

# R. Stein Wexler

Affiliate Consultant  
(she/her)



PO Box 1272  
Easton, PA 18044  
484.548.0073, Ext. 215  
[wexler@metrisarts.com](mailto:wexler@metrisarts.com)  
[www.metrisarts.com](http://www.metrisarts.com)

## PROFILE

---

- Urban planner and public artist with experience in research, creative placemaking, economic development, and process-based public space interventions
- U.S. and international experience collaborating with local governments, non-profits, neighborhood organizations, and cultural institutions
- Competencies include qualitative and quantitative research, writing, program and project development, project management, community engagement, design-thinking, and an equity approach

## EDUCATION

---

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Master's in City and Regional Planning, May 2017

Research Area: Economic development and the creative economy

University of California - Berkeley

B.A. May 2012

Major: English

## EXPERIENCE

---

Metris Arts Consulting, Easton, PA (September 2021-Present)

*Affiliate*

- Support research, meaning making, and implementation of the Chicago Monuments Project

Independent Public Artist & Consultant, Durham, NC and Berlin, Germany (May 2016-Present)

*Principal*

- Public art projects include a multi-phase remembrance process in collaboration with community groups in Berlin, a commission by a queer senior living facility in Berlin, a temporary memorial in Krakow, and a piece about gentrification and displacement in Durham, NC. Funders include the Berlin Senate for Culture and Europe, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, and Mellon Foundation.
- Urban planning and economic development consultant providing creative economy research and analysis, multi-national grant applications and project strategy, development and execution of an organizational equity system, and technical illustration and graphic design. Clients include Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik (Center for Art and Urbanistics), Mt. Auburn Associates, and Codewright Planners.

Downtown Durham, Inc., Durham, NC (September 2017-September 2020)

*Director of Special Projects*

- Represent the organization and the interests of downtown Durham stakeholders with the city, county, and private developers; design and conduct placemaking and public art interventions and support small business development.

- Lead mayor's COVID advisory task-force working group on creative uses of shared outdoor spaces; write the city council-adopted downtown outdoor dining plan. Serve as commissioner on Cultural Advisory Board and on numerous public and private selection committees including public art and way-finding contracts.
- Develop placemaking strategy and execute numerous community-engagement-based placemaking projects contracting over 200 artists and managing a budget of over \$90,000. Develop program recognized by the International Downtown Association as a best practice (2019) and was granted external foundation funding in its second year. Plan and execute inaugural Tree Lighting@CCB Plaza attracting 250 attendees the first year and 600 the second year.
- Recruit arts, crafts, restaurants, retail, and entertainment businesses to storefronts in downtown. Facilitate numerous partnerships between property owners and temporary creative or entrepreneurial tenants. Develop monthly shop local campaign. Design and coordinate innovative and robust training opportunities based on needs of businesses.
- Serve as interim planning and policy director writing quarterly reports, annual State of Downtown Durham Report, and partnering with the International Downtown Association to produce the Value of Downtown 2019 Report for downtown Durham.
- Manager of Special Projects (September 2018-May 2019)
- Coordinator of Special Projects (September 2017-September 2018)

Self-Help Credit Union, Durham, NC (May 2016-May 2017)

*Program Manager*

- Hired as intern; promoted three months later to program manager after developing Artists in Residency - Revolution Mill (AIRREV).
- Conduct market analysis and design and implement artist residency program to serve the needs of emerging local artists who represent historically marginalized populations.
- Guide community relationships and strategic partnerships; develop creative funding strategies and manage program budget; spearhead artist outreach, application, and selection process; direct residency programming, publicity, and exhibitions.

Carolina Planning Journal, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (August 2015-May 2017)

*Editor*

- Facilitate five-year strategic plan, panel discussion at annual NCAPA conferences, and weekly editorial board meetings
- Manage daily and long-term activities of the journal, editorial board, and online platform, Carolina Angles
- Recruit writers, perform budgeting, and maintain university relations. Orchestrate publicity events.

Independent Editor, Berkeley, CA and Amman, Jordan (May 2012-Aug 2015)

*Principal*

- Served as editor and copywriter for numerous clients including UC Berkeley School of Public Health and the International Organization for Migration: Iraq Mission

## PUBLICATIONS

---

“*One Site, Layered Histories.*” With Kathrin Gerlof. *Monument Lab Bulletin*, 2022. Available at [monumentlab.com](http://monumentlab.com).

*Re(anything)*. Issue co-editor with Carly Hofman. *Carolina Planning Journal* (Issue 42), 2017. Available at [CarolinaPlanning.unc.edu](http://CarolinaPlanning.unc.edu).

*Just Creativity*. Issue co-editor with Julia Barnard. *Carolina Planning Journal* (Issue 41) 2016. Available at [CarolinaPlanning.unc.edu](http://CarolinaPlanning.unc.edu).

“*Placemaking Underground: BART to Revitalize Stations.*” With Rachel Dinno Taylor, *The Urbanist*, 2015. Available at [spur.org](http://spur.org).

## SELECTED TALKS

---

“Making Erased Histories Visible.” *Monuments of the Future?* Goethe Institute, Berlin, Germany, July 15, 2022.

“Keeping Public Memory Alive.” *Kanzlerpark*, TEDx, Berlin, Germany, November 11, 2021.

“Public Art: What is it good for?” *Alumni Network POCACITO*, virtual, February 12, 2021.

“This Economy and Placemaking: I’m just a soul whose intentions are good. Oh Lord, please don’t let me be misunderstood.” *Placemaking Week*. Chattanooga, TN, October 1-4, 2019.

“Leveraging Local Assets for Prosperity.” *Southeast Conference*, National Consortium for Creative Placemaking, Columbia, South Carolina 2019.

“Art and Real Estate.” *Bull Meets the Bayou*. Durham, NC, May 29, 2018.

“Closing a Gap in the Artist Ecosystem.” *Cross-Currents in Creativity*, South Eastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC, 2016.

“Just Creativity.” with Carly Hofman, *North Carolina Annual Conference*, American Planning Association, Asheville, North Carolina, September 13-16, 2016.

“Planning for the New Economy,” with Julia Barnard, *North Carolina Annual Conference*, American Planning Association, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 21-23, 2015.

## HONORS & AFFILIATIONS

---

documenta fifteen, Kassel, Germany (2022)

*Artist in Residence*

Durham Cultural Advisory Board, Durham, NC (2018-21)

*Board Member*

2019 Post-Carbon Cities of Tomorrow, Dessau and Freiburg, Germany (2019)

*Fellow*

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (2017)

*Best Master’s Project in Economic Development*

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (2015-17)

*Parker Fellow*

University of California-Berkeley (2012)

*Bachelor’s Honors Thesis*