

Allison Hu

A service design leader focused on creating purposeful, resilient systems for diverse communities.

11.2024 - 6.2021 - 11.2024	Staff Researcher, HEB Senior Design Researcher, HEB Led co-learning & design to optimize retail planning & operation for human factors & sustainability; created outcome-driven frameworks and mentored associates & stakeholders to build toward measurable results
2019 - 2021 2018 - 2019	Director of Design, RevUnit Senior Experience Researcher, RevUnit Directed org-wide research program; led team of 6 designers across a portfolio of data design projects; co-produced external design-thinking training program
2017 - 2019	Director / Co-founder, PARTS Directed participatory research, learning design, & service design for start-up, public, & non-profit clients
2014 - 2017	Architect / Design Strategist, Overland Partners Design & strategy for civic & institutional projects
2012 - 2013	Lead Designer, WORKac Design coordination of large civic center for African Union
2010 - 2012	Researcher / Research Assistant, MIT Socio-cultural research, spatial analysis/GIS, & design for environmental justice initiatives & publications
2008 - 2010	Design Lead / Instructor, Basic Initiative Research, design & coordination for 5 participatory service-learning initiatives across the globe

Education	Massachusetts Institute of Technology SMArchS Urbanism, 2012 University of Texas at Austin BArch + Minor in Geography, 2008
Programs / Certificates	Terra.do Leadership for Climate Action Fellow, 2024 Texas Master Naturalists, Texas A&M Agrilife Graduate, 2023 GHG Protocol Product Life Cycle Accounting & Reporting, 2022 New Leaders Council Fellow and Graduate, 2018 LEED Accredited Professional New Construction, 2009
Skills / Focus	product & design strategy program design & change-making systemic design strategy mixed-method applied research community-based planning & development spatial data intelligence / visualization / GIS immersive storytelling

Related
Experience

Director / Co-founder, Public Space East, 2015 - 2023
Founded and directed program that envisioned, fundraised,
& shepherded a \$5.1M public space retrofit to build inner city
health equity

Adjunct Assistant Professor, UTSA CACP, 2017
Taught core studio focused on craft & visual storytelling

Publications

The Largest Art : Plural Urbanism (by Brent D. Ryan, MIT Press,
2017) Design & illustration for three urban redevelopment
scenarios

How to Fight for Walkable Neighborhoods (by Cliff Despres,
Institute for Health Promotion Research, UT Health San
Antonio, 2016) Interviewed for article

Fair Game: Learning From La Salada (MIT Thesis, 2012)
Ethnography & strategies to improve sociocultural outcomes in
informal market cities

Design After Decline: How America Rebuilds Shrinking Cities
(by Brent D. Ryan, PennPress, 2012)
Named one of Planetizen's Top 10 Books of 2013
Illustration of novel patterns for post-industrial cities

The Eye Is a Door (by Anne W. Spirn, MIT / Wolfree Press, 2012)
UX design for interactive book on visual literacy

Seed City, Senseable Cities: Thessaloniki (by Senseable Cities
Lab, MIT, 2011) Mobile AR app for co-reclamation of abandoned
historic building stock

Honors /
Involvement

Food Systems & Innovation Chair, Circular San Antonio, 2024 -

Juror / Panelist, Gensler Global Research & Innovation
Awards, 2019

Board of Directors, Community Housing Resource Partners,
2017 - 2023

Salud Hero, Salud America, Institute for Health Promotion
Research - UT Health San Antonio, 2016

Selected
Events

Producer, Momentum SA, 2019 (RevUnit)
Workshop to train 5 nonprofits in systemic design thinking

Designer, "HouseStories UrbanEngineer," 2018 (PARTS)
Exhibit featured in SXSW EDU & NAAEE Conferences

Producer, "Que Pasa, PASA?" 2018 (PARTS)
Five participatory budgeting workshops for PASA

Presenter, "Park Design Therapy," 2017 (PARTS)
Workshop at Assoc. of Community Design Conference

Presenter, "Park In A Box - Roving VR," 2016 (PSEast)
Exhibit featured in ChooseSA showcase at SXSW Eco

Producer, "Living Stories of the Eastside," 2016 (OPA)
Storytelling showcase for Dreamweek SA

Lecturer, "Learning From La Salada," 2012
Presentation at University of Palermo, Buenos Aires