

# MIA HUNT

Senior Associate,  
Engagement Design & Research

## Summary Bio

Mia is a multidisciplinary urbanist with experience in community engagement, academic research, and visual cultural and design. She has worked with the Dept of Words & Deeds for nearly a decade while also developing her own research practice, which uses ethnography and innovative approaches to engage marginalized communities and explore notions of citizenship, belonging, and creativity in global cities.

## Expertise

- Graphic Design & Layout
- Engagement Material Development
- Community Facilitation
- Ethnographic Research
- Marketing & Public Relations
- Social Media Strategies
- Research Design
- Writing & Editing
- Creative Research & Engagement Strategies

## 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

### Crafting Citizenship in the Global City 2015 – 2018

This project began with an eleven-month grounded ethnography at Inspirations Studio – a social enterprise that supports women affected by poverty, homelessness, and mental health issues. Working with the women, Mia explored the relationships between creative entrepreneurship in the ceramics studio, material practice, and narratives of Toronto as a global and creative city. Since September 2017, Mia has been spear-heading a campaign to find financial support and a new partner agency for the Studio, after the program lost its social enterprise status, funding, and partner. Her campaign has raised almost \$100,000 and secured another year of support for this program and the marginalized women that depend on it.

### United Church of Canada – National Land Inventory & Engagement Project 2016 – 2017

Design Consultant responsible for developing and delivering engagement materials as the Dept of Words & Deeds established needs, precedents, resources and priority setting mechanisms for the management of the property portfolios of 3,000 United Church congregations across Canada.

### Keeping Shop in London 2010 – 2015

Marginalized retail establishments – such as cornershops, souvenir stands and kiosks – were explored through in-shop and visual ethnographies, interviews, and archival research. In collaboration 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.

### University of Toronto - Walkability & Sheppard & Finch LRT Corridors 2016

Executed document design, editing and supplemental research on the project, which developed a greater understanding of pedestrian's perceptions of the quality of their walking environment.

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

In collaboration with the Canadian Urban Institute, Mia managed the 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

Prepared study for local BIA in collaboration with Sweeny, Sterling, Finlayson & Co Architects Inc.