi-year trans-disciplinary conversation on questions of injustice, inequality, and racial exclusion in urban America. It takes as its point of departure St. Louis, Missouri, a city that has captured the national imagination in the past and at present. St. Louis has long been a site of conflict, division, and violence, even as it has hosted an array of legal, political, social, and design experiments intended to transcend this contested past. Because of the recent uprisings in nearby Ferguson, Missouri, incited by the police shooting of eighteen-year-old Michael Brown in 2014, St. Louis has once again become a focal point in the public conscience. With this colloquium, we hope to generate a new conversation about the city's history and its present conditions, using methodologies and questions drawn from the disciplines of architecture, design, and planning, as well as the arts, humanities and social sciences, that will lead to constructive action and establish a new agenda for change in the built environment.

The event will be open to the public, and will showcase the voices and visions of scholars and activists, designers and social scientists, students and faculty, citizens and public officials, and all others who are interested in addressing the problems of racial injustice and violence in St. Louis and other American cities. We have assembled a wide array of voices, with the understanding that before moving forward with any proposals it is important to understand the multiplicity of views and experiences that have made St. Louis what it is, and that must be accommodated in any conversation about what it can be.

The conference is structured around one Keynote Panel and four discussion panels:

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

6:30–8:00 pm

KEYNOTE PANEL

DAY 2

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

9:00–9:15 am

Introductions and coffee

9:15–10:45 am

PANEL ONE:
THE CIVIL WAR(S) IN ST. LOUIS

10:45 am–12:15 pm

PANEL TWO:
MODERNISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS

12:30–1:30 pm

Lunch break

1:30–3:00 pm

PANEL THREE:
EXPOSING EXCLUSION

3:00–3:15 pm

Coffee break

3:15–5:15 pm

PANEL FOUR:
RECONSTRUCTING A BETTER FUTURE

Reception

Day 3

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

9:00–2:00 pm

RACE, SPACE, AND DESIGN:
EVOLVING ACTIVITIES AT THE GSD

Times are approximate

MARCH 30–APRIL 1, 2016

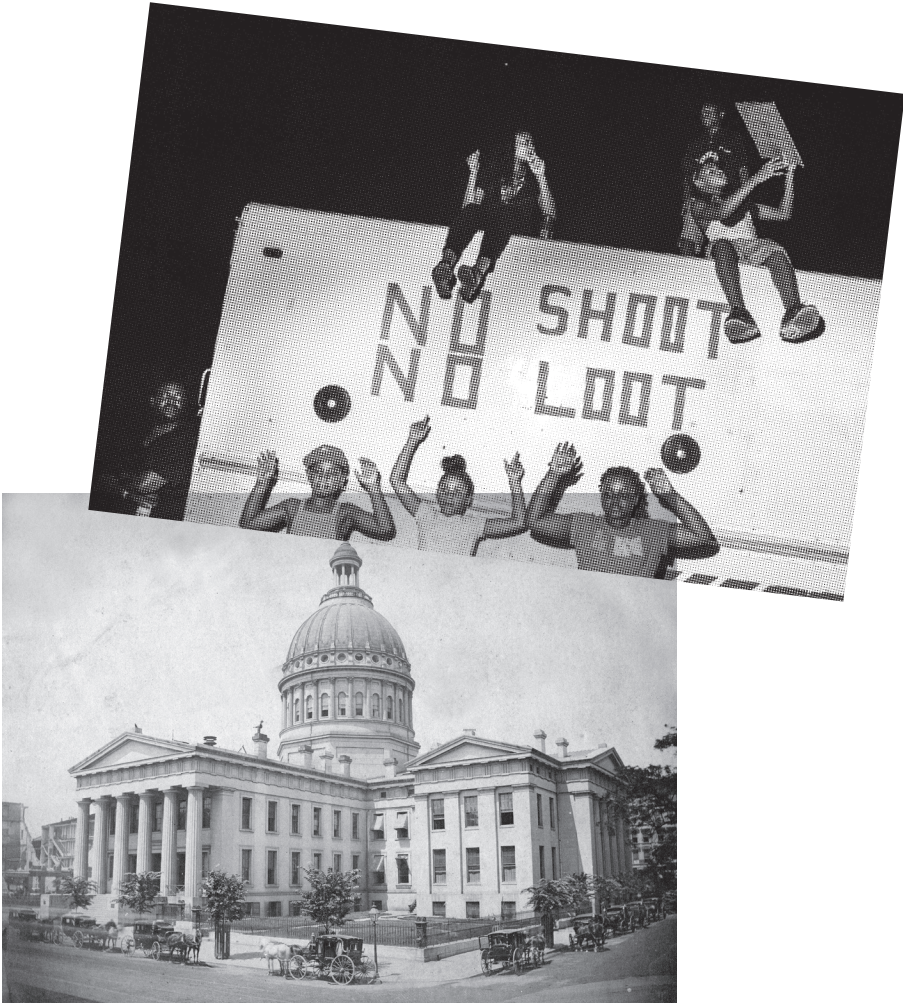
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
6:30–8:00 pm

