

# KAMYA KHANDELWAL

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[Planning Portfolio](#)

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Multidisciplinary Urban Planner and Designer with 3+ years of experience in community and transit planning, urban design, data analysis, and research. Skilled in facilitating workshops and collaborating with diverse stakeholders to foster inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient growth, while leveraging GIS, programming languages, and data visualization to deliver impactful solutions. Dedicated to lifelong learning and advancing equitable, resilient, and thriving communities.

## SKILLS

**Software:** ArcGIS Pro, R, Python, AutoCAD, Rhino, Revit, SketchUp, Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, AfterEffects), Lumion, Enscape, Grasshopper, MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Dedoose

**Competency:** Geospatial Analysis, Site Suitability, Network Analysis, Remote Sensing, GIS Storymaps, Machine Learning, Predictive Modeling, Data Visualization, Public Policy Analysis, Research, Technical Writing, Community Outreach and Engagement, Stakeholder Engagement, Qualitative Data Analysis, Hand Drawing

## URBAN PLANNING/DESIGN EXPERIENCE

**Rutgers Center for Law, Inequality and Metropolitan Equity, Part-Time Research Analyst** 01/2025 - Present

- **Displacement Risk Analysis:** Contributing to the development of the Displacement Risk Indicators Matrix (DRIM), by analyzing housing and demographic data for over 10,000 properties, supplemented with real estate and housing market trends, to forecast displacement risks in Newark, NJ
- **Policy and Equity Insights:** Providing recommendations for equitable urban growth by analyzing data trends, addressing environmental justice, and supporting policymakers in mitigating displacement

**Sojourner Consulting, Freelance Planner/Designer (Philadelphia)** 09/2024 - Present

- **Community Needs Assessment:** Conducted qualitative and quantitative analyses of 19 focus group discussions, 10 community leader interviews, and demographic data for Montgomery County's AAPI community in PA
- **Policy Recommendations:** Identified key themes such as language access, cultural barriers, and service gaps, and developed actionable insights to inform policy recommendations and improve equity in public service delivery for the ongoing needs assessment report
- **Proposal Development:** Created a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Riverview Wellness Village, focusing on public engagement strategies, stakeholder outreach, and alignment with community goals
- **Project Documentation:** Curated and documented past projects, including a Philadelphia cultural district plan and a homelessness services access program for Latinx/LEP populations, for the company website

**Grain Collective, Freelance Community Engagement Specialist (New York City)** 08/2024 - Present

- **Community Engagement Design:** Developed visual boards, design guidelines, and engagement materials for the CCNY Master Plan project to support stakeholder outreach and public engagement efforts
- **Accessible & Inclusive Design:** Created materials using color-blind-friendly color schemes and large, clear text to ensure accessibility for diverse audiences, including individuals with disabilities
- **Project Coordination & Quality Delivery:** Collaborated closely with team members and the principal to align design themes with project goals while consistently delivering high-quality outputs under tight deadlines

**PennPraxis UPenn, Planning Design Fellow (Philadelphia and New York)** 05/2023 - 08/2023

- **Youth-Centered Community Design:** Facilitated community-based workshops, in team of three, for over 250 teenagers from disenfranchised NYC communities, engaging them in hands-on design projects
- **Community Collaboration:** Enhanced public space design and promoted sustainable urban practices by partnering with the Fresh Air Fund to implement nature-based learning and design solutions
- **Curriculum Development and Project Management:** Created and implemented a curriculum focused on planning, leadership, and environmental stewardship while managing budgeting and resource allocation for community projects, ensuring efficient use of funds

**Unitary Design Studio, Architect (Auroville, India)** 05/2021 - 05/2022

- **Master Planning and Sustainable Development:** Designed the 75-acre master plan for Sri Sri Ravishankar's "Art of Living" Wellness City, optimizing land use, balancing developer goals with sustainability, and negotiating a 55% ground cover plan with greenways and public spaces
- **Community-Centric and Policy-Driven Planning:** Advocated for affordable housing and community spaces, aligning designs with zoning regulations and engaging stakeholders to balance equity and sustainability.
- **Bioclimatic Design and Environmental Sustainability:** Integrated bioclimatic principles to reduce energy use, enhance comfort, and design public spaces and building orientations for ventilation and reduced solar heat gain.

**The Adda Experiment, Co-Founder (New Delhi, India)** 02/2020 - Present

- **Urban Rejuvenation and Community Engagement:** Spearheaded a comprehensive urban rejuvenation project in Bandhu Camp, engaging 50+ community members, including children and local leaders, to co-design inclusive spaces with public furniture and street art, fostering community ownership
- **Policy Advocacy:** Collaborated with the National Institute of Urban Affairs on the "Main Bhi Dilli Campaign" to influence the Delhi Master Plan 2041, focusing on housing, transportation, accessibility, and inclusive policies
- **Participatory Planning:** Supported the 'School Ki Ghanti' initiative during COVID by engaging 50+ children through storytelling, gathering insights on public spaces to inform community-driven urban planning solutions

