

VIRTUAL CAREER EVENT 2020
Pave your Way: Finding Opportunities in Times of Uncertainty
Thursday, November 5, 2020: 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm



Ori Abara
Planner
ERA Architects

Ori is a planner with ERA who holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies, Honours Planning from the University of Waterloo. Her interest in cultural heritage is linked to its ability to bring communities together through storytelling of the past and as part of the building blocks of the future. Prior to joining ERA, she started her career working across Western Canada as a land use planning consultant. She brings previous experience in land development, community design, municipal planning, and public engagement to her practice at ERA. Ori is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a Registered Professional Planner in Ontario



Ishita Abbott
Manager, Asset Management
Manulife Investment Management (Real Estate)

Ishita Abbott is a Manager of Asset Management at Manulife Investment Management and is responsible for providing analysis and higher-level insights to portfolio managers of a third-party business. She is responsible for executing and implementing value-add opportunities, communicating with property management/branch leasing teams, creating strategic asset plans, approving annual operational and capital budgets and managing ongoing communication with Client. She is also accountable for tracking and reporting on the performance of the assets, providing client deliverables, and assisting with acquisition/disposition/financing activities for commercial properties located in Boston, Chicago and San Diego.

Ishita has held various positions within the real estate industry starting her career doing research for office and capital markets at CBRE Canada. She worked in the real estate valuation and advisory team at Deloitte LLP covering several public sector consulting assignments and completing audit reviews for large institutional owners and REIT investors. Ishita has a strong passion for the real estate industry, particularly being an advocate for women in real estate. Ishita is a co-chair of a Women of Real Estate employee group within Manulife and is actively involved in NAIOP and ULI Toronto.



Christine Chea
Manager, Development
Graywood Developments

Christine Chea is a Development Manager with Graywood Developments. As a Development Manager, she leads the land use approvals process for low-, mid- and high-rise sites in Toronto and the GTA. Christine is a Registered Professional Planner and a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners. She graduated from Ryerson University in 2013 and holds a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning. Christine is also currently taking courses in Building Sciences at George Brown College.

In addition to her work as a Development Manager, Christine volunteers on three different committees for the Urban Land Institute Toronto: the Equity, Diversion and Inclusion Committee, the Connect Committee (formerly known as the Young Leaders Committee) and the Management Committee. She is also the Toronto Representative for the Young Leaders Coordinating Committee of ULI Americas.



Michael Cook
Associate
Devine Park LLP

Michael is a lawyer at Devine Park LLP. Michael's practice focuses on land use planning and development law matters, representing developers and private landowners throughout the municipal approval process, including applications and appeals under Ontario's Planning Act. Michael appears regularly before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal and the Toronto Local Appeal Body.

Michael brings a broad range of experience to his practice. Following his call to the bar, Michael practiced corporate and securities law for five years at a downtown Toronto law firm. Prior to law school and following his graduation from high school in the United States, Michael lived in Israel for seven years, where, among other things, he completed his undergraduate studies.

Michael is also a member of the Black Planners and Urbanists Association, where he serves on the Governance Committee, as well as the Urban Land Institute, where he previously served on the Outreach Committee.



Danielle Culp
Planning Analyst
The Regional Municipality of Durham

Danielle Culp is currently a Planning Analyst with the Region of Durham. She has over two years of experience in the fields of urban planning, active transportation, and consultation in both the public and private sector. She holds a Masters of Planning from Ryerson University as well as a Bachelor of Arts, specializing in Human Geography from the University of Toronto.



Témo Cruz
Prefabrication & Modular Coordinator
EllisDon Modular

Temo's AEC career for city-building integrates his passions for sustainable architecture, prefabricated & modular manufacturing, emerging technologies (such as blockchain IoT / PoE & renewables). With a mission to advance solutions that build equitable smart cities of the future. He has a laser focus to apply ideas & solutions to help solve the global problems of our generation: climate change, the 'missing middle' housing crisis & the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within his 7 year industry experience, he has been privileged to have been mentored & work along-side architects, engineers, BIM technologists, superintendents, executives and project managers. His current role within the prefabrication & modular division at EllisDon (a world-leading 65 year old construction and building services company that completes in excess of \$4 billion worth of contracts annually, in every market sector and across the globe) allows him to advance his mission.

Témo's environmental and modular passion originated when he founded LeafBox Concepts in 2017. This social venture up-cycles used cargo containers into customizable concepts which are 100% solar-powered, portable, and experiential. (Due to COVID-19 the showcase event season will be postponed until further notice).

