

CURRICULUM VITAE

Karen May / MLA, HBA

//EDUCATION

- 2013 - ongoing Continuing Education Certificate in Applied Digital Geography and GIS, Ryerson University
- 2008 - 2011 Masters of Landscape Architecture, University of Toronto
- 2002 - 2007 Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Environment and Gender Studies, University of Toronto
- 2001 - 2002 Certificate in Fine Art, Sheridan College

//EMPLOYMENT

- Aug '23 - May '24 Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- May 2020 - present Adjunct Faculty in Architecture at the Waterloo School of Architecture (theory and practice of landscape architecture 2nd year undergrad seminar and landscape design studio)
- Sept '22 - July '23 Associate, Practice Lead in Ecology, Plant Architect Inc., Toronto
- Jan '17 - Sept '22 Landscape Designer / Landscape Architect, Plant Architect Inc., Toronto
- Jan - May 2023 Sessional Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the University of Toronto (undergrad theory and criticism elective)
- Jan '17 - Dec '21 Adjunct Faculty in Landscape Architecture at the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph (1st and 2nd year undergrad landscape and urban design studios)
- Feb 2015 -Nov 2016 Post-Graduate Research Associate / Design Fellow at the Coastal Sustainability Studio, Louisiana State University
- Aug - Dec 2015 Adjunct Faculty at the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University (undergrad landscape visual representation)
- 2012 - 2016 Signage and Trails Program Manager & Designer, Communications, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
- 2014 - 2015 Freelance Graphic Design, Kingsway Tree Preservation Society / LEAF Toronto; information graphics about urban trees and citizen engagement
- 2012 (Jan - May) Graphic Design and Creative Direction, 'Greenways and Waterways' MOVE Exhibition at the Brickworks, for the Institute Without Boundaries at George Brown
- 2010 - 2012 Research & Design Assistant for Professor Jane Wolff, urban landscapes and water infrastructure in San Francisco and New Orleans, University of Toronto
- 2010 - 2011 TA for Design Studio II, Undergraduate program in Architecture, University of Toronto and Visual Representation II, Graduate program in Landscape Architecture, University of Toronto

2009 - 2010	Research & Design Assistant for Professor Liat Margolis, green roof and green wall technology and innovation in design and planning, University of Toronto
2007 - 2010	Design & Creative Communications Coordinator, Carolinian Canada Coalition Environmental Nonprofit, Southwestern Ontario
2009	Internship in Design, Urban Forestry Mapping, and Community Engagement, GreenHere Community Forestry and Greening Initiative, Toronto
2007 - 2008	Design and Communications Intern, Ontario Sustainable Energy Association

//EXHIBITS, GRANTS, PRESENTATIONS, & PUBLICATIONS

June 2024	Publication: PI and lead author on a report for the LACF / Landscape Ontario "Native Plant Procurement in the Landscape Industry: Understanding Barriers, Challenges, and Issues with Initial Recommendations for New Best Practices"
June 2024	Presentation: "Seeding Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities for Designers in the Native Plant Supply Chain, Lessons from Ontario" co-presented with Liam Doyle (U of Guelph) and Jonas Spring (ecoman landscaping) at the ASLA Great Lakes Climate Symposium
Mar 2024	Presentation and paper at CELA Conference 2024 "Formal Nature: The horticultural / ecological dialectic in contemporary planting design", Forthcoming
Dec 2023	Recipient of the Wadsworth Endowment Grant for \$16,377.24, Co-Investigator with colleague Conor O'Shea for the research proposal "Mini Forest (Miyawaki Method) Research + Experimental Plot at Temple Buell Hall" (Brenton and Jean Wadsworth Scholar for Spring 2024)
Sept 2023	Panel speaker for "Seeding Landscape Resilience: A Multidisciplinary Discussion of Ontario's Source-identified Seed Capacity" at the OALA's conference <i>Sudden Change: Transformation Solutions</i>
Jan 2023	Recipient of the LACF (Landscape Architecture of Canada Foundation) Annual Grant Funding \$6,500 for "Native Plant Procurement in the Landscape Industry: Understanding Barriers, Challenges, and Issues with Initial Recommendations for New Best Practices (Discussion Paper)"
May 2021	Presentation: 'Design Climate Action: the potential for land-based climate change solutions in landscape architecture practice', presentation at the 2021 CSLA-OALA Congress, 'Nature-Based Solutions: The Green Recovery.'
Jan 2021	Presentation: 'Design as Climate Activism: landscape architecture, the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, and what we can do about it', presentation and panel discussion at 'Landscaping Our Future', Landscape Ontario's Designers Congress 2021.
February 2020	Presentation: 'Biodiversity and Planting Design: Ecological Land Classification Guide and Other Tools' presentation at Reference 2020, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON

