

Emory Davidge B.URPI, IAP2

PLANNER, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

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**GOOD
THE PUBLIC**

PROFILE

I am an accomplished urban planner and public engagement specialist whose work explores the intersection of policy, engagement, and equity in the planning process. I hold an Honors degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ryerson University in Toronto, with an emphasis on community engagement and affordable housing. I have managed, designed and delivered innovative communications and engagement programs for municipalities, libraries, non-profits, and regional governments across Canada.

In my many roles, I have become adept at managing high-volumes of technically and politically complex work, providing strategic engagement advice across departments and disciplines. I thrive in fast-paced, results-oriented contexts and enjoy managing multiple tasks simultaneously. One of my key strengths is my ability to deeply connect with a wide range of stakeholders, managing complex and often-controversial issues with discretion and compassion.

EMPLOYMENT

Nov 2013 – present

PRINCIPAL

The Public Good – Planning and Public Engagement, Toronto

- Developing the city-wide Public Engagement Framework and supporting policy for the City of Vancouver.
- Advising on process and developing engagement tools in support of the Creative City Strategy for the City of Vancouver.
- Managed the Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Library System's long-range strategic plan engagement process and plan development throughout 2014
- Managed the Winnipeg Public Library System's long-range strategic plan engagement process and plan development, co-leading public, staff and board engagement throughout 2014.
- Worked with DIALOG on a comprehensive public engagement program focused on the role of the Regina Public Central Library in the 21st century. This process explored library collections, programs and services, physical space and the library's connection to the larger community.
- Designed and led a month-long intensive public engagement process focusing on user experience throughout the Calgary Public Library system.

Jan 2016 – April 2018

ENGAGEMENT LEAD

Northeast False Creek Project Office, City of Vancouver

- Developed the Northeast False Creek (NEFC) engagement framework including: core objectives, risk identification and mitigation actions, identifying communications scope, governance structure, and composition of key committees.
- Designed and led over 90 innovative engagement opportunities, including:

storefronts, block parties, workshops, design charrettes, open houses, and online engagement platforms that engaged over 17,000 people in 16 months.

- Led a co-design process with Vancouver's Black Community to develop a city block recognizing the history of displacement and systemic racism faced by the community.
- Co-developed the Indigenous Engagement Framework and the Indigenous Engagement Working Group to facilitate discussion and engagement with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.
- Developed cultural policy for the NEFC Plan including the addition of a Reconciliation and Cultural Redress chapter to the Plan, a first for the City of Vancouver.

Apr 2015 – Jan 2016

**ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
Corporate Communications, City of Vancouver**

- Developed and led the City Service Award winning Public Engagement Strategy for the refresh of the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan and the launch of the Renewable City 2050 Strategy – including a launch gala event, social media campaign, Pecha Kucha night, and multiple stakeholder workshops.
- Led the City Service Award winning communications and engagement strategy for Project529, the Vancouver Police Department's anti bike-theft initiative.
- Developed and facilitated the Cultural Infrastructure Grant Update and Public Art Signature Sites engagement processes for the Cultural Services Department.
- Provided strategic engagement advice across city departments.

Aug 2009 – Aug 2013

**PLANNER + ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST
HBLanarc-Golder, Vancouver**

- Managed a multi-year, multi-phase engagement process for the City of North Vancouver Official Community Plan Update. Co-designed and facilitated public outreach through all stages of the process.
- Managed a six-month intensive engagement program to gather public, staff and key stakeholder input on the New Central Library project in downtown Calgary. Developed and led community-outreach engaging over 16,000 Calgaryans during the 5-month public process.
- Provided policy development support to City of Burnaby staff during the creation and implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS). Designed, led and facilitated the public and steering committee engagement for the project.

EDUCATION + AWARDS

- 2009** B.URPI. Honours (Urban + Regional Planning), Ryerson University, Canada
- A.S.M. Pound Memorial Scholarship for Leadership and Visionary Planning
- 2006** Dip. AURP (Applied Urban + Rural Planning), Langara College, Canada
- Real Estate Foundation of BC AURP Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS + CERTIFICATION

- 2016** Charrette System Certificate - National Charrette Institute (NCI)
- 2011** Certificate in Public Participation - International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2018** *"I'm Sorry": How Apologizing in the Moment Can Help Save Your Planning Process.* The Game Plan: Planning Institute of BC. Victoria, BC.
- 2015** *Public Engagement for Public Libraries – Make it Fun, Make it Count.* Creative Communities: BC Library Association. Richmond, BC.
- 2014** *Your Central Library: Libraries of the 21st Century* – panel discussion, Regina Public Library. Regina, SK.
- 2012** *Engage: Choose Your Own Adventure.* The Edge of Change: Planning Institute of BC, May, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2009** P. Robinson, J. Gingras, L. Cooper, J. Waddell and E. Davidge. *SoTL's watershed moment: A critical turning point for SoTL at Ryerson University.* Transformative Dialogues: Teaching and Learning Journal, 3(1) (2009)