

# RECLAIMING VACANT PROPERTIES | 2019 CONFERENCE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VISIONING TO RECLAIM VACANT PROPERTIES

Meet the Creative Placemaking Practitioners  
Thursday October 3rd | 10:00am - 10:30am | Conference Rotunda

## RÉNA BRADLEY

Réna Bradley is a designer and community advocate with experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors. As Bridge of Grace's Community Development Director she has launched various design-oriented programs and initiatives to mobilize youth, neighborhood residents, and volunteers who want to make a difference in their community. Ms. Bradley uses her strengths- concept generation, marketing, grant writing, community engagement, and project management to amplify the voices of youth, women, and people of color in Fort Wayne, Indiana while promoting the use of design as a tool to enhance not only beauty, but also well-being and justice in neighborhoods and cities. Ms. Bradley is a Fort Wayne Public Arts Commissioner, an engaged citizen of Southeast Fort Wayne, and a proud graduate of Howard University's College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Science. You can find her talks about the connection between place-making, justice, and equity at TEDx Fort Wayne and Creative Mornings FW.



Réna Bradley  
Community Development Director  
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## BRIDGE OF GRACE

At Bridge of Grace, we endeavor to empower our neighbors to build on their God-given spiritual, academic, physical, and emotional strengths to transform our community. Founded in 2012, the Bridge of Grace Compassionate Ministries Center, a faith-based nonprofit organization, was created to transform lives in the Mount Vernon Park Neighborhood and SE Fort Wayne. We endeavor to live and act compassionately in the world by following Christ's own life and ministry and, build thriving and sustainable neighborhoods in southeast Fort Wayne.



Alexa Bosse  
Founder & Principal  
alexa@hinge-collective.com

## ALEXA BOSSE

Alexa Bosse is a registered architect and founding principal of Hinge Collective, holding masters degrees in both architecture and landscape architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. With professional experience as an interdisciplinary practitioner, working across both non-profit and private sectors, Alexa has honed her skills as a convener and a facilitator, realizing ambitious, complex projects. As a former Program Manager at the Community Design Collaborative Alexa was able to connect designers to child behavioral specialists and academics in ways that had never been attempted before, to bring national attention to the importance of play as a key design driver in the built environment. As a leader of Hinge, Alexa has worked with community organizations, city officials, local business owners, residents, and youth groups to build capacity and ownership through the process of designing public space. Alexa has taught graduate and undergraduate level studios with a focus on public interest design at The University Of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Design, Jefferson University, and Drexel University.

## HINGE COLLECTIVE

Hinge Collective is a public interest design firm. We are architects, landscape architects, planners, educators, and community organizers brought together by a mission to support communities in realizing public places, that reinforce what make those communities unique and powerful. As designers, we lend our skills sets and expertise to give structure and form to ideas generated by the community - the experts on their own environment. As educators and organizers we are always working to make the power of design accessible to those who have traditionally been left out of design discussions, and to employ contemporary theory and innovation to expand the benefit of new ideas to all people.



## WHAT IS PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN?

Public Interest Design is a human-centered and participatory design practice that places emphasis on the triple bottom line of the sustainable design approach. It positions design to more actively consider economic, environmental, and social issues - creating better places, products, and systems for people to live their best lives by addressing issues such as economic development and the preservation of the environment. Inherently human-centered and participatory, public interest design seeks to improve the quality of life for all people, regardless their socio-economic background.

## TERMINOLOGY

**Community design** emphasizes participatory planning and active engagement by community members in the design process as a means to catalyze change that is informed directly by the priorities and needs of those communities and led by its members.

**Creative placemaking** is the strategic re-shaping of the physical and social environments around arts and cultural activities as means to create more vibrant and civically engaged towns, cities, and regions. It is rooted in collaborative partnerships between public, private, nonprofit, and community organizations.

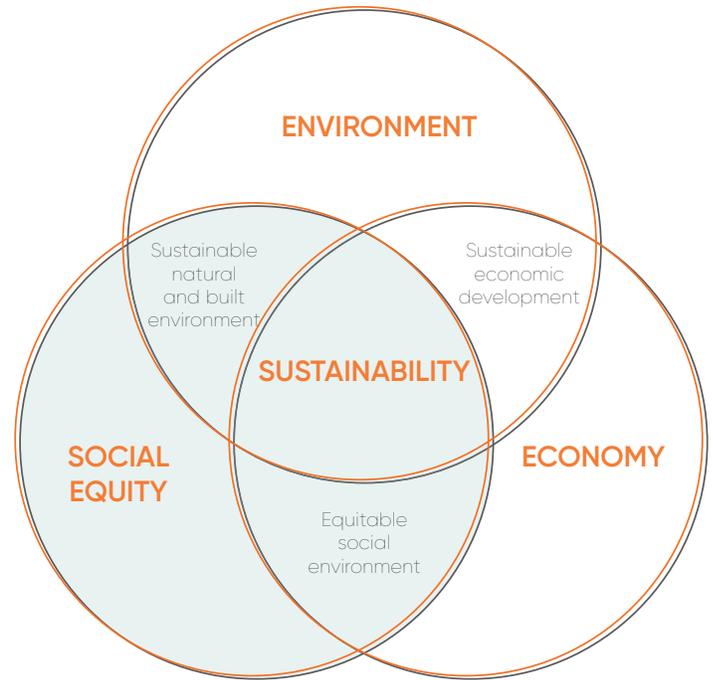
**Placekeeping** is the active care and maintenance of a place and its social fabric by the people who live and work there. It is not just preserving buildings but keeping the cultural memories associated with a locale alive, while supporting the ability of local people to maintain their way of life as they choose.

**Social impact design** calls specific attention to the need for designers to test, prove, and document the impacts of their work, particularly emphasizing the importance of demonstrating rigorous measurable social impacts.

**Community development** is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, equality, economic opportunity and social justice, through the organization, education and empowerment of people within their communities, whether these be of locality, identity or interest, in urban and rural settings.

Definition sources for "community design", "creative placemaking", "social impact design", and "community development: impactdesignhub.org and NACDEP

Definition sources for "placekeeping": US Dept. of Arts and Culture



**TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE**