- **Thought Leadership and Design Excellence:** Highlighted kid-friendly planning in published articles and achieved recognition in urban design competitions, winning the “#RealPlayCityChallenge”, runner-up in ‘The Urban Chair’

## DATA ANALYSIS EXPERTISE

**Python:** Housing prices prediction in Philadelphia using linear regression; "Donut Effect" analysis in Philadelphia; Traffic crash data analysis to identify patterns and high-risk zones; NDVI exploration using Landsat imagery

**R:** Housing prices prediction in Seattle using regression models; Predictive modeling for gentrification in Philadelphia using regression; Spatial demographic analysis of ethnic populations in Montgomery County, PA

**Excel:** Demographic and employment projections for the Grays Ferry, Philadelphia; Fiscal impact models for the Bellweather district and BSL projects in Philadelphia; Descriptive statistics for surveys in Montgomery county, PA

**GIS:** Remote sensing analysis of urban heat islands in Kisumu, Kenya, with a focus on environmental justice; Crash data analysis for the Indego Bike Share program, Philadelphia; Hotspot analysis of COVID-19 case distribution to guide public health policy; Kernel Density Estimation to predict future gun violence hotspots in Philadelphia

## LEADERSHIP

**Teaching Assistant, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)** 07/2023 - 05/2024

- **Public Realm Urban Design Capstone, Collaborative Urban Design Studio with University of Los Andes**
  - Coordinated inter-university communication, stakeholder discussions, and studio milestones
  - Coordinated the final studio publication, adopted by Los Andes University for the combined book
- **The Penn Experience Course, Compulsory course on race and justice for incoming students**
  - Evaluated and provided feedback on multiple-choice and long-form assignments for 30+ students
- **Graphics for Quantitative Planning Methods, Compulsory City Planning course**
  - Instructed 70+ first-year City Planning students in Adobe and design skills

**Marketing Specialist, Student-Led Wharton-Weitzman 'FoC' Conference 2024 (Philadelphia)** 09/2023 - 02/2024

- **Marketing and Outreach Leadership:** Collaborated with a team of 20 to organize a conference featuring 28 speakers across fireside chats, lightning lectures, panel discussions, and demos, increasing attendance by 25% through strategic digital campaigns
- **Content Management:** Designed content for press releases and multimedia, ensuring consistent branding

**Outreach Assistant, Penn Libraries Research Data & Digital Scholarship RDDS (Philadelphia)** 09/2023 - 05/2024

- **Digital Marketing:** Designed digital marketing strategies to boost engagement and visibility for RDDS
- **Team Coordination:** Conducted remote team activities and workshops, ensuring effective collaboration

**Community Engagement Leader, PennPraxis + Taller Puertorriqueño (Philadelphia)** 04/2023 - 06/2023

- **Workshop Facilitation:** Facilitated group discussions and a collaborative mood board workshop, engaging the Puerto Rican community in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood

**Student Ambassador, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)** 08/2023 - 05/2024

- **Prospective Outreach:** Selected as one of 20 ambassadors from 600+ students

**Youth Empowerment Intern, NGO Pravah (New Delhi, India)** 05/2016 - 08/2016

- **Youth Workshop Collaboration:** Facilitated social justice workshops in collaboration with Australian NGO Oaktree
- **Graphic Design and Documentation:** Crafted annual progress report to secure grant funding

## EDUCATION

**University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)** 08/2022 - 05/2024

**Master of City Planning, Concentration in Urban Design, 3.8 GPA**

- **Graduate Studios:** Public Realm Capstone on Urban-Rural Development in Paipa, Colombia (Spring 2024); Sustainable Design Goals (SDGs) Oriented Development for Lake Victoria, Kenya with UPenn Landscape Architecture (Fall 2023); Neighborhood Planning for Woodland Avenue Corridor, Philadelphia (Spring 2023); Mixed-Use Urban Design Proposal for Chinatown, Philadelphia (Fall 2022)
- **Research:** Sustainable Transportation and Economic Policy Brief for Kenya (Fall 2023); Neighborhood Deindustrialization and Gentrification Study in Grays Ferry, Philadelphia (Fall 2022)

**School of Planning and Architecture (New Delhi, India)** 08/2014 - 05/2019

**Bachelor of Architecture, Placed in the First Class**

- **Undergraduate Studios:** Thesis on 'Heritage Precinct Development' for Mansagar Lake, Jaipur, India (Spring 2019); 'Transit Oriented Development' Urban Design Project in ITO, New Delhi, India (Fall 2018)
- **Research:** Seminar on 'Politics of Displacement: A Case of the Yamuna Khadar Floodplains' (Fall 2018); Dissertation on 'Gender and Architecture' (Fall 2017)

## AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Published Studio Work, Penn Panorama (2024); 2nd Place, Urban Chair Contest (2020), 300+ entries; Top 30, Little Big Loo (2020), 700+ entries; Hon. Mention, m000ISO[NATION] (2020), 200 entries; Published Article, Urban Voices (2020); ASLA Student Awards 2023 (Participated)