

Keisha St. Louis-McBurnie

Urban Planner



Keisha is an Urban Planner and multidisciplinary researcher whose work explores the relationship between land use planning and alternative practices for social and economic development to advance community wealth building. Across the public, private and non-profit sectors, her professional experiences have challenged her to understand and work collaboratively with diverse and equity-deserving communities to reimagine planning outcomes in neighbourhoods across the Greater Toronto Area, including St. James Town, Moss Park, Regent Park, Little Jamaica and Quayside.

At Urban Strategies, Keisha recently developed a refreshed vision for the City of Markham's Markham Innovation Exchange (MiX), also known as the MiX Innovation District. Through the jfm+ visioning and planning process, she is also working on a master plan to guide the redevelopment of Jane Finch Mall, a critical community anchor and asset located in Jane Finch/Black Creek. As a former member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) Anti-Black Racism in Planning Task Force, Keisha supported the development of an action plan to remove systemic barriers that perpetuate anti-Black racism against Black communities, and limit opportunities and representation of Black planners in Ontario.

EDUCATION

2021

Master of Science in Planning
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

2019

**Honours Bachelor of Arts
with High Distinction in Urban
Studies and Political Science**
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

2020 - 2021

**Anti-Black Racism in Planning
Task Force**
Ontario Professional Institute
of Planners

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

2021 - Present Urban Planner, Urban Strategies Inc.

2020 - 2021 Graduate Research Assistant, Innovation Policy Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and the Community Economies Lab in the Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto

2019 Research Trainee, City of Toronto, SIPA

2018 - 2019 Research Assistant, Social Planning Toronto

2018 Research Assistant, Policy & Delivery, Ontario Cabinet Office

2018 Sidewalk Toronto Fellow, Sidewalk Labs

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

2021 - Present 515 Coldstream Avenue Planning Approvals, Toronto, ON

2021 - Present Jane Finch Mall Redevelopment (jfm+), Toronto, ON

2021 - Present Pinewood Toronto Studios Master Planning & OPA 257 OLT Appeals, Toronto, ON

2021 - Present MiX Innovation District, Markham, ON

2020 - 2021 Regent Park Indicators Project, Toronto, ON*

2020 Place-keeping in Little Jamaica: Commercial Displacement Prevention Strategies, Toronto, ON*

**completed prior to joining Urban Strategies*

SELECTED AWARDS

2021 Canadian Institute of Planners President's Award: Student

2020 - 2021 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto

2020 Friends of Planning Graduate Scholarship for Innovation, University of Toronto

2019 - 2020 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship – Masters, SSHRC

2019 Frances Joan Lambier Postgraduate Scholarship, University of Toronto

2019 Planning Master's Recruitment Award, University of Toronto

2015 - 2019 Diversity Scholarship Program, Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto