

Leslie E. Canaan



2018-Present National Trust for Historic Preservation Atlanta, GA
Senior Field Officer

I am primarily responsible for taking direct action to save important historic places. As a project manager, I led a team in performing a preservation-based assessment for seven African American neighborhoods in Atlanta, I led a team in the planning and production of a traveling exhibit for Clayborn Temple in Memphis, I led a team in working on a Main Street concept for the Sweet Auburn Landmark District in Atlanta and I am currently leading a team in an effort to recognize and elevate the stories of all the sites associated with the Brown v. Board of Education landmark case.

2016-2018 City of Atlanta/Office of Design Atlanta, GA
Community Engagement Manager

I helped create public engagement strategies and opportunities for the Department of City Planning. I helped create programming and exhibits related to historic preservation and urban design at a pop-up design studio. I engaged and educated the community at various meetings, festivals and events. I collaborated with Atlanta Public Schools on curriculum initiatives, internships, projects and workshops for middle and high school students.

2009-2016 City of Atlanta/Office of Design Atlanta, GA
Urban Planner Principal-Historic Preservation

As Secretary to the Urban Design Commission, I was responsible for responding to all cases that came before the Commission, running the meeting, and responding to any questions from the Commissioners and the public. In addition to assisting in the supervision of staff and training, I conducted architectural design reviews for new construction and renovations in historic, landmark and conservation districts in the City of Atlanta.

2007-2009 City of Atlanta/Office of Planning Atlanta, GA
Urban Planner Senior-Historic Preservation

My main duties involved architectural design reviews for new construction and renovations in historic, landmark and conservation districts in the City of Atlanta. I also worked as a neighborhood planning unit (NPU) planner for the City of Atlanta. As an NPU planner, I worked with neighborhoods to help them understand and vote on zoning and legislation presented by the City. In between working on staff reports and working

as an NPU planner, I met with citizens daily to help them with design review, applications, zoning and various city issues. I also met with various neighborhood groups to educate them about how to become a locally designated historic, landmark or conservation district.

2005-2007 City of Atlanta/Office of Planning Atlanta, GA

Urban Planner-Historic Preservation

My main duties involved architectural design reviews for new construction and renovations in historic, landmark and conservation districts in the City of Atlanta. I met with citizens daily to help them with design review, applications, zoning and various city issues. I also met with various neighborhood groups to educate them about how to become a locally designated historic, landmark or conservation district.

2003-2004 The Conservation Fund Atlanta, GA

Community Planner

I was responsible for providing assistance to the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Project, including the revitalization activities of the City of Lithonia. My duties included but were not limited to organizing public outreach, coordinating consultant projects, supervising interns and advising local grass roots preservation organizations.

Education

2003 Georgia State University Atlanta, GA
Master's Degree in Heritage Preservation

2001 Clark Atlanta University Atlanta, GA
Bachelor of Arts in History