



Job Title: Radical Planning Initiative Student Lead

Department: Taubman College Urban and Regional Planning Program

Supervisor: Dr. Larissa Larsen

Status: Part-time, Temporary

Compensation: \$20/hour; 5-10 hours/week

Appointment Period: October 2022-May 2023

WHAT IS RADICAL PLANNING?

In recent years, the planning profession has rallied behind promoting collaborative forms of planning to address resident needs and strengthen equity in the process itself. This shift has given rise to many planners favoring more flexible and inclusionary approaches, as opposed to past conventional and rigid planning models. However, lasting disparities and spatial inequalities remain in part due to past planning actions in conjunction with a vast array of economic, political, and social factors. To ameliorate this issue, we must collectively reimagine and implement new strategies to address pressing urban issues and bridge the gap between reformist planning theory and practice to generate greater equity in cities. We must employ systematic critique to improve and reshape our cities in a radical manner.

Radical planning entails moving away from paternalistic top-down urban planning structures and towards empowering community-based decision making models to generate greater equity. Uplifting marginalized voices and centering equity are key markers of radical planning. This encompasses addressing the material construction of inequities in the built environment and then exploring 'radical' alternatives/tactics to create lasting structural change in our cities.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Radical Planning Initiative was founded in February 2022 inspired in part by Britt Redd, Taubman 2022 Sojourner Truth Fellow, and their discussion of systemic inequities in the built environment and its implications for planners and communities. In response, a small group of urban planning students rallied together to set the groundwork for creating a Winter 2023 "Radical Planning" course to explore alternative tactics to address lasting urban inequities. This past summer, the Radical Planning Initiative set forth 7 key goals:

1. Elevate new diverse voices and perspectives and employ intersectionality;
2. Prioritize skill-building and practice-based planning models;
3. Enhance existing curriculum with underrepresented topics, tools, voices, and perspectives in planning;
4. Construct a transferable model for student-led courses in Taubman College and beyond;

5. Cultivate a DEI-centric culture of inclusivity at Taubman;
6. Validate student experiences and desires for Taubman curriculum; and
7. Foster a harm reductionary space to acknowledge traumas (planning generated and otherwise).

Student leads (SL) will be tasked with aiding in the planning, operations, and logistics for the Radical Planning Winter 2023 course. Specifically, SLs will be asked to:

- Compile feedback from Taubman students to inform the vision, materials, and syllabus for the course
- Meet with practitioners, community members, activists, and academics in the field to discuss non-traditional planning topics, collect recommendations, and solidify pathways for course collaboration (e.g., guest speaking, resource sharing, etc.)
- Attend weekly check-in meetings with fellow SLs and faculty advisors
- Prepare materials for grant and funding opportunities
- Empower other students, within Taubman and beyond, to get involved in the initiative
- Attend Taubman community meetings and best represent the Radical Planning vision and student interests.
- Serve as a liaison between students, collaborators, and faculty in various settings
- Plan related events for the Radical Planning Initiative
- Conduct polls/surveys to gauge student interest and guide the direction of course themes and topics
- Research prominent individuals, theories, topics, and tactics in Radical Planning
- Attend biweekly/monthly meetings with course collaborators (within Taubman and from other institutions)
- Advocate for the Radical Planning initiative's goals in the Taubman community and beyond
- Establish course continuance measures for the Fall '23 and Winter '24 semester
- Aid in the creation and facilitation of the Radical Planning Student Advisory Board
- Create promotional materials

The ideal candidate is organized, driven, and curious. Experience in community organizing and curriculum planning is a plus and a strong commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion is required.

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

- Current Taubman College graduate student, preference given to first-year students (or second-year students in dual degree programs)
- Past experience developing and leading campaigns, organizing and managing volunteers, and handling online communications;
- Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills;
- Ability to communicate effectively with people of all ages, abilities, cultural groups, economic statuses, or sexual orientations;
- Comfortable presenting information to and engaging with stakeholders and large groups;

- Demonstrated experience working collaboratively and coordinating responsibilities with multiple stakeholders, preferably across multiple organizations;
- Microsoft Suite and Google Suite experience; and
- Passion for civic engagement and interest in alternative urban planning models, transportation, and environmental justice.

The Radical Planning initiative would like to encourage people who come from communities that are often unacknowledged in urban planning forums—including communities of color, LGBTQ+ people, women, people with disabilities, and individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, multiracial, and/or multicultural—to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

All interested candidates should send the following to larissal@umich.edu with the subject line “[last name] Student Lead Application” :

- An up-to-date resume (no longer than 2 pages).
- A 1-page cover letter explaining why you are interested in working at the Radical Planning Initiative and what makes you a good fit for the position. Be sure to relay your story in addition to your professional attributes.
- We will begin to review applications on a rolling basis until **October 22, 2022 at 5pm.**

We thank all applicants; we will contact only those selected for an interview.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.