KEYNOTE PANEL

Introductory remarks:
MOHSEN MOSTAFAVI, dean and Alexander
and Victoria Wiley Professor of Design,
Harvard GSD

Panelists:
JAMILAH NASHEED, Missouri State Senator
JOSEPH HEATHCOTT, The New School/
Parsons School of Design

Moderator:
DIANE DAVIS, chair of the Department of Urban
Planning and Design, Harvard GSD



VOICES & VISIONS OF ST. LOUIS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
9:00–9:15 am

Introductions and coffee

9:15–10:45 am

PANEL ONE:
THE CIVIL WAR(S) IN ST. LOUIS

This panel will focus broadly on the social, political, economic, racial, and territorial history of St. Louis, particularly as these are understood through the lens of the city and its relationships to the immediate region and the nation. The intent is to reflect on the various ways that natural and built environmental conditions, historical conflicts, and governance projects have written themselves on the contemporary city. The questions to be considered are whether, how, and why current patterns of socio-spatial exclusion, endemic poverty, environmental precarity, and fragmented governance can be linked to past occurrences and developments, including significant national events. In the context of the Louisiana Purchase, the long-standing controversy over slavery that sparked rampant violence before the Civil War, contested property rights (including those linked to debates over freedom and slavery originating in the Dred Scott era and continuing beyond), the conflicting interests of agriculture and industry, the role of the military in occupying the city, the Civil War itself, and the great migration after the war, panelists will consider the origins and ramifications of the city's fragmented governance, the relationship of East St. Louis to St. Louis, the importance of the Mississippi River as a condition of urbanization, the significance and impacts of the civil-rights movement, and how these and other forces and conditions have established the contours of racial injustice in St. Louis today.

Moderator:

DIANE DAVIS, chair of the Department of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard GSD

Panelists:

COLIN GORDON, Department of History, University of Iowa,
KEN REARDON, director of the Department of Urban Planning and Community Development, University of Massachusetts Boston
WALTER JOHNSON, Department of African and African American Studies, and the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University
JILL DESIMINI, Department of Landscape Architecture, Harvard GSD

MARCH 30–APRIL 1, 2016

10:45 am–12:15 pm

PANEL TWO:
MODERNISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS

This panel will examine the role of design in establishing the character of the city and its spaces. Implicitly if not explicitly, modernist planning practices have been based on assumptions about different kinds of spaces and the types of activities and people that belong in them. The state has played a key role in monitoring and regulating the social and spatial order associated with modernist planning. On the agenda will be several issues that affect daily life and urbanism in St. Louis: design and planning interventions in the city (ranging from Harland Bartholomew's Comprehensive Plan to Mill Creek Valley, the Pruitt Igoe Homes, and their aftermath), the complex patchwork of local and state government, and the strict policing of citizens and public spaces. The session will raise questions about who has the power to impose social and spatial order, and what role urban design and planning can have in that context. The panel will also consider recent efforts to organize urban life and urban infrastructures more equitably to put an end to the socio-spatial exclusion and unequal distribution of misery—at the scale of the house, the street, the neighborhood, and the city—that have characterized St. Louis for so long.

