

Derrick Behm Josa

Los Angeles, CA

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Education:

- Current
(2022 to 2027) **PhD Student**, Urban Planning
Concentration: Community development
Advisor: Dr. Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris
University of California, Los Angeles GPA: 4.0 /4.0
- May 2019 **Master of Professional Studies (MPS)**, Urban & Regional Planning
Concentration: Housing, Community & Economic Development
Georgetown University, Washington, DC GPA: 3.929 /4.0
- May 2013 **Bachelor of Arts (BA)**, English, Honors. Minor: Psychology
Gallaudet University, Washington, DC
Graduated Summa Cum Laude GPA: 3.899 /4.0

Employment:

Founder and President, Copper & Water, LLC August 2016 to Present
Washington, DC 20002

- Consult on DeafSpace design in urban and park development, accessibility, media design and marketing, event planning and more.
- Provide media and accessibility services by connecting talents with clients.
- Copper & Water functions as a hub for creative projects with a niche tied in with the Deaf community, culture, accessibility and inclusion.

Development Specialist/

Fundraising Campaign Manager, Gallaudet University April 2020 to August 2022
Washington, DC 20002

- Engage donors to advance Gallaudet University's unique mission and vision, which is grounded in equity and providing accessible higher education to deaf and hard of hearing students.
- Lead annual giving and manage fundraising campaigns and other special projects with team, such as the \$23 million Memorial to Black Deaf education to be constructed on campus.
- Maintain communications and strong relationships with donors, including developing reports and updating the Raiser Edge database.

Associate Producer/Engagement Expert, Hot Snakes Media October 2019 to November 2019
Washington, DC 20002

- Engage eight main cast members and other supporting cast members with conversation and cultural prompts, interviews, conflict mediation, and advising/coaching throughout the five-week film production for a Netflix TV series, *Deaf U* (released in October of 2020).
- Log conversations and crucial moments in scenes and compose scene summaries.
- Collaborate with story producers, executive producers, and supervising producers on content development and scene planning.

Strategic Innovation and Research Intern, JBG Smith May 2018 to August 2018
Chevy Chase Village, MD 20815

- Review detailed development plans and site design. Explore placemaking and community building techniques, including those that integrate DeafSpace design concepts. Develop recommendations for JBG Smith's projects.

- Research data to inform how to add value and complete more effective development projects, including long-range planning with demographic and technology changes.
- Use GIS as a tool to study migration patterns and other demographic changes.

Research Planner, Livable City Group (livablecity.com)

May 2016 to June 2019

Washington, DC 20010

- Research and conduct site assessments and evaluations at park and urban sites slated for improvement and/or redevelopment, including facilitating stakeholder and community engagement/planning workshops. Prepare specialized technical and analytical reports based on data collected, analyses conducted, and fieldwork/site visits.
- Consider accessibility implications to ensure equal access by people with disabilities and legal compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other accessibility-related regulations.
- Provide grant writing, video editing and other support.
- Projects include: Pennsylvania Avenue, west of the White House; Rosslyn Business Improvement District; Harrisburg, PA; Georgetown neighborhood transportation planning (Water St.).

Project Coordinator

March 2015 to May 2016

Gallaudet University Office of Campus Design and Planning

Washington, DC 20002

- Coordinate logistics and material preparation in support of capital budget/operation and maintenance budget meetings, public forums, tours, presentations and promotions regarding campus design, planning and ongoing projects.
- Present and conduct outreach and engagement initiatives, including community meetings, regarding ongoing projects and planning to diverse audiences, including community stakeholders and government and private sector.
- Develop and review urban planning project content for senior management and external clients.
- Provide research and data analysis, and vision planning to executive director.
- Directly supervise four interns for the International Design Competition for Gallaudet's new Gateway. Develop and assign tasks, mentor interns on how to engage community members for the Focus Group, provide evaluations on their performance.

Select Projects:

- Collaborate with The JBG Companies re: 6th Street NE development and internal planning.
- Work with Public Relations office re: publicizing campus construction, planning, competitions, and updates.
- Curate DeafSpace Exhibition for the National Smithsonian's *Festival ADA: 25 Years of Disability Rights* (2015) and International Design Competition final proposals exhibition (2016) with team.
- Direct short films that focus on 1.) Current Context for International Design Competition, 2.) DeafSpace design principles, 3.) Documentation of presentation and engagement for the International Design Competition.
- Work with Sustainable DC, DDOT, University Facilities, Gallaudet students, and neighbors on "Tactical Urbanism" project on 6th Street NE, which include workshops, fieldwork, and design.
- Work with other external partners like Casey Trees, coordinating volunteer events and tree planting plans.

Staff Researcher and Writer, Gallaudet University Museum

October 2013 to April 2014

Washington, DC 20002

- Develop content on Gallaudet University and Deaf history for the main museum exhibit.
- Conduct fundraising, public relations, and research.
- Help coordinate the ribbon-cutting, grand opening ceremony of the Gallaudet University Museum in April 2014 as a part of the 150th Anniversary of the University.

University Teaching

Adjunct Professor, Gallaudet University
Washington, DC 20002

Department of English

Critical Reading and Writing, 3 credits (GSR102, -02S & -19S; Fall 2013. GSR102-02R; Spring 2014)
Comparing Multicultural Perspectives, 3 credits (GSR 210.02, Spring 2014)

Department of Business

Student Think Tank: Gallaudet as a Premier Institution of Higher Education in the 21st Century, 3 credits.
Co-teacher. (BUS 495: Special Topics/GSR 300. Fall 2014)

Department of World Languages and Cultures

DeafSpace and Chinese Culture, 3 credits. Co-teacher. (WLC 395. Spring 2015.)

