

---

# DR MIA HUNT

**Senior Associate,  
Engagement Design & Research  
& Director, Ottawa Operations**



## SUMMARY BIO

Mia is a multidisciplinary urbanist with broad expertise in community engagement, research-led design thinking, project management, communications and visual culture. She has collaborated with Jane Farrow and the Dept of Words & Deeds for well over a decade and is now directing projects in Ottawa. Mia's community, professional, and academic projects incorporate ethnography, creative methodologies, and participant action approaches to bring people together and create meaningful dialogue.

---

## EXPERTISE

- Project Management
- Innovative Community Engagement & Ethnography
- Creative Research Design
- Community Facilitation
- Marketing, PR & Social Media
- Writing & Editing
- Graphic Design & Layout

---

## EDUCATION

- PhD, Cultural Geography (2015) Royal Holloway, University of London
- Masters of Science in Planning (2008) University of Toronto
- BFA, Design (2006) Concordia University
- Minor, Urban Studies (2006) Concordia University

---

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2009–present  
Senior Associate, Engagement Design & Research, Dept of Words & Deeds
- 2015–2018  
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto, Department of Geography & Planning
- 2008–2018  
Creative Director, Victoria Distillers
- 2011–2013  
Instructor, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 2009–2010  
Associate, Education and Research, Canadian Urban Institute
- 2006–2011  
Research Assistant, University of Toronto

---

## SELECT PROJECTS

### **id8 Downsview 2019–present**

The id8 Downsview process invites stakeholders and the local community to reimagine 520 acres of land in Toronto owned by Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands. Mia has been contributing to engagement process design and managing the digital pivot by liaising between the engagement team, including Nicole Swerhun Inc., and the communications and web teams. In this role, Mia has also been crafting the narrative and voice of the project in print, online and on social media.

### **LGBTQ2+ National Monument 2019–present**

Working with the LGBT Purge Fund, Mia managed a site consultation process and multi-phase stakeholder engagement strategy to create a vision for a national monument that recognizes the LGBT Purge and wider discrimination against LGBTQ2+ people in Canada. She continues to support the LGBT Purge Fund and Canadian Heritage through the jury selection and RFQ and RFP processes.

### **Wateridge Village Commemoration 2019–present**

In collaboration with ERA Architects, Mia is designing and executing a public and stakeholder engagement process to develop a commemoration strategy for 310 acres of land east of downtown Ottawa. The site previously housed CFB Rockcliffe and is on unceded Algonquin territory. The strategy will guide Canada Lands and their development partners as they acknowledge these histories in the future development on these lands.

### **Sistering Space Assessment 2020**

Mia managed this project to help understand the present and future space needs of this multi-service agency for at-risk, socially-isolated women and trans-people who are homeless or precariously housed. Input shared by Sistering staff, Board members and participants was collected over a five month period and summarized to produce high-level recommendations that will be used to identify how to meet current and future needs with real estate and architectural strategies. The Dept collaborated with N Barry Lyons Consulting on this project.

### **Calgary Pride: Pride & Politics 2020**

Mia supported process design & facilitation of public and stakeholder events created to help Calgary Pride consider if and how politicians should be allowed to march in their Pride Parade. Mia also took the lead on writing the report and developing a set of recommendations to guide Calgary Pride, so they can make informed decisions for future events that take community perspectives into account.

### **United Church of Canada: National Land Inventory & Engagement 2016–17**

Mia developed engagement materials and strategies to help the Dept determine needs, resources, precedents and priority setting mechanisms for the United Church, as it manages and reimagines property portfolios of 3,000 congregations across Canada.

### **Keeping Shop in London 2010–15**

Marginalized retail establishments — such as cornershops, souvenir stands and kiosks — were explored through in-shop and visual ethnographies, interviews, and archival research. Arm-in-arm with shop owners, Mia investigated how the micro-geographies of these shops work through, and on, various urban forces, including neighbourhood change, the global brand and precarity associated with the translocalism of shopkeepers.

### **Inner-Suburban Walkability Studies 2016**

Mia executed document design, editing and supplemental research on this project, which developed a greater understanding of pedestrians' perceptions of the quality of their walking environment.

### **Advancing Mid-Rise in Ontario 2009–2010**

In collaboration with the Canadian Urban Institute, Mia managed this project exploring the state of mid-rise building in Ontario. It culminated in a conference that brought together public and private sectors. In preparation, Mia procured funding from municipalities and the CMHC, organized workshops and created discussion papers and reports.

### **Dundas West Urban Design Study 2008**

Mia designed a community outreach program and prepared this study for local BIA in collaboration with Sweeny, Sterling, Finlayson & Co Architects Inc.