Moderator:
EVE BLAU, Department of Urban Planning and
Design, Harvard GSD

Panelists:
ERIC MUMFORD, Sam Fox School of Design
& Visual Arts, Washington University in
St. Louis
HEATHER WOOFER, Sam Fox School of
Design & Visual Arts, Washington University
in St. Louis
M. K. STALLINGS, Founder of UrbArts
ADRIENNE DAVIS, School of Law, and vice pro-
vost of the university, Washington University
in St. Louis

12:30–1:30 pm

Lunch break

1:30–3:00 pm

PANEL THREE: EXPOSING EXCLUSION

Analyses of the recent uprisings in Ferguson, Missouri have helped to dispel the myth of a post-racial Obama-era America by exposing the degree to which white supremacy, as reflected in public policy, continues to shape our nation’s urban environments. The chief aim of this session is to share a wide range of reflections and materials—produced through various methodologies—that help reveal, represent, or interrogate the issue of exclusion. The focus here will be on the lived experience of St. Louisans, particularly those who are the most excluded, stigmatized, or oppressed in the city today.

Moderator:
DANIEL D’OCA, Department of Urban Planning
and Design at Harvard GSD; co-founder of
Interboro Partners

Panelists:
JASON Q. PURNELL, Institute for Public Health,
Washington University in St. Louis; head of
the “For the Sake of All” initiative
DENISE WARD-BROWN, Sam Fox School of
Design & Visual Arts, Washington University
in St. Louis
CATALINA FREIXAS, Sam Fox School of
Design & Visual Arts, Washington University
in St. Louis
SYLVESTER BROWN, JR. Journalist, St. Louis

3:00–3:15 pm

Coffee break

3:15–5:15 pm

PANEL FOUR: RECONSTRUCTING A BETTER FUTURE

The twin goals of the fourth panel are to bring together the wide range of epistemologies and ideas that have been examined during the day’s sessions, and to engage in a conversation about next steps. What social, spatial, political, and/or economic projects should be researched, designed, or implemented in order to put St. Louis on a different trajectory? What kind of interventions, and at what scale, might result in the best outcome for all? How should St. Louis deal with the

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high-priority issues of mobility, housing, education, policing, and urban design practices to address the injustices and divisions of the past? And finally, who should be involved in discussion and action, and how should these individuals or collectivities be gathered together and organized to proceed?

Moderator:
TONI GRIFFIN, Department of Urban Planning
and Design, Harvard GSD

Panelists
ANTONIO FRENCH, Alderman of the 21st
Ward, City of St. Louis
PATTY HEYDA, Sam Fox School of Design
& Visual Arts, Washington University
in St. Louis
MARGARET GARB, Department of History,
Washington University in St. Louis
MICHAEL WILLIS, Architect, MWA Architects

Reception

FRIDAY, APRIL 1
9:00 am–2:00 pm

RACE, SPACE, AND DESIGN:
EVOLVING ACTIVITIES AT THE GSD

This half-day event, organized in parallel with the “Voices and Visions of St. Louis” conference by Designing Justice, a student-led initiative at the GSD, will highlight ongoing student work at the GSD that explores issues of equity, race, and social justice. The works-in-progress will deal with themes such as gentrification, displacement, mobility, access, education, informality, policing, and political agency. It will build on recent endeavors at the GSD such as Black in Design; Map the Gap; Design, Development, and Democracy; The MLK Way; and others. The exhibited and presented work will span disciplines, geographies, and scales and will take a variety of forms, such as studio projects, written work, video, built work, and independent research studies.

MODERATORS & PANELISTS

EVE BLAU is an adjunct professor of the history of urban form at Harvard GSD. She has written extensively on modern architecture and urbanism, and has curated numerous exhibitions. Her books include *The Architecture of Red Vienna, 1919–1934* (1999/2014); *Shaping the Great City: Modern Architecture in Central Europe, 1890–1937* (2000); *Project Zagreb: Transition as Condition, Strategy, Practice* (2007); and, with Ivan Rupnik, *Baku: Oil and Urbanism* (forthcoming, 2016). As a principal investigator with the Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, she has led Reconceptualizing the Urban: Interdisciplinary Study of Urban Environments, Societies, and Cultures (2013–17), the GSD's four-year program of urban studies funded by the Mellon Foundation. Among the many awards she has received are the 2015 Victor Adler State Prize from the Republic of Austria, the Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award, the Spiro Kostof Award, the Philip Johnson Exhibition Catalogue Award, and the AIA Citation for Excellence in International Architectural Book Publishing.