His drive is fueled by his Mexican heritage & immigration journey to Canada. With the purpose to apply creativity, hard work and knowledge of city-building to his new home.



Kelly Graham
Planner
SvN

Kelly is a Registered Professional Planner with 5 years of experience working to create healthy, vibrant, and equitable urban and suburban communities across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. She draws on her background in public health and policy development to advise both public and private sector clients on a variety of projects, from individual site development approvals to master planning and secondary plan studies.

Kelly brings an action-oriented and collaborative approach to developing solutions for a range of land use matters. She is responsible for ongoing project management and regularly prepares land use planning rationales, due diligence reports, and materials for land use tribunal hearings including the LPAT and the TLAB.

Kelly holds a Master of Planning from Ryerson University, and is a full member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners.



Aidan Grove-White
Municipal Affairs Manager
StrategyCorp

Aidan is a manager in StrategyCorp's Municipal Affairs practice group with a long history in stakeholder management, Indigenous community engagement, public education, and policy development.

Aidan works with clients across all sectors to find creative solutions to their projects and help them set the strategic direction for their organization. Clients quickly come to rely on Aidan's candour, empathy, foresight, and ability to identify opportunities when charting new strategies, developing trust among their audiences, and overcoming stubborn challenges.

Before joining StrategyCorp, Aidan was a manager at the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs. During this time, he led the work on the public education and stakeholder outreach for the Coordinated Land Use Planning Review and built trusting and meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities, numerous stakeholders, inter-ministerial partners, public agencies, ministries, and members of the public.

Prior to that, Aidan was the water programs manager and a planning advisor for Environmental Defence. He has also held a variety of policy positions in the Ontario and British Columbia governments, including drinking water protection, services for victims of crime and employment for persons with disabilities.



Jessica Hawes
Senior Director, Development
Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Jessica Hawes, a Registered Planner and Licensed Architect, is a Senior Development Director with Toronto Community Housing. In this role she oversees a number of TCHC's community revitalizations. Over the past 20 years, Jessica has directed many projects from planning through to construction, including transit oriented developments, waterfront redevelopments, campus master plans, public realm visions, sustainable community master plans, development studies, strategic growth studies, and context specific urban design guidelines.

As a LEED Accredited Professional, Jessica focuses on economically, socially and environmentally sustainable developments that promote healthy cities. Her professional experience extends internationally to the construction of public spaces, mixed-use developments, residential buildings, theatres, shopping centres, waterfronts centres, campus master plans, new communities and office/commercial spaces throughout North America, the United Kingdom, and Southern Africa.



David MacMillan
Program Manager, Environment & Energy Division
City of Toronto

David MacMillan is a Program Manager with the City of Toronto's Environment & Energy Division, where he focuses on low-carbon community planning and implementation. David holds a Master in Environmental Studies from York University and is pursuing his Registered Professional Planner designation with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute. David recently completed the Urban Land Institute's Curtner Urban Leadership Program, which this year focused on expanding housing choices in Toronto's neighbourhoods.



Dr. Diana Nada

Senior Manager, Infrastructure and Capital Projects Advisory
Deloitte

Dr. Nada is a Senior Manager at Deloitte Canada, Capital Projects and Infrastructure Advisory practice. She brings over 15+ years of project management consulting experience in projects, social infrastructure and mixed-use developments with local and international asset owner companies and consultancies. Diana advises public and private sector clients on strategies and toolkits for best practices in for best practices for improving delivery and informed decision-making on capital projects.

With a background in Civil Engineering, Diana holds her PhD in Project Management from the University of Calgary. Specialized in bridging and fostering the link between strategic and project delivery through the lens of project intent, perception of teams and trust. A published scholar and author of the book "Project Approval Decisions: Exploring Success Factors". Seen as a thought leader and a mentor, she is a regular contributor, committee member and speaker with several industry associations.



Michael Spatafora

Associate, Senior Architect
Quadrangle

Michael is drawn to the transformative nature of design and how architecture can elevate the experiences of people. With an eye for details and specifications, he especially enjoys considering the materiality of architecture from the human scale. A Project Lead and Design Lead, Michael manages teams on large, multi-phase complex projects. He has experience in the mixed-use, residential and retail markets and guiding projects across all phases from planning and schematic design through to construction. Michael was the project lead for the residential tower and retail leasing coordination of the Yonge Sheppard Centre, one of Toronto's largest ongoing mixed-use redevelopments.