

John Cruz

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PROFILE

John is a community development, economic development, and urban planning professional in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit Michigan, where he completed a Masters Degree in Urban Planning where his research focused on economic development strategies for urban areas, place-making strategies, retail business development, and transportation planning. He has used his extensive background in programming and information technology to utilize database systems and Geographic Information Systems.

He is currently the Data Management Coordinator for Rise Community Development in St. Louis, Missouri and is available for media interviews, speaking engagements, workshops and civic engagement.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rise Community Development

St. Louis, MO

Rise provides capacity-building technical assistance and training to community development organizations, government agencies and institutions in the St. Louis region while also acting as a real-estate developer and development consultant.

DATA MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

DECEMBER 2015 – CURRENT

- Utilizing GIS applications for geospatial analysis and cartography
- Data analysis, data processing, web maintenance and neighborhood change metric tracking.
- Technical assistance and consulting to community organizations, non-profits, government entities, and others
- Community Planning, community development and economic development.
- Grant writing and grant coordination

Old North Restoration Group

St. Louis, MO

Old North Restoration Group is a community based non-profit aiding the Old North neighborhood of St. Louis. John lends his time as a part-time intern aiding the office in whatever duties are necessary.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INTERN

SEPTEMBER 2015 – DECEMBER 2015

- Community development research and recommendations
- Grant writing and related research
- IT and web based needs
- As needed organizational based work

Face3 Media

Montreal, QC

Face3 Media is a full service web design and development firm, which services a wide variety of clients. Projects include small business websites, custom web applications, and custom Wordpress development. John joined the development team at Face3 in 2014 after relocating to Montréal.

WEB DEVELOPER

MARCH 2014 – JULY 2015

- Software development on the Wordpress platform, including custom plug-in development and front-end development.
- Large and small scale projects including e-commerce and large music festivals requiring a high level of database usage.

Global Detroit

Detroit, MI

Global Detroit, a part of the New Solutions group is a small non-profit organization, which aims to strengthen Southeast Michigan and make Detroit a global city by pursuing initiatives that will make the region more attractive to immigration and foreign investment.

IMMIGRATION RESEARCH AND MAPPING INTERN

NOVEMBER 2012 – JULY 2013

- Collaborated with Global Detroit staff and Kurt Metzger of Data Driven Detroit to produce demographics report with mapping on the immigrant groups who live in the four-county metro Detroit area.
- Report was compiled from various forms of US census data, including the American Community Survey with the goal of providing Global Detroit partners with the ability to better understand the needs of their immigrant communities and reach out to them.
- The report generated press upon its release, John appeared with Kurt Metzger on Detroit Public Radio (WDET) to discuss findings and recommendations for Southeast Michigan. Newspapers covered the release as well.

Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program

Detroit, MI

The Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program is a fellowship program housed at Wayne State University that recruits professionals and helps to place them with potential organizations to help aide in the economic recovery of Detroit.

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MARCH 2013 – AUGUST 2013

EDUCATION

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wayne State University

Detroit, MI

Wayne State University's Department of Urban Studies and Planning is an American Planning Association accredited Master of Urban Planning program.

MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING WITH CONCENTRATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 2009 – DECEMBER 2012

- Served on the Michigan Association of Planning Student Conference planning committee in 2011 and 2012. Held position of Host Committee Chairman in 2012. Served on the executive board of the Wayne State Student Urban Planners 2010-2012
- Masters Essay Research Topic: Transit Oriented Economic Development for Rust Belt cities.

Baker College

Online / MI

BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN WEB DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 2006 - JUNE 2008

ASSOCIATES OF SCIENCE IN WEB DESIGN

SEPTEMBER 2003 - MARCH 2006

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

John has served on the American Planning Association Missouri Chapter, St. Louis Section's Executive Board since July 2016 and chairs the Web Committee.

He has volunteered with numerous community development corporations in the St. Louis area including Park Central Development Corporation and Old North St. Louis Restoration group with event assistance, community development work, and information technology related assistance.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND RELATED MEMEBERSHIPS

American Planning Association • American Planning Association Missouri Chapter / STL Section •
Citizens for Modern Transit

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (Native) • Spanish (Familiar) • French (Familiar)