SYLVESTER BROWN, JR. was the publisher of *Take Five* magazine from 1987 to 2002, and then an award-winning columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* until 2009. After leaving the *Post-Dispatch*, Sylvester worked as a consultant and researcher for several books published by public radio and TV commentator Tavis Smiley's company, SmileyBooks, including *Brainwashed: Challenging the Myth of Black Inferiority* by Tom Burrell (2009), *Too Important to Fail: Saving America's Boys* by Smiley (2011), and *The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto* by Smiley and Dr. Cornel West (2012). In the summer of 2012, Sylvester partnered with the North Area Community Development Corporation to launch Sylvester's Sweet Potato Project, a year-round program aimed at training at-risk youth in "do-for-self" entrepreneurial skills—which it does by teaching them to plant and cultivate sweet potatoes on vacant lots in North St. Louis County and to develop and implement product ideas and marketing campaigns for their produce, earning a small salary in the process.

ADRIENNE DAVIS is vice provost and William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law at Washington University in St. Louis. As vice provost, she focuses on faculty diversity and development, consulting and collaborating with Washington University's seven schools on diversity and

leadership development and managing programs for the Office of the Provost. She chairs the University's Diversity Commission, which is charged with designing a university-wide plan. She also works closely with other stakeholders at the university, including the offices of Public Affairs, Facilities, Student Affairs, Alumni & Development, and Human Resources, developing institutional initiatives and programs. As a legal scholar, Davis is renowned for scholarship and teaching on gender and race relations; theories of justice and reparations; feminist and critical race theory; and law and popular culture. She has written extensively on the gendered and private law dimensions of American slavery, the legal regulation of intimacy, and how culture and law converge to distribute justice. Davis directed the Black Sexual Economies Project at the law school's Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work and Social Capital from 2009 to 2013, and she founded and is co-director of the Law, Identity & Culture Initiative. Davis is the past recipient of a Bellagio Fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation and two research grants from the Ford Foundation on black women and labor and women, slavery, sexuality, and religion.

DIANE E. DAVIS, the conference organizer, is the Charles Dyer Norton Professor of Regional Planning and Urbanism at Harvard GSD and chair of its Department of Urban Planning and Design. Davis's primary areas of research include the politics of urban development policy, socio-spatial practice in cities undergoing conflict, and the links between urbanization and economic development, and she is also interested in historic preservation, urban social movements, urban governance, and the relationship between violence and policing. Her books include *Urban Leviathan: Mexico City in the Twentieth Century* (1994), *Discipline and Development: Middle Classes and Prosperity in East Asia and Latin America* (2004), and *Cities and Sovereignty: Identity Conflicts in Urban Spaces* (2011). She is currently engaged in research on the history of policing in St. Louis, her hometown.

JILL DESIMINI is an assistant professor of landscape architecture at Harvard GSD, and before that was a senior associate at the firm of Soss Landscape Urbanism. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards, including a Narendra Juneja Medal and an ASLA

certificate from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Selected Professions Fellowship from the American Association of University Women, and she was a finalist in the Van Alen Institute's 2005 Urban Voids competition. Her current research, which has been published in the *Journal of Urban History*, *Landscape Journal*, and *JoLA*, investigates landscape architectural strategies for adapting abandoned urban lands. She is also the author of several book chapters on urban wilds, and co-author of the book *Cartographic Grounds: Projecting the Landscape Imaginary* (forthcoming, 2016).

DANIEL D'OCA, MUP '02 is principal and co-founder of the New York City-based architecture, planning, and research firm Interboro Partners, and a design critic in the Department of Urban Planning and Design at Harvard GSD. Daniel has won many awards for Interboro's portfolio of participatory design projects, including the MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program, the Architectural League of New York's Emerging Voices Award, and the New Practices Award from the AIA New York Chapter. Most recently, Interboro was one of ten firms selected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2013 to work on its pioneering Rebuild by Design initiative. Interboro's book *The Arsenal of Exclusion & Inclusion* is an encyclopedia about accessibility and the built environment (forthcoming, 2016).

