

Michele J. Crawford

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EDUCATION

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Master of Architecture w/ emphasis in Interiors
Chicago, IL

Ohio University

B.S. in Human and Consumer Science
Interior Architecture
Athens, OH

SKILLS

Design | Architectural; Graphic;
Wordpress Web

Tech | Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, & Photoshop;
Microsoft Office; Google Suite; Munis;
AutoCad; Revit

Civic | Community Organizing & Development;
Volunteer Coordination & Management;
Youth Outreach & Engagement;
Non-Profit Board Governance

YOUTH MENTORING

Architecture, Construction Engineering
Mentors (ACE), 2013-2025
College Now, 2015-2019
Citizens Leadership Academy, 2015-2017
Youth Opportunities Unlimited,
Summer Volunteer, 2015-2017

AWARDS & HONORS

American for the Arts Leaders of Color
Fellow | 2019-2020

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland
New Agent | 2020

Architects Foundation
Jason Pettigre Memorial ARE Scholarship |
2019

AIA Cleveland
Activism Award | 2017

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of Architects (AIA), Assembly
for the Arts, Black Environmental Leaders,
National Organization of Minority Architects
(NOMA), Urban Land Institute (ULI)

WEBSITES

michelecrawford.org
feelspace.blog

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cleveland Metroparks | Cleveland, OH
Director of Project Development | November 2025- Present
Project Development Manager | January 2023- Present
Project Coordinator | July 2021- December 2022

Manages and tracks the Planning and Design departments development and progress of capital projects across the Metroparks 18 Reservations, and Zoo.

- Organizes department staff and coordinates efforts with engineers, architects, planners, land conservationists, and real estate managers to ensure cohesive project execution.
- Acts as a liaison to the finance department, ensuring strict adherence to project budgets, financial controls and grant reporting.
- Assists in the creation of project scope, goals, and alternatives for facility and property modifications, conducting detailed analyses of project timing and economic impacts.
- Completes yearly department budget of over \$10 Million dollars and managers funding sources including grants, donations and capital funds.
- Recommends process improvement measures and productivity enhancements to streamline operations and align with laws.
- Regularly updates and collaborates with leadership team and other park departments on capital projects, ensuring their input and direction are incorporated effectively.

Cuyahoga Community College | Cleveland, OH
Project Manager | December 2017 - June 2021

Assisted in achieving department goals in the development and implementation of College-wide improvement projects of various sizes. Completed strategic planning initiatives of over 200,000 square feet of new and renovated spaces totaling over \$100 Million in project cost across colleges' campuses.

- Coordinated the selection of design and construction teams using required procurement forms and prepared solicitation documents.
- Made recommendations for best value selections and guided proposal preparation and legal agreement completion.
- Acted as liaison between campus leadership / stakeholders and design / construction teams from initial planning stages through construction completion and warranty periods.
- Monitored overall project budgets, solicited proposals for additional services and reviewed change orders. across colleges campuses.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Rainey Institute
Board of Directors, 2016-2026
Secretary | 2017-2020

Midtown Cleveland Inc
Board of Trustees | 2018-2026
Executive Committee | 2021-2026
Vice Chair | 2026
Community Connections Committee
Co-Chair | 2020-2026

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Lambda Phi Omega Chapter
Graduate Member | 2018-2026

Urban Land Institute
Health Leaders Program
Cohort 5 | 2021-2022

Cleveland Metroparks
Leadership Certification Program
2025

AIA Ohio
Associate Director | 2017

NOMA Cleveland
President | 2017
Treasurer
Secretary

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Robert P. Madison International | Cleveland, OH Project Designer | November 2013 - December 2017

Designed architecture projects for commercial industry clients, ranging from educational, hospitality and institutional sectors.
Responsibilities included:

- Completed various tasks to develop a comprehensive understanding of the architecture and design process.
- Developed, edited and completed contract documents and drawings for mid to large scale projects.
- Conducted feasibility studies and produced sketches and drawings from schematic designs through bidding.
- Provided technical review and oversight of drawing production and coordination among design team members.
- Monitored construction progress and responded to field questions to ensure alignment with design intent.

Habitat For Humanity | Americorps Member Charlotte, NC | August 2011 - July 2013

Completed 3400+ hours of service in the greater Charlotte area working to improve neighborhood quality of life and support affordable housing access. Key responsibilities included:

- Assisted and supported families throughout the home ownership process, providing guidance and education.
- Implemented the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative [NRI], as a community liaison and Habitat representative for local outreach and development projects.
- Analyzed and created neighborhood asset maps to inform planning and engagement strategies.
- Led outreach efforts in collaboration with grassroots organizations and community partners.
- Forged partnerships with public and private stakeholders to advance community-driven initiatives.
- Supervised weekly volunteer groups and Habitat families on residential construction projects, delivering direction and safety training.
- Prepped building sites and performed hands on construction and building tasks from site work through final occupancy.

CREATIVE PRACTICE & COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Initiate, LLC | Founder & Design Consultant Cleveland, OH / St. Louis, MO | January 2015 - Present

Explores creative programming and design education outreach opportunities to create collaborative crossroads of dialogue for community building through design centered development, mentoring and youth outreach. Consults with small design firms and assist with owner's representative responsibilities for architecture and design projects.

- HT Design, St. Louis, MO- Architecture firm support [2023- 2025]
- Balance Point, Cleveland, OH- Owner's Rep Services [2024]

The FeelSpace Blog | Writer Cleveland, OH | January 2019 - Present Personal blog contributor offering reflections and insights on cultural and creative happenings.

Cleveland Arts Prize | Juror Cleveland, OH | Academy Category 2025 , Design Category 2021-2023 Multi-year juror in the Design Category reviewing Art's Prize candidates and advocating for potential prize winners.

ULI | Panelist & Working Committee Cleveland, OH | Art-In-Place Technical Assistant Panel, 2024

Contributed to the development of Art in Place Panel Report documenting ways to amplify community voices and artist perspectives in real estate development in the Hough neighborhood sponsored by the City of Cleveland.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture | Grantee Cleveland, OH | Center for Performance and Civic Practice Learning Lab Grantee, 2019 Co-created a neighborhood arts engagement campaign for the Central Kinsman neighborhood with community partner Burten Bell Carr.

Cleveland Walls | LAND Studio Local Artist Committee Cleveland, OH | Winter 2019

Worked on local artist selection team for the festival, identifying mural locations in the Hough / Midtown area.

