2016
OUUDS Urban Design Studio
Annual Report
Arkansas River Pedestrian Bridge Visions for the West River Bank
The University of Oklahoma Urban Design Studio was founded in 1988 with the three-part mission to train urban design professionals through master’s degree programs in architecture and urban studies, to advance understanding of the city through research and creative activity, and to engage in community design projects benefiting Tulsa and Northeast Oklahoma.

**Faculty**

- Shawn Schaefer AIA, AICP
- Kevin Anderson
- Michael Birkes AIA
- Jay Chandler JD
- James Wagner PE, AICP
- Greg Warren ASLA

**Graduate Students**

- Paulina Baeza
- Curtis Blevins
- Kyle Clifton
- Kelly Cook
- Nathan Foster
- Joel Hensley
- Robi Jones
- Maryam Moradian
- Daniel Sperle
- Kasey St. John
- Amanda Yamaguchi

**Professional Advisory Board**

- Michael Birkes AIA
  Principal, Michael Birkes Architecture
- Steve Carr
  Senior Planner, City of Tulsa
- Tom Costner MD
  Director of Palliative Care, St. Francis Health System
- Farhad Daroga AICP
  Director of Planning, City of Broken Arrow
- Joani Dotson MPH
  Assistant Director, Tulsa Health Department
- John Griffin CNU
  Urban Designer, Selser Schaefer Architects
- Steve Olsen AIA
  Principal, Steve Olsen Architects
- Tom Wallace PE
  President, Wallace Engineering
- Dawn Warlick AICP
  Director of Planning, City of Tulsa
- Rachel Zebrowski AIA
  President, Miles Associates
Studio Projects

Visions for the West River Bank

2016 was the year Tulsa rediscovered the Arkansas River and the Urban Design Studio was part of it! In anticipation of the passage of Vision Tulsa and the addition of water in the river with low-water dams, the City of Tulsa foresaw the need for river development guidelines. Director Schaefer served on the River Development Task Force that worked with INCOG planners to craft the River Development Overlay zoning adopted during the summer. Urban Design Studio students made meaningful contributions to the process by testing development regulations and illustrating design possibilities at several locations, using models and renderings created at the studio and in conjunction with architects at the McIntosh Group. The river also became the subject of our spring studio project. Recognizing the fact that the East River Bank of the Arkansas River is already largely developed, students saw the

RIVERSIDE DRIVE PROMENADE
need to focus on the opportunities offered by the West River Bank. It has multiple large brownfield sites, including the Rainbow and Mid-Continent Concrete Batch Plants, as well as several large city parcels ripe for redevelopment. The West River Bank also has breathtaking views of downtown, great highway access, and park amenities like the River West Festival Park and the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area. The students divided the West River Bank into six urban design frameworks and created a competition brief for teams of Architecture and Landscape Architecture students from the College of Architecture in Norman. Each team was given a program for redeveloping a brownfield or infrastructure site, designing a major landscape feature or attraction, and maintaining and improving the River Parks greenway system. The teams' proposals were reviewed by a jury of design professionals and civic leaders. Members of the winning team each received $400 stipends to advance their education. All of the entries were displayed on Over 300 visitors attended the String of Pearls Exhibit at the Numbered Car Company on April 12th.

The winning design team poses with the jury
The studio wishes to thank the sponsors of the Visions for the West River Bank project:

- Tulsa Tough
- Cynergy AEC
- Tom Wallace
- Tom and Patty Costner
Joel Hensley leads students from Norman on a bike tour of the West River Bank trail May 11th at the Cyntergy Community Room, in Downtown Tulsa. The exhibit attracted over 200 hundred visitors and received extensive press coverage.

One of the frameworks included a proposal for a bike park at the foot of Turkey Mountain. Urban Design Studio students Maryam Moradian, Paulina Baeza, and Joel Hensley partnered with Tulsa Tough to create a program and design scenarios for the bike park, and worked closely with founders Malcolm McCollam and Chris Zenthoefer throughout the process. Even though the bike park was not included in the successful Tulsa Vision sales tax package, the development of the river and the ever increasing popularity of Turkey Mountain for cycling enthusiasts means this proposal still has an excellent future potential as a recreation destination.

