

# *Sara Blumenstein*

sara.blumenstein@gmail.com

## *Experience*

### **Independent Design Strategist**

As a freelancer, brought human-centered design to a range of strategy, community engagement, and content strategy projects for Pittsburgh-based clients including the YMCA of Pittsburgh, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, LUMA Institute, and a real estate crowdfunding start-up.

2016-2018

### **Design Strategist, Fourth Economy Consulting**

Led qualitative research and facilitation efforts and managed projects for the economic and community development consultancy to make stakeholders' worldviews tangible and actionable in strategy projects for public and non-profit sector clients.

2016-2017

### **Designer, MAYA Design**

Applied human-centered design principles to help organizations make future-focused decisions and make the right things. Led client engagements, conducted field research, facilitated ideation sessions, and created artifacts to make user experience and environmental design strategies tangible and actionable for clients.

2014-2016

### **Designer and Project Manager, cityLAB**

Designed and executed innovative small-scale economic development and tactical urbanism projects for a Pittsburgh non-profit. Responsible for projects throughout their life cycle, including fundraising, visual design, communications, managing community relations, and tracking and reporting project outcomes to funders.

2011-2014

### **Co-Founder, the Pittsburgh Canning Exchange**

Co-created a social enterprise dedicated to food preservation.

2012-2017

### **George G. Booth Traveling Fellow in Architecture**

Documented how mosques were remodeled into churches in post-Reconquista Spain and Portugal for the fellowship project "Al-Andalus and After."

2010-2011

### **Designer, Pablo Garcia/POiNT**

Design research for professor in Carnegie Mellon's School of Architecture.

2009-2010

## *Education*

### **Master of Architecture with distinction, 2009**

University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

### **A.B. in English Literature with honors, 2006**

The University of Chicago  
Chicago, IL

## *Exhibitions*

### **Caochangdi Urban Village Quilt**

Designed and fabricated a textile exhibited at Architecture Biennale Beijing 2009, Shenzhen University, the University of Michigan, and at Berlin's Galerie Aedes Land in an exhibition of Ai Wei Wei's architectural work. 2007–2009

## *Speaking Engagements*

**MC2 Conference**, Chicago, IL, April 2015. Presented on the NIST-funded MTConnect Strategic Roadmap.

**Urban Innovation Exchange**, Detroit, MI, September 2014. Gave two presentations, one on "The Art of Place," about cityLAB's tactical urbanism projects, and the other on "The Future of Food."

## *Publications*

**MTConnect Strategic Roadmap**, 2014. Technical lead and primary author of government-funded strategic roadmap for the manufacturing communication standard, representing a team comprising stakeholders across the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

**MAYA Project Management Handbook**, 2016. Researched and co-wrote a manual to establish and operationalize best practices for project management for the organization.

## *Skills*

**Graphic Design:** Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign; documentary photography.

**Web:** HTML and CSS/SASS, Wordpress and Kirby CMS, email marketing, web survey tools (SurveyMonkey, Wufoo, and Typeform), Google Maps API and MapBox, Tableau and Google Fusion Tables.

**Architectural:** AutoCAD, Rhino, Google Sketch-Up, and Maxwell Render; sewing and model-building; concrete and plaster casting, MIG welding, and CAD-CAM fabrication.

**Languages:** Proficient written and spoken Italian, reading knowledge of Spanish and Catalan.