- November 2019 Article: 'CANPlant: A Native Plant Database', an article for Ground Magazine Issue 48, Winter 2019.
- September 2016 Presentation: 'Redrawing Louisiana's Coast: Landscape Visualization as Cultural Agency', presentation at Landscape as Necessity 2016, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- March 2016 Presentation: 'The Trouble with Scale: Representing and understanding Louisiana's coast', presentation at CELA 2016: Dilemma Debate, Salt Lake City
- April 2014 Exhibit: 'Pigeon City', a field guide to synanthropic organisms, their aesthetics, habits, ecology, and cultural significance through a series of small-scale urban installations, part of Grow-Op 2014, a juried exhibition on landscape held at the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto.
- April 2013 Exhibit: 'Chicken Cartel', an urban chicken demonstration coop mounted on a green roof as part of Grow-Op 2013, a juried exhibition on landscape held at the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto.
- Sept 2013 Article: 'The Ganaraska Forest Reborn', an essay for Ground Magazine Issue 23, Fall 2013

//VOLUNTEER + PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- May - Sept 2024 Guest Co-Editor, Landscape Paysages Fall 2024 Issue 'Decarbonizing Design'
- April 2024 Member of the Jury to select presenters for the ASLA Great Lakes 2024 Climate Symposium on Biodiversity
- October 2023 Evaluator / peer reviewer / subject matter expert in ecology for the Chancellor's Call to Action Research Program 2024-2025, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- September 2023 Peer reviewer for the Council of Educations of Landscape Architecture 2024 Conference Abstracts.
- June 2020 - present Member of the Toronto Seed Orchard collaborative—landscape design consultants, contractors, academics, non-profits, and growers working together to expand the supply of locally significant, genetically diverse native plants.
- Sept 2019 - present Founding member of Design Climate Action, a group of Landscape Architects, Designers, and other allied professionals concerned with the ways in which the profession is positioned to alter how the built environment, and building industry, responds to the climate crisis.
- Jan 2013 - 2015 Member of the Editorial Board for Ground Magazine, the quarterly publication of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects [OALA]
- Sept - Nov 2008 Coordinator for Association of Canadian Educational Resources Climate Change urban tree plot monitoring program, grades 7-8

//GUEST REVIEWS & WORKSHOPS

- April 2024 Guest reviewer, Advanced Design Workshop on Watershed Planning and Geodesign in the Des Plaines Watershed, Course coordinator: Elizabeth Scott.
- August 2023 Guest reviewer, 2B Landscape Studio in BArch program at University of Waterloo School of Architecture, Course coordinator: Scott Sorli
- April 2023 Guest reviewer, MLA I Design Studio on Indigenous placekeeping and design on the west campus, University of Toronto School of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, Course coordinators: Elise Shelley, Terence Radford, Agata Mrozowski
- Dec 2022 Guest reviewer, Visual Communication in Architectural Technology Program at George Brown College, Course coordinator: Thevishka Kanishkan
- Aug 2022 Guest reviewer, 2B Landscape Studio in BArch program at University of Waterloo School of Architecture, Course coordinator: Lola Sheppard
- Nov 2021 Guest-led workshop on Landscape issues and precedents, 3rd year Architecture Studio in BArch program at University of Waterloo School of Architecture, Course coordination: Christie Pearson
- Dec 2019 Guest reviewer, Landscape Design Option Studio on the revitalization of landscapes in rural Newfoundland at University of Toronto School of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, Course coordinators: Matthew Brown / Sandra Cook
- May 2016 Guest reviewer, 3rd year MLA Landscape Design studio on systems and territory design in large-scale agricultural landscapes of the mississippi river basin at LSU School of Landscape Architecture, Course coordinator: Forbes Lipschitz
- Nov 2015 Guest reviewer, 2nd year MLA Landscape Design studio on the use of interstate landscapes as wildlife corridor and regeneration opportunities at LSU School of Landscape Architecture, Course coordinator: Halina Steiner