

eric gasper

master of urban & regional planning candidate
curriculum vitae

I am an emerging urban planner and designer with a passion for instilling humanity in built places. With unique training in psychology and neuroscience and over a decade of experience in community building through customer service, I balance people's social needs and innate sense of beauty in my approach to placemaking.

education

Master of Urban & Regional Planning

Expected 2026

Graduate Certificate in Urban Design

Portland State University - Portland, OR, US

Pre-Medicine Certificate

2015 - 2018

Northwestern University - Evanston, IL, US

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

2009 - 2013

Minor in Japanese Language

DePauw University - Greencastle, IN, US

Japan Study Program

2011 - 2012

Waseda University - Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan

selected projects

Bridgeless to Better Burnside

Planning Workshop

Won: Council of University Transportation Centers Planning & Policy Group Award 2025

Honorable Mention: The Western Planner Conference 2025 Student Planning Project of the Year Award

- Led the narrative direction, presentation design, and report layout for a capstone recommending streetscape improvements to a major city thoroughfare
- Designed public engagement materials and aided facilitation of two design charrettes to elicit community feedback on initial proposals
- Oversaw research and analysis of existing conditions data, condensing decades of planning documents into an approachable report format

SW College Street: A Stage Stop for the Green Loop

Public Space

- Mapped a university campus street and the relative sizes and uses of existing buildings
- Conducted interviews with a local business and fire station to understand current uses and needs for the street and surrounding area
- Modeled a redesigned street in SketchUp, incorporating natural shade and enclosure, public amenities, City plans, local goals, and theoretical understanding of public space

Happy Valley Back 40 Master Plan

Site Planning

- Produced maps, site diagrams, and visioning documents for the long-term development of privately-owned woodland, recommending an adventure playground for local children
- Used ArcGIS to calculate planned road grades through the property and demonstrate potential reroutes to preserve existing trees
- Visualized and explained the statutory and regulatory processes of master planning

SNAP Match in Oregon

State & Local Public Finance

- Compared locations of Portland farmers markets to patterns of property tax assessment significantly higher or lower than Real Market Values
- Recommended a local option levy so homeowners taxed at significantly less than their property's RMV would subsidize expanded food benefits

Parks Access Pilot Study

Planning Methods

- Assessed existing conditions related to physical and psychological access to parks
- Conducted interviews and a focus group to understand current uses and underserved residents' desired park amenities
- Compiled a final report and presented findings to clients from Portland Parks & Recreation and the Portland State School of Social Work

professional
experience

Weekend Manager & Barista

2024 - ongoing

Sisters Coffee Company - Portland, OR, US

- Responsible for the weekend operations of a high-volume cafe in Downtown Portland, including oversight of 12 employees
- Resolve scheduling and interpersonal conflicts as needed with empathy, tact, and an eye toward improving open communication
- Track product logistics and work with vendors to ensure timely and sufficient deliveries, along with the General and Assistant Managers

Research Technologist & Intern

2017 - 2019, 2021 - 2024

Miller Laboratory of Limb Motor Control - Chicago, IL, US

- Managed a research project conducting large-scale collection, analysis, and visualization of neurophysiological data
- Designed and presented research findings, collaborating across labs, departments, and institutions to advance research to clinical application
- Prepared annual reports to secure continued project funding, and maintained the lab's public-facing website

Assistant General Manager & Barista

2015 - 2021

Dark Matter Coffee - Chicago, IL, US

- Established customer relationships through personalized interactions and a deep understanding of product offerings.
- Implemented comprehensive staff training programs to ensure consistency in service quality and product knowledge.
- Facilitated team cohesion through regular meetings and team-building activities.

Store Manager & Sales Associate

2010 - 2015

TIS Inc. dba UniversiTees - Greenwood, IN, US

- Directed all aspects of retail operations, including employee recruitment, scheduling, conflict resolution, accounts payable management, and product delivery logistics.
- Personally delivered and trained employees to provide exceptional customer service.
- Transitioned inventory systems from physical to digital tracking.

certifications

LEED Green Associate

2025

Green Business Certification, Inc.

poster
presentations

Bridgeless to Better Burnside

2025

Mpact Transit & Mobility Conference

skills

software

- Adobe Creative Cloud: InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop
- Mapping & Modeling software: ArcGIS, SketchUp, AutoCAD, Rhino
- Data analysis and visualization in Matlab, Python, R
- Microsoft Office and Google Suite

soft
skills

- Project management in planning, research, and commercial sectors
- Customer service: cafe and retail management, direct sales at farmers markets
- Cultural humility through study abroad, volunteering, and community engagement

language
planning

- Hand sketching and visual communication
- Land Use policy research, memo and findings writing
- Literature review of academic writing in the social sciences
- Japanese (advanced)
- Spanish (intermediate)
- Danish (beginner)