CATALINA FREIXAS is an assistant professor of architecture at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis. She has focused her research on sustainability assessment and brings an experienced design perspective to her methods, with a focus on clear and visually rich communication strategies. Through her writings, Freixas attempts to redefine post-industrial cities as metamorphic cities, metropolises that take on transformation through eco-urbanism, advocating a shift from conventional planning goals of economic and population growth to environmental sustainability and better quality of life. Through her research, Freixas has been attempting to create a new set of metrics to evaluate shrinking cities through the framework of Triple Bottom Line Sustainability (TBLS). Aided by a grant in 2015 under the Divided City program, a Mellon Foundation Urban Humanities Initiative, she has undertaken a study of "Segregation by Design," exploring the role of planning and design in promoting segregation from

a historical perspective and researching the impact of the imbalance of TBLS in the current environmental socio-economic situation. It is expected that the findings will help promote sustainable well-being and will guide policymaking. She continues to promote sustainability via her research, teaching, and practice, drawing on her unique multicultural and multinational perspectives of the city.

ANTONIO FRENCH is in his second term on the city's Board of Aldermen (its legislative body) as alderman of St. Louis's 21st Ward, where he was born and raised. Before his election as alderman, he was president of a consulting firm and managed numerous winning political campaigns; he also served as the 21st Ward's Democratic Committeeman. French has earned a reputation for passionately serving his ward and creating new initiatives to improve the city's quality of life. Since 2007, he has worked with the St. Louis Police Department to create a six-block "safe zone" for hundreds of children in North St. Louis to go trick-or-treating on Halloween night; in 2010, he passed a bill creating a public-arts trust fund; and in 2012, he founded the North Campus, an education initiative that provides after-school tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment services for more than 150 children. French garnered national recognition in 2014, during the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, for his use of social media to document the protest and heavy-handed police response, and for helping to keep the peace when the situation turned violent. An alternative St. Louis newsweekly, the *Riverfront Times*, named him "Best Local Politician" in 2010.

MARGARET GARB is a professor of American history at Washington University in St. Louis, where she is also co-director of the Prison Education Project. Garb is the author of *City of American Dreams: A History of Home Ownership and Housing Reform in Chicago, 1871-1919* (2005) and of *Freedom's Ballot: African American Political Struggles in Chicago from Abolition to the Great Migration* (2014). Her articles on housing, segregation, urban poverty, and urban planning have been published in academic journals and in *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *New York Magazine*, and *In These Times*.

COLIN GORDON is a professor of history and public policy at the University of Iowa. He is the author of *New Deals: Business, Labor and Politics, 1920-1935* (1994); *Dead on Arrival: The Politics of Health in Twentieth Century America*

(2003); *Mapping Decline: St. Louis and the Fate of the American City* (2008); and *Growing Apart: A Political History of American Inequality* (2013). His work on the history of race and housing in Greater St. Louis also includes two web-based mapping projects (<http://worldmap.harvard.edu/maps/mappingdecline> and <http://mappingdecline.lib.uiowa.edu/>), a series of articles on Ferguson in *Dissent*, and more than thirty invited presentations. Gordon's work has been featured in the *New York Times*, National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, and in numerous other media outlets. Earlier this year, he served as an expert witness in the NAACP's voting-rights case against the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

TONI GRIFFIN, LF '98 is the founder of Urban Planning and Design for the American City, a consulting practice based in New York, established in 2009, through which she played a key role in the Detroit Work Project. Griffin began her career as an architect with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in Chicago, where she became an associate partner, involved in architecture and urban design projects in London and Chicago. Her recent clients include the cities of Memphis, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh; and in 2013 she completed and released Detroit Future City, a comprehensive citywide framework plan for urban transformation. Griffin was an adjunct associate professor at Harvard GSD from 2006 to 2011, and a professor of architecture and founding director of the J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City at the Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York, 2011–15. Prior to private practice and academia, she held positions in numerous civic and planning organizations, including the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation in Washington, D.C. and the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation in New York City. She is also a former Loeb Fellow at Harvard GSD.

JOSEPH HEATHCOTT grew up in the industrial Midwest, and spent twelve years of his life in St. Louis. He is an associate professor of urban studies at the New School, where he has served as chair of the Urban Studies program, as faculty director of the Civic Engagement initiative, and as associate dean of academic affairs. During the 2010–11 academic year, he held the U.S. Fulbright Distinguished Chair for the United Kingdom at the University of the Arts in London, and was a senior visiting fellow at the London School of Economics. This year, 2016, he is the Mellon Distinguished

Fellow in the School of Architecture at Princeton University. Heathcott's work has been published in books, journals, magazines, and DIY zines, has been included in exhibitions and juried art shows, and has been discussed on radio programs. He appeared in the 2011 documentary film *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*, and is currently working on a book on the Pruitt-Igoe public housing complex titled *The Projects and the People*.