Department of ASL and Deaf Studies

DeafSpace Concepts and Methodologies, 3 credits. (DST 305.01. Fall 2018)

Publications

Kirk, R., & Behm Josa, D. (**Forthcoming**). Contesting elite capture: Repositioning insurgent planning for mass movements. *Human Geography*.

Behm, D. *Deafspace in Urban Planning: A Framework for Equity and Inclusion in Washington DC*. Georgetown University. May 14, 2019. <http://hdl.handle.net/10822/1059732>

Presentations

- 2024 - Presenter, Association of American Geographers. *DeafSpace in Washington, DC*. Honolulu, HI. April 19, 2024.
- 2024 - Keynote Presenter, Inter-American Development Bank. II Forum: INFRALAC 4ALL, Accessible Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth. Washington, DC. February 6, 2024.
- 2024 - Co-Presenter with Alexa Vaughn, ASLA125: Past & Future, American Society of Landscape Architects New Jersey Conference, *DeafSpace: Designing with the Deaf and Disabled Communities*. January 28, 2024
- 2022 - Co-Presenter with Jeffrey Mansfield, 56th Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference, *DeafSpace: Engaging the Ecosystem*. Orlando, FL. July 2, 2022.
- 2021 - Co-Presenter, American Institute of Architects Virginia, Architecture Exchange East 2021. *Making Space: Design for Inclusion*. Featuring Chris Downey, AIA, Magda Mostafa, Derrick Behm Josa, and Janice Majewski. November 4, 2021.
- 2021 - Presenter, American Society of Landscape Architects DREAM BIG. *Green Trees and Sam* story in American Sign Language. September 23, 2021.
https://2eb88d5a26c9d8f57ffb-aeafbf82c2963100e9056663ea595989.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/ASLA_314_YRCFCNVM_944_GreenTreesandSam-ASL.mp4
- 2021 - Presenter, 5th Annual World Deaf Architecture Symposium. *DeafSpace in Urban Planning*. July 29, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1e255gFGSU>
- 2021 - Presenter, Smithsonian Institution, Human Centered Design lecture series. *An Exploration of DeafSpace on Gallaudet Campus*. July 21, 2021.
- 2021 - Presenter, American Institute of Architects, North Virginia Chapter. *Celebrating Equity through DeafSpace Design: An Exploration of Gallaudet University's Campus*. April 30, 2021.
- 2020 - Presenter, American Society of Landscape Architects reVISION Conference, *DeafSpace, DeafScape, and Beyond: Universal Design in Landscape Architecture*. November 16, 2020.
- 2019 – Presenter, City of Alexandria Equity Series for the Transportation Planning Division and the Department of Planning and Zoning. *DeafSpace: A framework for equity and inclusion*. Alexandria, VA. November 12, 2019.
- 2019 – Co-Presenter, OLIN People Lab, Inclusion and Access Series. *DeafScape: Designing urban landscapes for the Deaf community*. Philadelphia, PA. June 7, 2019.

- 2019 – Co-Presenter with Hansel Bauman, DC Fair Housing Symposium, Intersections: Disability & Diverse Communities, *Inclusive Design & Construction with focus on “DeafSpace”* Washington, DC. April 18, 2019.
- 2016 – Co-Presenter with Justin Wuetcher, 53rd Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference, *How Might We? Design Thinking in Action.*
- 2012 – Co-Presenter, Association for Conflict Resolution. Gallaudet University. *Campus Solutions: Actualizing Safe Spaces*

Certificates & Awards:

- 2019 – Community Builder Award, Georgetown University Urban & Regional Planning Program
- 2015 – Deafhood Film Festival: 2015 Deafhood Media Challenge, 2nd place, “Sign to Sign”
- 2014 – Certificate of Completion, [IN]CITY Program (Urban Planning and Design), University of California, Berkeley
- 2010 – University of Rochester, Langue des Signes Francaise (LSF), Study Abroad, France
- 2009 – Certificate of Completion, Rochester Institute of Technology Leadership Institute

Community Service and Board Membership:

- 2024 to 2025 - Critical Planning Journal, University of California, Los Angeles. Co-Managing Editor.
- 2023 - Critical Planning Journal, University of California, Los Angeles. Reviewer.
- 2021 to 2022 - ANC 5D Zoning & Development Committee member. Washington, DC.
- 2021 to 2022 - DC Association of the Deaf member
- 2020 – Advocate and Volunteer, DC Office of Planning, *Florida Avenue and New York Avenue Intersection Public Life Study* ([View Report](#))
- 2017 to 2021 – DC Association of the Deaf, Vice President & Board Member at Large
- 2016 to 2019 – Casey Trees, volunteer with tree planting and inventory
- 2014 - 2017 – Kappa Gamma International, Secretary
- 2014 – Co-founder, Sign to Sign, a sign language revolution petitioning for human rights
- 2013 – Rainbow Society Bash Chairperson
- 2010 – PEN-International Summer Leadership Institute, London, UK, American Delegate
- 2010 – Habitat for Humanity, Sea Island, South Carolina