Tulsa Tough Executive Director Malcolm McCollam shares ideas with cyclists about the bike park at the exhibit

Joel Hensley leads students from Norman on a bike tour of the West River Bank trail
Muskogee has faced its share of challenges, but at its heart it is a hopeful community looking to rediscover and reinvigorate its historic downtown. It takes a team for a project of this magnitude, and the Urban Design Studio is fortunate to work with some great partners. The City of Muskogee is our primary partner, with Gary Garvin and the Planning Department taking the lead. Downtown Muskogee Incorporated is providing a $29,500 technical services contract to support the project. The studio is sharing the contract with the OU Institute for Quality Communities, led by Shane Hampton. The city has also engaged an economic development consultant, Ron Drake, who is working closely with the planning and design team. Finally, OU Professor of Human Relations Chan Hellman joins us an expert in the theory and science of hope. Downtown Muskogee’s plan will be a hopeful one with clear goals for the future with the will and the way to implement it.

Kyle Clifton and Robi Jones staff the Urban Design Studio booth at the Muskogee Farmers’ Market
One of the interesting contrasts in Downtown Muskogee is the juxtaposition of the Arrowhead Mall, a prototypical suburban retail mall located two blocks north of the traditional shopping district on Broadway.

Interdisciplinary teams of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Planning students from Norman will develop six different scenarios for the future of Arrowhead mall next spring, using a competition brief created by Urban Design Studio students.
Community Engagement

The team meets each month with a 15 member stakeholder committee that guides the community engagement process. The project team and the committee hosted a **Community Hope Visioning Workshop** on November 15th. Approximately 150 participants wrote comments on the 30 foot long idea wall, manipulated scale models built by students, and enjoyed Mahylon’s BBQ at the new Martin Luther King Jr. Center. Over 300 notes and comments from citizens were summarized into **five hopes for downtown**: increase activity, improve connections, save historic buildings, revitalize Arrowhead Mall, and introduce green space. Next spring, the team will develop pathways to achieve these hopes, explore urban design possibilities, and build the final plan. Follow the project this spring at: [http://muskogeeplan.com](http://muskogeeplan.com).
Five students successfully defended their professional projects this year:

- Amanda Yamaguchi’s *Sequoyah Elementary Active Transportation Analysis* was awarded first prize in the Social and Behavioral Research category at the OU-Tulsa Research Forum.
- Curtis Blevins developed a plan for a *Community Garden for Sand Springs*.
- Working with the RiverParks Authority, Kelly Cook conducted a user study for *Turkey Mountain: Tulsa’s Wild Place*. Kelly was awarded third prize in the Social and Behavioral Research category at the OU-Tulsa Research Forum.
- Nathan Foster used his project to *Re-Think Transit* by improving Tulsa’s bus transit.
- Daniel Sperle’s *Route 66 Innovation District* explores economic activity as the basis for urban redevelopment.

At her Professional Project defense, Kelly Cook projected an image of Turkey Mountain on a topographic model made with the CNC router at FabLab Tulsa.

Many thanks to Typros, the Lobeck-Taylor Family Foundation and Kasey St. John for arranging the Professional Project juries at Street Cred 66 this April.
Visions for the West River Bank Student Design Team
The studio updated its strategic plan this year, including some significant changes to come:

- The studio has started a re-branding effort. The name of the Master of Science in Architectural Urban Studies degree will be changed to the Master of Urban Design.

- The studio will look for opportunities to establish a presence in Downtown Tulsa by working with professional partners.

- A new Design Entrepreneurship and Real Estate Graduate Certificate will be offered in both Norman and Tulsa.

- The studio curriculum and assessment is being modified to align with AICP Certified Urban Designer requirements.

- Growing professional partnerships and finding student and graduate job opportunities is a priority.
In its fifth year of operation, the CHED is a community resource promoting health and wellness through better environmental design of buildings, neighborhoods, and cities. Our motto is Better Health by Design. The CHED has engaged in a variety of educational outreach, research, and community design projects in the last year.


CHED is grateful to faculty from many disciplines contributing to its efforts:
- Michael Birkes AIA Architecture
- Dave Boeck AIA Architecture
- Mia Kile ASID Interior Design
- April Merrill JD Community Medicine
- Julie Miller-Cribbs PhD Social Work
- Ken Randall PhD Physical Therapy
- Mary Williams PhD Public Health
CHED Graduate Research Assistants Maryam Moradian, Paulina Baeza, Amanda Bentley, Jedidiah Bragg and Shakira White conducted over **100 hundred phone interviews** of patients from Professor Ken Randall’s Physical Therapy Clinic for the Non-Attendance Survey. Results of the study will be available next spring.