PATTY HEYDA, MArch '00 is an assistant professor of architecture and urban design at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis, who studies uncharted processes of contemporary redevelopment through her writing, drawing, and design-focused research. Her "Erasure Urbanism" project highlights the political and economic vectors shaping uneven design outcomes in underserved neighborhoods around St. Louis, Missouri. Portions of this work have been published in the journal *MONU* (no. 15, 2011); in *Urban Infill*, volume 5: *Diagrammatically* (Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, 2012); in the Scandinavian architecture journal *Conditions*; and individual chapters are in the books *Architecture Is All Over* and *St. Louis Currents* (both 2015). Heyda's other projects explore mechanisms of redevelopment across sites and contexts worldwide and in the U.S.: Her "Emergent Urbanisms" work examines the substantially inflected sites produced by global industry, while her new book *Rebuilding the American City* (2015), co-authored with David Gamble, provides a detailed cross-section of the range of processes and strategies that fifteen American cities are using to implement redevelopment amid ongoing challenges.

WALTER JOHNSON is the Winthrop Professor of History and a professor of African and African American studies at Harvard University, where he is also director of the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History. He has a B.A. from Amherst College (1988) and a Ph.D. from Princeton University (1995). Before joining the Harvard faculty in 2006, he taught history at New York University, where he also directed the American Studies program. Johnson's books *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (1999) and *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* (2013) are the recipients of numerous awards, including the Francis B. Simkins Award from the Southern Historical Association, the John Hope Franklin Prize from the American

Studies Association, the SHEAR Book Prize from the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, and the Frederick Jackson Turner and the Avery O. Craven Prizes from the Organization of American Historians. He is currently writing a book about the central role of St. Louis in the imperialist and racial capitalist history of the United States, from Lewis and Clark to Michael Brown. Johnson is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship; a Mellon Fellowship in Cultural Studies at Wesleyan University; and fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, the Radcliffe Institute, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

MOHSEN MOSTAFAVI, dean and Alexander and Victoria Wiley Professor of Design at Harvard GSD, is an architect and educator. Previously dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning at Cornell University, and chairman of the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, he has taught at numerous institutions and served on the steering committee of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the design committees of the London Development Agency and RIBA Gold Medal. His most recent publications include *Nicholas Hawksmoor: The London Churches* (2015); and *Ethics of the Urban: The City and the Spaces of the Political* (2016).

ERIC MUMFORD, AB '80 is Rebecca and John Voyles Professor of Architecture at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis, where he also holds courtesy appointments in the departments of Art History and History, and is a faculty scholar at the Institute of Public Health. He is a 1980 graduate of Harvard College, taught as a visiting associate professor of art history at Harvard in 2004, and was chair of Harvard GSD's Visiting Committee, 2010–14. Mumford is the author of *The CIAM Discourse on Urbanism, 1928–1960* (2000), the only book-length history of the International Congresses for Modern Architecture, and *Defining Urban Design: CIAM Architects and the Formation of a Discipline, 1937–69* (2009). He is also the editor and co-author of *Modern Architecture in St. Louis* (2004) and *The Writings of Josep Lluís Sert* (2015), and the co-author, with Hashim Sarkis, of *José Lluís Sert: the Architect of Urban Design, 1953–1969* (2008). In 2014 Mumford received a Mellon Foundation Urban Humanities grant at Washington University for *Visualizing Urban History: The Mill Creek Valley*, a collaborative exhibition project at the Missouri History Museum, St. Louis. He has lectured nationally

and internationally, and in 2013 was a Fulbright Specialist in urban planning at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima.

JAMILAH NASHEED, a lifetime St. Louisian who began her political career as an activist and business owner, is a Missouri state senator. In the Missouri legislature, she is widely recognized as a leader on the issues of education, criminal justice, human rights, and urban economic development. When Nasheed was nineteen, she started her own business, Sankofa Books and Gifts, an inner-city bookstore, with the mission of promoting reading and meaningful discussion. In 2006 Nasheed was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives, where she served as the chairperson of the Urban Issues Committee, and in 2012 was elected to the Missouri Senate. She is a founder of the "In It 2 Win" Coalition, which finds students who have dropped out and assists in returning them back to the classroom. She is married to her high-school sweetheart, Fahim, and lives with her sixteen-year-old cousin, Najawah, for whom she is a longtime caretaker.

