

Yasmin Afshar BES (Planning)
Associate, Urban Planner



Yasmin is an urban planner whose work explores the interplay between public policy, community design and engagement through storytelling on projects across North America. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo's School of Planning, with specializations in Urban Design and Land Development. In her five years of experience, Yasmin has contributed to over 30 studies and initiatives for a range of public and private sector clients. Her areas of focus include equitable revitalization, transit-oriented development, and community-centred and inclusive planning and design processes. Across her work, Yasmin's ability to understand diverse positionalities and strategically communicate solutions for different audiences through a range of mediums has been integral to the success of her projects to-date.

At Urban Strategies, Yasmin recently completed a master plan for Pinewood Toronto Film Studios, a major production complex in Toronto's Port Lands, and participated in mediations for the OPA 257 appeals on the Studios' behalf. She is currently working on a neighbourhood framework plan for equitable reinvestment and neighborhood stabilization for communities in east Detroit. This Plan is being co-crafted with the community, rooted in deep engagement and collaboration.

EDUCATION

2018

Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Honours Planning, Co-operative Education)
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, ON

2018

Theory and Practice of Planning in the U.K. Exchange
Oxford Brookes University,
Oxford, UK

2020

**Dignity Institute
Dignity-Infused Planning & Community Engagement**
Thrivance Group
California

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Candidate Member, Canadian Institute of Planners

Candidate Member, Ontario Professional Planners Institute

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

2019 - Present
University of Waterloo Planning Alumni Committee
Toronto, ON

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- 2020 - Present Associate, Urban Strategies Inc., Toronto, ON
- 2019 - Present Planner, Urban Strategies Inc., Toronto, ON
- 2016 - 2019 Planner / Urban Designer, WSP, Toronto, ON
- 2016 Land Use Planner, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Community Planning Assistant, City of Hamilton, Hamilton, ON

SELECTED AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 All by Ourselves - Isolation and Loneliness in our Growing Communities, Y Magazine
- 2019 Strangers in the City - Designing out Social Isolation, The Possible Magazine
- 2018 Dean's Honours List Distinction, University of Waterloo
- 2017 NXT City Award, Liberty Market Galleria Public Realm Design
- 2016 Affordability is the Hardest Shade of Green, Alternatives Journal

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- 2020 - Present Scarborough Town Centre Master Plan and Approvals, Toronto, ON
- 2020 - Present Brimley Block C Planning Approvals, Toronto, ON
- 2020 - Present East Warren / Cadieux Neighbourhood Plan, Detroit, MI
- 2019 - Present Pinewood Toronto Studios Master Planning & OPA 257 LPAT Appeals, Toronto, ON
- 2019 - Present Metrolinx Ontario Line Socio-Economic and Land Use Study, Toronto, ON
- 2019 - Present York Boulevard Employment Conversion Request, Richmond Hill, ON
- 2019 - Present Don Summerville Redevelopment, Toronto, ON
- 2019 East Harbour Eco-District Certification, Toronto, ON*
- 2019 Lincolnville GO Station Land Use Study, Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON*
- 2018 - 2019 Township of King Official Plan Review, King, ON*
- 2018 - 2019 Lawrence Heights Redevelopment, Toronto, ON*
- 2018 - 2019 Central Kingston Growth Strategy, Kingston, ON*
- 2018 Walkable Centres, Places to Grow Implementation Fund, ON*
- 2017 Beare Hill Park Detailed Design, Toronto, ON*
- 2017 Township of Springwater Official Plan Review, Springwater, ON*
- 2017 LaSalle Boulevard Corridor Study, Sudbury, ON*
- 2016 City of Halifax Land Use By-law Review, Halifax, NS *
- 2016 GTHA Bike Share Feasibility Study, ON*

* denotes project experienced gained outside of Urban Strategies