

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Sam Fox School Strategic Plan

Strengthening Local, National, and Global Communities

We work toward social justice, healthy environments, and stronger communities with a focus on projects with, in, and for the St. Louis region. These are realized through academic and museum programs; collaborative research initiatives; and mutually beneficial industry, practice, and cultural partnerships across architecture, art, and design.

Progress 2024-2025: Strengthening Local Communities

Summer Public Design Workshop

In May 2025, the Sam Fox School's Office for Socially Engaged Practice (OSEP) launched its inaugural Summer Public Design Workshop in partnership with Be Well Café & Market, a nonprofit café in St. Louis' Hyde Park community. Over three weeks, ten Sam Fox students collaborated with Be Well founder Fatimah Muhammad to create a permanent pavilion that will house the café's seasonal farmers' market, providing both security and a striking visual identity. These panels go beyond utility: they are a celebration of Hyde Park's rich cultural heritage and a reflection of the café's community-centered mission.



Kemper's K-12 Education Program and Exhibition



The Kemper Art Museum's K-12 education program has expanded dramatically in the last year, with participation growing from nine school tours with 231 students in 2024 to 24 tours and more than 1,100 students in 2025. Each visit offers an interactive, customized experience that connects directly to classroom learning, combining tactile materials, guided discussions, and creative workshops led by WashU students and staff. To improve accessibility, the program now provides transportation and lunch assistance, removing major barriers for many local public schools. This fall, the education program will also coordinate its first-ever

K-12 exhibition, *Making Their Mark: The Next Generation* (opening December 13 in Steinberg Gallery), featuring student responses to the Kemper's fall exhibition.

Design Openings: "Everything Under the Sun"

"Everything Under the Sun," a large-scale steel sculpture, has been selected as the inaugural project of Design Openings, a multiyear collaborative initiative with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation that invites local interdisciplinary design teams to animate public life in the Covenant Blu Grand Center neighborhood through long-term creative design projects and collaborations. "Everything Under the Sun" will be installed in early 2026 in a lot at the

intersection of Delmar Boulevard and Leonard Avenue. Inspired by the roughly east-west orientation of St. Louis streets, the installation includes a monumental steel sculpture that will allow sunlight to filter through in perfect alignment with the city's street grid during sunrise and sunset on specific days each year. The experience will be enhanced with regular public programs tied to sunrise and sunset and community experiences on the site. "Everything Under the Sun" was conceived by Sam Fox School Senior Lecturer Jonathan Stitelman.

Progress 2024-2025: Strengthening National Communities

DISLOCATED: Learning from the Landscapes of Incarceration

This summer, a group of Sam Fox School students joined peers from across disciplines for *DISLOCATED: Memory, Forgetting, and the Landscapes of Japanese American Incarceration*, a site-based course led by professors Heidi Aronson Kolk (College of Art) and Kelley Van Dyck Murphy (College of Architecture). Traveling through Angel Island, Yosemite, Manzanar, and other sites, students traced the cultural and material landscapes of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. The course was part of the broader *Moonscape of the Mind* research initiative, and blended approaches from art, architecture, and the humanities to foster new ways of observing and documenting place. Participants described the experience as transformative, influencing not only their creative practices but also their sense of civic responsibility and historical stewardship. Since returning, participants have continued to engage with the subject matter by organizing campus learning sessions on immigration and planning partnerships with local institutions.

The Urban Humanities Network: (Un)Conference

The Engaged City, a Mellon-funded project co-organized by the Center for Humanities, CRE², and the Sam Fox School Office for Socially Engaged Practice, hosted The Urban Humanities Network's second annual (Un)Conference. Urban humanists from around the country convened at the Sam Fox School for a weekend of intellectual collaboration, including workshops, lightning talks, a poster gallery, and keynote address by Associate Professor Adrienne Brown from the University of Chicago.

Progress 2024-2025: Strengthening Global Communities

Global Urbanism Studio in Bangkok, Thailand

The Global Urbanism Studio returned to Bangkok, Thailand this year, continuing its collaboration with Kotchakorn Voraakhom and Sajjapongs Lekuthai of the Bangkok-based firm LANDPROCESS. The studio studied the ecological and infrastructural challenges of Bangkok and beyond, tracing water systems from Shanghai, Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple complex, and the Mississippi River, as students confronted the planetary scale of climate change while grounding their design thinking in the textures of local experience.



The Lively City Workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark

The Lively City: Behavioral Studies & Public Space Design course traveled to Copenhagen this year, giving students a close look at how a city can center people in its architecture, infrastructure, and public spaces. Through workshops led by Oliver Schulze of the Copenhagen-based firm Schulze+Grassov, students studied how social connection, livability, and public life emerge from thoughtful urban design, while wrestling with the ongoing challenge of balancing privacy and social activity in dense environments.