

SHAPING THE FUTURE

Sam Fox School Strategic Plan

Strengthening Local, National, and Global Communities

We work towards 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 Fall 2024

2024 Design Futures Forum

The Sam Fox school hosted the twelfth Design Futures Forum in May 2024. Hosted by OSEP, the five-day, interdisciplinary convening brought together 70+ student leaders from design programs at leading academic institutions and 25+ faculty and practitioners. The Forum is a program designed to build skills, methods, and tools for emerging leaders in the practice of design justice, community-engaged design, and social equity in the built environment.

Celebrating Partnerships and Commitment to Place

- Architecture faculty **Bruce Lindsey** and **Patty Heyda** were finalists for the 2024 St. Louis Confluence Award, a university-wide honor to acknowledge Faculty whose work deeply engages in the St. Louis Region.
- The 2024 CityStudioSTL Fellowships program offered by the Office of Socially Engaged Practice expanded to include MFA-VA via **Counterpublic** and **Mackey Mitchell Architects**. The program pairs students with St. Louis employers for internships that focus on community-based projects.
- The 2024 Alberti Program, led by assistant professor **Kelley Murphy** brought 35 young people from across the St. Louis region to the WashU campus for a hands-on summer experience tackling 2- & 3-dimensional problems in architectural design, with an eye toward the greater environment. The program is sponsored in part by **PGAV, HOK, & AIA STL**.



Design Agendas Symposium

OSEP in collaboration with the **Kemper Art Museum** and the **College of Architecture** organized a conversational symposium to build upon the content of the Kemper's major exhibition, *Design Agendas: Modern Architecture in St. Louis, 1930s - 1970s*, curated by architecture professor **Eric Mumford** with alumni architect **Michael Willis, FAIA**. The symposium will bring together nineteen local and national -- scholars, community leaders, and municipal officials in dialogue around the impact of past and present design agendas through lived, professional and civic stories.

The Engaged City

This fall, WashU launched The Engaged City, a new initiative, led by a collaborative team from CRE², Center for Humanities, and OSEP. The initiative aims to highlight St. Louis' cultural resources – and to reframe how the city sees, understands, and talks about itself. Funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the Office of the Provost. Over the next three years, The Engaged City will develop three interrelated, projects: a cultural asset map, a community fellowship program and seed grant opportunities.



Peace Park Phase 1 Complete

Phase 1 is now complete, a major collaborative undertaking in the College Hill neighborhood of St. Louis that strives to help reduce health inequities while restoring a community asset. Sam Fox School faculty member **Wyly Brown** led the design and construction of a bamboo shelter for the park, combining aspects of sustainable building with community-based input. A signage proposal was developed through the leadership of design faculty member **Penina Acayo Laker**, and the Office of Socially Engaged Practice worked with the **Green City Coalition** to help the Peace Park partners raise \$1.1m to implement Phase 1 and seed the remaining phases.



Sumner StudioLab

Launched in fall 2022 at Sumner High School, the Sumner StudioLab brings together Sumner High students, WashU students, and Ville residents and stakeholders in a Community Hub to discuss and design Sumner's historic legacies and promising futures. SFS courses are offered each semester, to engage students directly with community members and real-life Issues in the Ville neighborhood. The StudioLab also leads Sumner high-school internships for Sumner students and leads community programming in concert with a community advisory committee. It was launched with support from the Divided City and is jointly led by OSEP and the **Center for Humanities** in partnership with the **Sumner Advisory Board, St. Louis Public Schools, St. Louis Development Corporation and 4theVille**. The project has received funding from the **Office of the Provost** to continue through the 2025-2026 academic year. Partners in the Ville and Greater Ville are able to leverage their partnership with the Sumner StudioLab to receive support to further their community-led work including funding for the Cultural Boulevard project and the City of St. Louis Neighborhood Planning Efforts.

Design Openings

Design Openings is a collaboration between the Sam Fox School and the **Pulitzer Arts Foundation** demonstrating the shared commitment to contribute to the creative futures of St. Louis through art, design, and culture. The initiative, open exclusively to Sam Fox School faculty, supports art and design projects and installations to be realized in the Grand Center/Covenant Blu neighborhood. In the 2024-2025 cycle, a jury will select up to two faculty-led teams and award each team up to \$175,000 to implement their project proposals. Teams will have administrative support and staff expertise from the Sam Fox School and the Pulitzer. A new project manager will be hired by the Office for Socially Engaged Practice to staff the Design Openings initiative.