JASON Q. PURNELL, AB '99 is trained in both applied psychology and public health, with a B.A. from Harvard College, a doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Ohio State University, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. His research focuses on how socioeconomic and sociocultural factors influence health behaviors and health outcomes and on methods for mobilizing community action on social determinants of health and health equity. He leads the For the Sake of All project, which is focused on engaging community stakeholders to improve the health and well-being of African Americans in St. Louis. Dr. Purnell is also active in the St. Louis community, serving on the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Ready by 21 Leadership Council, a collective impact initiative that helps needy students increase their literacy, graduation rates, job readiness, and home ownership.

KEN REARDON is a professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he is the director of the newly established graduate program in Urban Planning and Community Development. Before joining the UMass Boston faculty, Ken taught urban planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, at Cornell University, and at the University of Memphis. Reardon has a long history of mobilizing

university resources to support resident-led revitalization efforts in economically distressed neighborhoods. His most recent publication is *Rebuilding Community after Katrina: Transformative Education in the New Orleans Planning Initiative* (2015), co-edited with John Forester of Cornell, which describes the efforts of Cornell, Columbia, and Illinois planning students in supporting ACORN's efforts to insure Lower 9th Ward residents a voice in their city's post-disaster recovery process.

M. K. STALLINGS, an educator, poet, and community-arts administrator, is the founder of UrbArts, a nonprofit organization that creates media platforms for youth and community development. A columnist for the St. Louis-based paper the *West End Word*, Stallings often writes about the contradictions of transformative art and marginalized artists. He studied sociology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, attaining a B.A. and a Master's degree (2006), and he often crafts poems from that particular perspective. He is the director of a youth slam program in St. Louis and has been the slammaster for UrbSlam Saint Louis since 2011. Stallings lives with his wife and child in the West End neighborhood of North St. Louis.

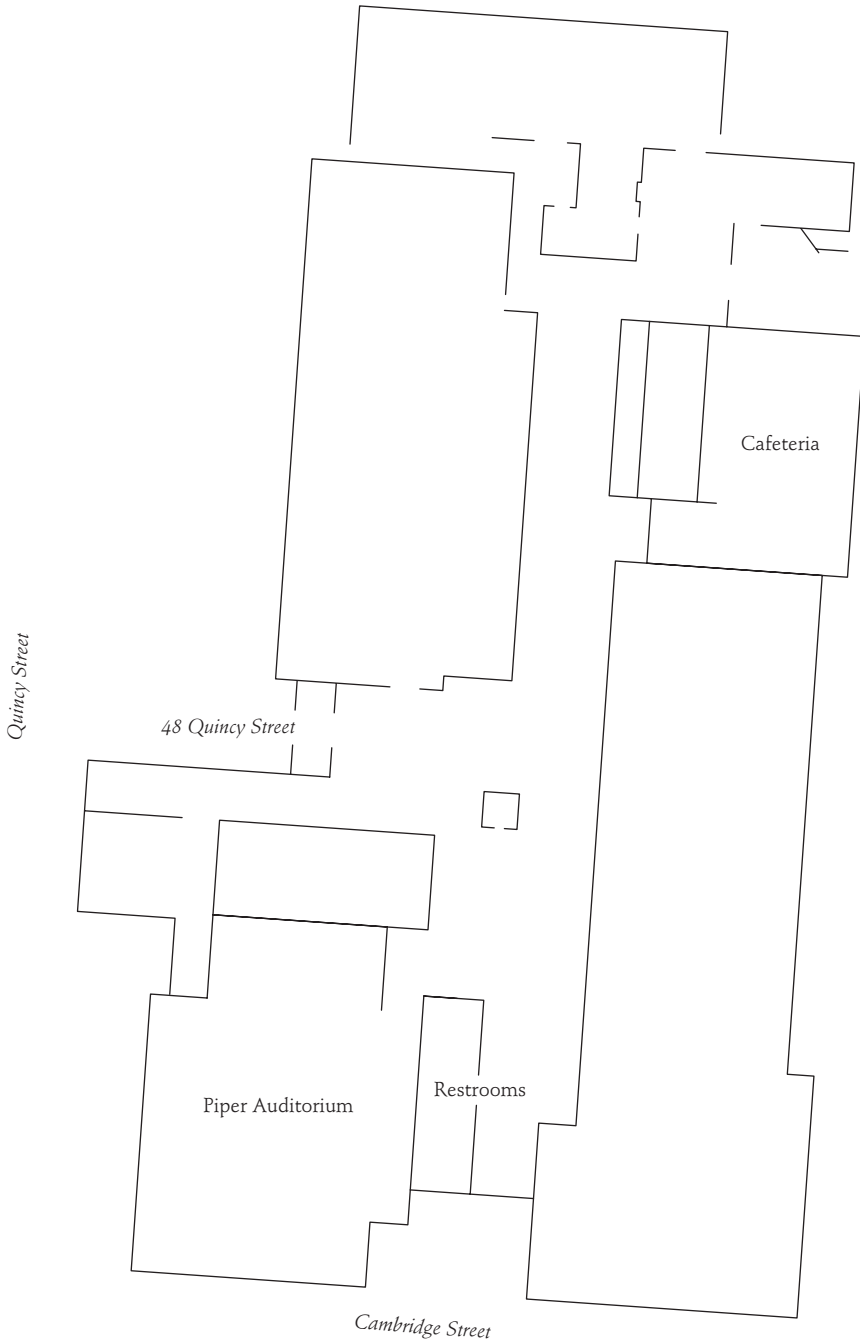
DENISE WARD-BROWN is an associate professor of art at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis. Educated at the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, and Howard University, Ward-Brown made her first documentary videos in West Africa as a Fulbright senior scholar in 1997–98. Her documentation of traditional celebrations in Ghana, supported by a grant from the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, won an award at the first Abuja International Film Festival, in Nigeria (2004). Among Ward-Brown's other work is her award-winning video documentary *Jim Crow to Barack Obama (JC2BO)*. In the recent exhibition *Good Negroes* at the WGCC Art Gallery in St. Louis, she exhibited stills from her videos accompanied by quotes from interviews, using the non-linear relationship between image and the text to circumvent the individual biases that too often block holistic readings. Her course "Tale of Two Cities: Documenting Our Divides," was funded by the Divided City program, a Mellon Foundation Urban Humanities Initiative in partnership with the Washington University's Center for the Humanities in Arts & Sciences. Ward-Brown is author of several documentaries and the recipient of numerous awards and grants including an artist

