



## Margaret (Meg) Walker

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A registered architect, urban planner and educator, and the founder of Meg Walker Collaborative, Meg is passionate about working with communities to transform their public spaces, downtowns, waterfronts and neighborhoods into vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable places. She was Senior Vice President at Project for Public Spaces, a non-profit planning and design organization in New York City from 2004 to 2020, and she has been a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn since 2010. From 2019-2020, Meg was a Visiting Professor at Bauhaus University in Weimar, Germany, where she taught a seminar on public space theory and a placemaking lab in the Integrated Urban Development and Design graduate program. Meg is a nationally-recognized facilitator and speaker who has led public forums and presented keynotes at numerous planning and development conferences around the world.

### **Meg Walker Collaborative, January 2021-present**

Meg is working with municipalities, private developers and community groups to facilitate community engagement, prepare design and management plans, and build local capacity to create community-powered public spaces. Her most recent project was a management plan for a new park in Ann Arbor, Michigan that is being developed by the Roxbury Group of Detroit.

### **Senior Vice President, Project for Public Spaces, 1994-1998, 2004-2020**

As Senior Vice President and Director of Urban Design at Project for Public Spaces, (PPS), Meg engaged communities around the country in creating vibrant parks, plazas and waterfronts, revitalizing downtowns and developing public space plans for new developments. Among the recent planning efforts Meg directed at PPS are:

**A community-run management strategy for the new Five Points Plaza in Charlotte, NC, 2020.** Through online focus groups, interviews and workshops, Meg worked with a historic Black community to develop a strategy and how-to manual that the community could use to organize its own management entity that will govern and program a new central plaza in their neighborhood.

**Public space plan for a new mixed-use development on Broadway Corridor in Portland, Oregon, 2019.** Meg guided community engagement and developed a public space program and plan for a new 32 acre mixed-use development north of downtown Portland.

**The Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking, 2018-2020.** Building on the previous work of the Bass Initiative, PPS assisted Brookings and the Bass Center to inspire public, private, and civic sector leaders to make transformative place investments that will generate widespread social and economic benefits. Meg is led the PPS effort through research, case studies and projects.

**The Bass Initiative for Innovation and Placemaking, 2015-2017.** A partnership with the Brookings Institution involving research, audits, and pilot projects to integrate placemaking into

innovation districts. Meg directed PPS's involvement in pilot projects in Oklahoma City and Philadelphia, working with Brookings to enhance placemaking and innovation.

**An activation plan for the Pike and Pine Corridor in downtown Seattle, WA, 2017.** Working with a team of landscape architects and transportation planners, Meg developed a conceptual plan for uses, activation and pedestrian safety as part of the Pike Pine Renaissance project.

**A public space master plan for downtown Eugene, OR, 2016-2017.** Meg directed the PPS team that conducted community workshops and focus groups with hundreds of Eugene residents, and developed the program, concept design and management plans for the five key downtown parks and plazas.

**Beacon Park in downtown Detroit, MI, 2014-2015.** Meg led the team that conducted the community engagement and developed the concept plan for a new 1.5 acre public space for the DTE Energy Corporation in an area of downtown Detroit that is beginning to be redeveloped after years of blight and abandonment. The new park opened in the summer of 2017.

**A public space plan to revitalize downtown Detroit, 2012-2014.** Meg led the team that conducted community workshops and interviews, and developed a concept, program, and design for the major public spaces in downtown Detroit.

**A program and public space master plan for the Middletown, Connecticut riverfront, 2014.** Meg led the project team that conducted community engagement and developed the master plan for a one-mile long riverfront on the Connecticut River in Middletown.

### **Planning Consultant for the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, 1998-2003**

Meg managed the community-based planning efforts for the 42 acre waterfront, developed new zoning for the downtown and started a community walkability initiative. She also assisted the Planning Board and the Board of Trustees in reviewing major development applications. She led the Village's fundraising efforts and secured over \$1 million in grants from state, county and foundation sources.

### **Ryzinski/Walker Architects, 1986-1994**

As a Partner at Ryzinski/Walker, Meg was the architect of record on dozens of residential and commercial projects in New York City. These included brownstown restorations, new and existing multi-family residential buildings, new restaurants, commercial office spaces and apartment renovations.

### **Teaching**

- Visiting Assistant Professor, 2010-present, Pratt Institute, Urban Placemaking and Management, Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment.
- Visiting Professor, 2019-2020, Integrated Development and Design Masters Program, Bauhaus University, Weimar, Germany. Organized a European Placemaking Symposium.
- Guest Lecturer, 2021, Icahn School of Public Health at Mount Sinai, New York City.
- Guest Lecturer, 2020-2021, Stockholm University, Sweden, Masters in Cultural Management Studies.
- Guest Lecturer, 2020, Institute of Urban Planning, University of Rheims, France.
- Guest Lecturer, 2016, Columbia School of Business, Cultural Management Studies.
- Trainer and facilitator for the Community Leadership Alliance Training Program, Pace Land Use Law Clinic, 1997-2004.
- Adjunct Professor of Architecture, 1987-1988, New Jersey Institute of Technology (Architectural Design).

