

LEIGH McGRATH

Leigh is a planner with experience in municipal planning and community development projects. Her background in social and cultural geography has shaped her dedication to place-based and locally-informed planning practices. She has been involved in all stages and aspects of the planning process: from the development of planning rationale reports to master plan studies to visioning exercises to preparation for complex Ontario Municipal Board hearings.

One of Leigh's most significant areas of focus has been the implementation of Ontario's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe through the creation of plans for two Urban Growth Centres: Midtown Oakville and the Richmond Hill Regional Centre. In these projects Leigh helped to craft plans that addressed the opportunity of intensification through new transit oriented development in currently underutilized landscapes.

In addition to land use planning, Leigh has lead a social planning exercise for the City of Vaughan. As part of Vaughan's development of a new Official Plan, Leigh completed a social services study addressing current and future social service needs. The Social Service Study presented planning-based policy approaches and recommendations for strategic actions for the City to consider as it redefines its relationship to social service delivery.

Leigh's planning experience extends outside of the Greater Toronto Area to projects in Alberta and most recently, Prince Edward Island. Acting for the City of Red Deer, Alberta, Leigh is currently involved in the development of an Environmental Master Plan; a plan that will define measurable goals and targets to track Red Deer's environmental progress in the future. In Charlottetown, PEI, Leigh is working with an interdisciplinary team to define how the city's eastern waterfront can connect to Charlottetown's identity as an historic Canadian landmark and contribute to the city's economic development.

Interested in assisting aspiring planners to meet their own academic and professional goals, Leigh is actively involved in the mentorship of undergraduate and graduate planning students.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

2007- Present	Planner, Urban Strategies Inc.
2007	Assistant Planner, Community Planning, Downtown Section, City of Toronto

EDUCATION

2007

**Master of Science in Planning
University of Toronto**

2004

**BA with Distinction in Geography
University of Delaware**

CONTACT

T 416 340 9004 x218

F 416 340 8400

lmcgrath@urbanstrategies.com

www.urbanstrategies.com

CURRICULUM VITAE

2006 Project Coordinator, Centre for Urban and Community
Studies, University of Toronto
2005 Planning Intern, Arlington County Department of Community
Planning, Arlington, Virginia
2004-2005 Production Assistant, National Geographic Digital Media,
Washington, D.C.

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

2010- Charlottetown Eastern Gateway Waterfront Master Plan
2010- Red Deer Environmental Master Plan
2009 City of Vaughan Social Services Study
2008-2009 Richmond Hill Regional Centre Land Use and Urban Design
Strategy
2008 MacMillan Farm Future Visioning
2008 South of Eastern Employment District OMB Hearing
2007-2008 Midtown Oakville Business and Development Plan

SELECTED AWARDS

2006 Allan Tonks Scholarship
2005-2006 University of Toronto Fellowship
2004 Geography Faculty Award