fellowship in 2015 from the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis (RAC) and a Faculty Creative Activity Research Grant for travel to Italy for the 2015 Creative Time Summit and the 56th Venice Biennale.

MICHAEL WILLIS founded MWA Architects Inc. in 1988, where he is a principal, and he taught a class during the 2015 fall semester at Washington University in St. Louis. MWA Architects has designed several mixed-income affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization projects in San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, and post-hurricane Faubourg Lafitte in New Orleans. Willis has been the principal on many large infrastructure projects, including the Southeast Water Treatment Plant in San Francisco, the new Central Subway Yerba Buena/Moscone Station for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and the International Terminal at SFO Airport. He was president of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1995 and was elevated to Fellowship there in 1996. In 2013, Willis was chair for *Designing Recovery*, an AIA ideas competition for rebuilding sustainable and resilient post-disaster communities. In 2015, he won the Norma Sklarek Award from the AIA California Council.

HEATHER WOOFER, MArch '98 is a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, where she is also the chair of graduate architecture programs; and she is a founding director of the firm Axi:Ome with her design partner, Sung Ho Kim. Woofter has a B.Arch from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1991) and a M.Arch from Harvard University (1998). She has taught at Harvard GSD, Boston Architectural College, and Roger Williams University; and she was an assistant professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a visiting professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece and Konkuk University in Seoul, South Korea. Two monographs on works by Axi:Ome were published in 2009, *Spatial Practice* and *Specular: Between Practice and Education*. In 2009 at the Kemper Art Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, Woofter curated the exhibition *Metabolic City*, which featured works by the Japanese Metabolists, the British architecture collaborative Archigram, and the Dutch artist Constant.

GUND HALL



Anyone requiring accessibility accommodations is requested to contact the Events office in advance at (617) 496-2414 or by email at events@gsd.harvard.edu.

Presented by the Interdisciplinary Urbanism Initiative of the Urban
Planning and Design department at Harvard Graduate School of Design

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