### **Education**

- Master of Architecture, Columbia University, 1981.

- Bachelor of Arts, Wesleyan University, Major: Government, 1976.
- Certificate in Ecosystem Restoration Design, Gaia Education, 2021.
- Certificate in Ecovillage Design, Gaia Education, 2020.
- Community Leadership Alliance Training Program, Pace Land Use Law Clinic, 1997.

### **Elected Office**

Trustee, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, 2009-2017

Meg served for eight years on the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. As Trustee, Meg led the effort to revitalize the downtown, initiating and chairing a monthly event series, called Friday Night Live (which continues to attract hundreds of people to downtown Hastings). With other members of the Board of Trustees, she initiated the first Sustainability Plan for the Village which included the first new Green Building Code in New York State. She chaired the Shoreline Restoration Committee, which developed a plan for a resilient Hudson River shoreline.

### **Selected Speaking Engagements 2014-2021**

- January and November 2021, IUDD Lecture, Bauhaus University, Weimar Germany, “The Evolution of Placemaking.”
- November 2020, Brazilian Conference of Architecture of Happiness, Sao Paulo, “Placemaking with Equity in Mind.”
- October 2020, Conscious Cities Festival, New York, “Placemaking with Equity in Mind.”
- October 2019, Placemaking Week Conference, Chattanooga, TN: Presented or facilitated on two panels.
- October 2018, Arkansas AIA Convention Keynote, Hot Springs, AR: “Supporting Architecture with Placemaking.”
- September 2018, Oslo Urban Arena, Oslo, Norway: “Placemaking in the Nordics.”
- September 2017, Placemaking Week Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands: Introduced topics, facilitated two break-out sessions: “Women and Public Space” and “Placemaking for Peacemaking.”
- July 2017, Michigan Main Street Training (leader), Howell, MI: “Cultivating Place in Michigan Main Street Communities.”
- June 19-20, 2017, Louisiana Main Street Training (leader), Natchitoches, LA: “Cultivating Place in Louisiana Main Street Communities.”
- May 2016, Placemaking Symposium, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, Introduced and facilitated panel discussions.
- June 28, 2016, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Foundation), Politisches Bildungsforum, Hamburg, Germany: “Placemaking: Transforming Cities and Communities.”
- October 2015, Chapultepec Cultural Corridor Workshop: “An Introduction to Placemaking,” Mexico City.
- April 2015, Lecture in Tarrytown, NY: “A Placemaking Vision for Tarrytown.”
- September 2014, Placemaking Leadership Council Conference, Pittsburgh, PA: “Sustainable Places.”
- Sept. 24, 2014, Lecture for City of Casper, WY: “Creating a Great Community Through Vibrant Public Spaces.”

### **Recent Publications**

- “How a Diverse Coalition in Portland, OR is Centering Racial Equity in a Large-Scale Development Project,” for the Brookings Institution, July 2021.
- “Broadway Corridor Placemaking Vision,” for Prosper Portland, OR, September 2018.

- “Positioned for Growth: Advancing the Oklahoma City Innovation District,” with the Brookings Institution, Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Initiative for Innovation and Placemaking, April 2017.
- “Placemaking in Eugene,” for City of Eugene, OR, April 2017.
- “8 Placemaking Principles for Innovation Districts,” Blog, May 10, 2016.
- “A Placemaking Vision for the Grand River Public Space,” for DTE Energy, June 2014.
- “Placemaking Plan for the Middletown Riverfront,” Middletown, CT, January 2014.
- “To Build or Not to Build a Road: How Do We Honor the Landscape?” The Center for Humans and Nature, 2012.
- “Planning for Diversity on the Waterfront,” *Multiplicity*, Pratt Institute Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development, Issue 6, Spring 2011.

### **Volunteer and Board Work**

- Chair of the Draper Park Commission, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, 2017-present, which oversees the restoration and preservation of historic houses in the Village’s Draper Park.
- Board member, En Garde Arts Theater Company, New York City, 2017-present.
- Board member, Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, Yonkers, New York 2011-2017.
- Co-founded and served on the board of the Hastings Farmers Market, 1998-2009.
- Member of the LWRP (Waterfront Planning) Committee and Waterfront Rezoning Committee, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, 1998-present.
- Chair of the Waterfront Shoreline Committee, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 2015-2017, which developed a concept for a resilient vegetated shoreline for Hastings with access to the river for recreational and commercial uses.

### **Philanthropy**

Director, Laura Jane Musser Fund ([musserfund.org](http://musserfund.org)), 1996-2010

As a Director on the Board of the Musser Fund, a charitable foundation headquartered in Minnesota, Meg helped to develop several granting initiatives, including an environmental initiative that focuses on collaborative resource protection, conflict resolution and balancing public access with habitat restoration.