

# DESIREE D. POWELL

urban planner + place curator

 [desireed.powell@gmail.com](mailto:desireed.powell@gmail.com)  318-355-1242

## SKILLS

Extensive experience and work within public sector planning + public policy + hands-on community engagement, project management experience + supervisory experience

Creative problem-solver, team-oriented, fast learner, organized, proficient in various software programs as follows:

ArcMap/ArcGIS/ArcGIS Online, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Premiere, Google Suite, Apple & PC operating systems, Microsoft Office Suite, inspection software, SketchUp, Bluebeam

## EXPERIENCE

### programs coordinator | Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

July 2022 - Present

Creates implementation strategies and ideas for sustainable programs that incorporate CNU's mission, values and design principles, manages projects/project creation and budgeting of programs, manages and is responsible for Project Code Reform (PCR) program updates for zoning code reform/audits, manages + supervises coordination of Legacy Projects, supervises college engagement programs and interns as needed

### senior planner | City of Port Arthur

November 2021 - July 2022

Manages intake of new development applications, draft standard of procedures for department, work extensively with planning community at front desk, creates new application processes, lead planner with comprehensive plan implementation, communicates with applicants, developers, and various departments/agencies, create/distribute staff reports, agenda and public notices for public meetings, delivers presentations for public hearings, part of project management implementing update of new zoning ordinance

### planner | City of Grand Prairie, TX

September 2020 - October 2021

Creates/manages addresses for new development, draft/present staff reports to Planning and Zoning, zoning and land use research for land use updates, permit review, project management for various special projects, manage development cases and interaction with customers at Planning front counter

### planning tech | City of Lancaster, TX

July 2018 - December 2019

Organized and led development of a community market as part of downtown revitalization efforts, creates documents for development review committee (DRC) meetings, distributes site plan/plan review plans to all development departments, zoning and land use research for economic development, review site plans and draft comments for staff reports, permit review liaison with Building Inspections for residential, commercial, and historic preservation, direct engagement with citizens, developers, and others regarding planning questions or concerns, led shift of structure for development plan intake and communications between departments

## EDUCATION

### Doctorate of Architecture, Urbanism, and Built Environment (Current)

Morgan State University

Research Area: place keeping as a tool for Black planning and community development towards economic mobility

Expected graduation date: Spring 2026

### Master of City & Regional Planning

May 2018 | University of Texas at Arlington

Area of Interest: Community Development  
Professional Report: Addressing Planning in

Under Developed Rural Communities

### Bachelor of Arts - Interdisciplinary Studies

May 2015 | University of Texas at Arlington

## COMMUNITY WORK + CERTIFICATIONS

### American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

Currently preparing for exam

### Congress for the New Urbanism Accreditation (CNU-A)

August 2023

### Association for Community Design (ACD) | Board Member

February 2023 - Present

### Lubbock Neighborhood Plan | Placemaking + Activation Project Lead

October 2022 - September 2023

### Sunny South Dallas Food Park (MLK Food Park) | Project Manager + Lead Planner (DRBTS)

October 2020 - Present

### Vickery Meadow Placemaking Project | Project Manager

August 2020 - December 2020

### City of Lancaster Lancaster Market | Market Manager + Creator

November 2018 - October 2019

*\*References available on request\**