DC Office of Planning
2016 Summer Urban Design Internship

The DC Office of Planning is seeking a full-time paid summer urban design intern to work with its newly established District Design Division to elevate the design quality of DC’s built environment through public realm and streetscape planning, park and open space design studies, design engagement and planning, and enhanced design review of key District and Federal buildings and projects.

About the Office of Planning
The DC Office of Planning’s mission is to guide development of the District of Columbia, including the preservation and revitalization of our distinctive neighborhoods, by informing decisions, advancing strategic goals, encouraging the highest quality outcomes, and engaging all communities.

The District Design Division brings an explicit urban design focus to the District of Columbia --- building on the distinct character of the nation’s capital city and the human experience in order to shape great neighborhoods, buildings, and public spaces. We partner with District agencies and leaders to provide visioning and design-based thinking to enhance decision-making and advance plans, policies, and investments that strengthen our nation’s capital as a livable city for all.

Work Description:
Urban Design Intern will be responsible for the development of one focus project as well as general job tasks including but not limited to: field surveys and photography of existing site conditions, survey and analysis of public spaces performance, drafting and computer modeling, 3D model building, production of renderings and presentation drawings, production of written reports and presentations, and research of case studies and best practices.

Focus Project: DuPont Main Street Public Life Study
DuPont Main Street Public Life Study will analyze the performance of public space and sidewalks near DuPont Park and Connecticut Avenue NW and identify interventions and recommendations for increasing the vibrancy of public life and pedestrian activity using methodologies developed by Jan Gehl and William Holly Whyte. Of specific interest will be the development of tactical urbanism initiatives to test plan recommendations in real time and build momentum for larger capital investments in public spaces and infrastructure. The plan will include recommendations for identifying locations for public art, parklets, and expanded café seating; identifying where we can widen sidewalks to provide more space for pedestrians and outdoor display of store merchandise; designating where new trees and plantings should go; and specifying potential parking and curbside restrictions.

Detailed Tasks:
• Organize field surveys and documentation of public space including performing pedestrian counting and mapping, façade cataloging, and user surveys
• Document existing conditions through mapping and analytical diagrams
• Assist in producing design studies for potential redesign of public spaces and streets
• Assist in producing design studies for temporary urbanism initiatives
• Research best practice and case studies for public space design and management

Qualifications: Graduate level work towards a degree in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, or Urban Design
Minimum hours/week: 40 hours/week
Dates of internship: May 31 – August 19, 2016