In April, Professor Birkes moderated a CHED Talk panel discussion on the Flint Water Crisis and **Tulsa’s Water Quality** at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Library.

Professor Schaefer delivered an anchoring lecture to the **School of Community Medicine Summer Institute** for the eighth year. He also guided a bus tour for participants.

The CHED is a partner with the School of Community Medicine’s **Project REVIVE** research study to address the role of housing issues in the health of OU Clinic patients.
The SUDS has also had an active year with several activities.

In March, SUDS co-hosted Connected Tulsa 2016 with INCOG and several other sponsors. Over 60 planners, citizens, and students heard urbanist and transportation planner, Gabe Klein, talk about his book Start-Up City.

SUDS President Daniel Sperle was project leader for a team from the Center for Creating Economic Wealth to improve health delivery systems for the Cherokee Nation.

Daniel was also a panelist for the Dwell in the 918 Series produced by 36 Degrees North.

Paulina Baeza made a presentation in September at AIA Chit Chat 13.

SUDS Officers:
Daniel Sperle
President
Amanda Yamaguchi
Vice-President
Paulina Baeza
Secretary / Treasurer
Joel Hensley
OUTSGA Representative
Curtis Blevins
OUTSGA Representative
Professor Schaefer served as a trustee for Smart Growth Tulsa where he helped create a Budget Allocator and Opinion Poll for the Tulsa Vision election.

Students from the studio met with trustees of the Performing Arts Center to facilitate a discussion about the merits of the ANNEX project on land currently owned by the trust.

Paulina Baeza and Director Schaefer facilitated the transit, cycling, and pedestrian interest group discussions for INCOG’s 2040 Regional Transportation Plan.

Professor Schaefer joined City of Tulsa Resiliency Officer Mary Kell and Leah Kos from the University’s Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program to give a presentation about resilient design to the Eastern Oklahoma chapter of the AIA.

Peter Myers’ group of seventh graders from the Union Schools Carrera Program visited the studio in early December.
Kasey St. John was awarded the Best Student Plan award at the Oklahoma APA Conference in September. Congratulations, Kasey!

Professor Birkes recently completed his term as AIA Eastern Oklahoma Chapter President for 2016.

The College of Architecture’s Unmanned Aerial System is now hangared at the studio. Director Schaefer was certified as a FAA Remote Pilot in August.

Professor Schaefer received the Certified Urban Designer specialty from the American Institute of City Planners in May.

Adjunct Professor James Wagner was named Chief of Performance Strategy and Innovation by new Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum in December.

Paulina Baeza was awarded the 2017 Women in Transportation Scholarship. Congratulations, Paulina!
The studio surveyed its alumni this summer and eighteen of our 133 alumni responded. Here are some highlights from the survey findings:

### Alumni News

- Daniel Sperle, 2016, was hired as the first Executive Director for Tulsa Bike Share.
- Jessica Shelton, 2015, is now coordinating housing programs for Growing Together as their Neighborhood Planning Senior Specialist.
- Erik Enyart, 2010, has joined the team at Tanner Consulting as the Director of Planning.
- Marcaé’ Hilton, 2011, is now City Planner for the City of Bixby.
- Amanda Yamaguchi, 2016, accepted the position of Assistant City Planner for the City of Broken Arrow.
- Jessica Brent, 2011, is the Executive Director for the Tulsa Route 66 Main Street Association.
- Nathan Foster, 2016, was promoted to Land Use Planner at INCOG.

#### Survey Highlights

- **100%** said their education at the studio was a good value.
- **86%** said they are extremely satisfied with their studio experience.
- **87%** said their studio experience prepared them very well or extremely well for their current work.
- **88%** said they use the skills they learned at the studio every day or several times a week.
- **86%** said they are extremely satisfied with their studio experience.
Contact Us

The Urban Design Studio is always looking for promising students and interested community partners for its programs and projects. Please contact us for more information:

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or visit the CHED and OUUDS on facebook

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