

Design Wo/ManiFesT.O.

creating new ideas for Toronto

Design is both an evolving and evocative creative process permeating all aspects of social, economic, and political life. With human-centred values and diverse perspectives, advocacy, and calls to action, we are collectively and individually changing the social and physical fabric of Toronto often with design as the catalyst. As we approach 2020, let's reflect on how design has supported (or not), the process of city-making over the last decades, and where it can lead in the next wave of social, demographic, and technological change.

Design Wo/ManiFesT.O. is a 2+ year design research project. The project will begin with an audit of past proposals, movements, policies, and calls to action that have involved city/place making as part of transforming Toronto. It will kick-off with a public panel discussion as part of the 2019 Toronto Design Offsite Festival, taking the form of a discourse salon at OCAD U. The panel will be comprised of four active community members who will be asked to tell their stories of making change in their communities. The panel will then invite questions and end with a public open-microphone session encouraging guests to tell us their visions for Toronto.

Throughout the spring of 2019 we will be conducting interviews with design thought-leaders and change makers asking questions specifically related to their area of expertise and what role they see their area playing in a future Toronto. We will be hosting open-forums in communities to discuss visions for neighbourhoods and communities. We will also involve students at this time by launching a design competition which aligns with some of our initial findings.

At all of these events and through our website we will be accepting contributions from the public of future visions for Toronto which can take the form of a single word, poetry, short paragraph, social media post, illustrations, and other mediums of expression.

All the collected data will be analyzed and synthesized into the new Design Wo/ManiFesT.O. We plan to revisit the community with the results of the research findings for further input before finalizing the project. The final step will be the creation of both a physical and virtual Time Capsule.

Cheryl Giraudy B.Arch. MSc. (Design) OAA MRAIC
Associate Professor, Faculty of Design, OCAD University cgiraudy@faculty.ocadu.ca
Saskia van Kampen MDes. RGD AERA
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Design, OCAD University svankampen@ocadu.ca

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