

# 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

- Geographic Information Systems for geospatial analysis and cartography.
- Data analysis, data processing, neighborhood change research and metric tracking.
- Technical assistance and consulting to community organizations, non-profits, government entities, and others.
- Community Planning, community development and economic development.
- Community Engagement planning, hosting and direct engagement.
- Grant writing and related activities.

### 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 lended 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.

### 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 ranging from e-commerce and large event websites to small business and personal websites requiring substantial database maintenance and programming.

**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

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**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 Thesis Research Topic: Transit Oriented Economic Development for Rust Belt cities

**Baker College****Online / MI****BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN WEB DEVELOPMENT**

SEPTEMBER 2003 - JUNE 2008

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**BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS****National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership Executive Committee****Washington, D.C**

*The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership is an initiative of the Urban Institute. They are a nation-wide group of think tanks, universities, and non-profits who study neighborhood change.*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

JANUARY 2018 – CURRENT

- Member of nine-person committee comprised of six elected representatives from partner organizations and three staff members from the Urban Institute.
- Committee makes decisions regarding the direction of the network, plans partner meetings, and other related activities.

**American Planning Association, Missouri Chapter, St. Louis Metro Section**

**St. Louis, MO**

*The American Planning Association is the professional organization for Urban Planners in the United States. The St. Louis metro section is a sub-section of the Missouri State Chapter.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

*JULY 2016 - CURRENT*

- Web Committee Chairman. Responsible for the Missouri APA website.
- Host Committee for 2017 Missouri Planning Conference in St. Louis.

**Saint Louis Civic Tech and Data Collaborative**

**St. Louis, MO**

*The Saint Louis Civic Tech and Data Collaborative is a nonprofit founded to create a more equitable society with civic technology as the catalyst.*

**CHARTER BOARD MEMBER**

*AUGUST 2017 – SEPTEMBER 2018*

- Oversaw moving The Civic Tech and Data Collaborative from an initiative to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serving as Vice President and Treasurer for the organization's first year.
- Co-lead for first public initiative, YourSTLCourts.com.

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**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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