

Lena Sanz Tovar

Urban Planner



Lena is an Urban Planner and researcher whose work has focused on cultural heritage preservation, land use planning and community development in various communities in Toronto. She is passionate about bringing people and communities together through planning, ensuring that they are representative and accepting of all. Through Lena's professional experience at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy and Innis College, she has worked to examine indicators of neighbourhood change and understand the lived experiences of underrepresented youth as a result of ongoing redevelopment in Regent Park. She has also explored commercial displacement prevention methods through a graduate workshop project in Little Jamaica; and worked to assess the relationship between built form, lived experience and social outcomes in the Annex neighbourhood through her work at the Bloor-Annex Business Improvement Area.

At Urban Strategies, Lena is exploring opportunities to convert various underutilized employment sites into vibrant and active mixed-use areas in the City of Mississauga. In the Weston Park redevelopment, Lena contributed to a community services & facilities study, assessing the community services and facilities that currently available to future residents generated by the proposed development. She is also contributing to the Canada Square redevelopment project.

EDUCATION

2021
Master of Science in Planning
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

2019
**Honours Bachelor of Arts in
Urban Studies and Human
Geography**
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

2021 - Present Urban Planner, Urban Strategies Inc.
2021 Junior Planner, The Planning Partnership, Toronto, ON
2020 - 2021 Graduate Research Fellow, Innovation Policy Lab at the Munk School of Global
Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto
2019 - 2021 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Urban Studies, University of Toronto
2018 - 2020 Surveyor and Data Analyst, Bloor Annex Business Improvement Area, Toronto, ON
2018 - 2019 Journalist, Annex Gleaner, Toronto, ON

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

2021 - Present Weston Park - 1871 and 1885 Weston Road Development Approvals, Toronto, ON
2021 - Present SmartCentres Employment Conversion Studies, Mississauga, ON
2019 - 2021 Youth, Faith and Gentrification in Toronto's Regent Park, Toronto, 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

2020 Mitacs Research Training Award, Insitute for Management and Innovation
2020 Planning Master Retention Award, University of Toronto
2019 Planning Master Recruitment Award, University of Toronto