

# John Cruz, AICP

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## PROFILE

John is a community development, economic development, and urban planning professional in Boston, Massachusetts. He works with a with an approach that places emphasis on data-driven decisions, community empowerment, and planning processes which are true reflections of resident desires for the future of their community. John uses his extensive background in programming and information technology to utilize database systems and Geographic Information Systems as part of research, policy, and practice. All of his work is done a lens of social, gender, and racial equity.

He is currently the City Planner for The City of Crestwood, Missouri and is available for media interviews, speaking engagements, workshops and civic engagement. Curious parties are encouraged to view the online version of this resume at cruzweb.net.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Metropolitan Area Planning Council

**Boston, MA**

*The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is a regional planning agency serving over 100 communities in Greater Boston. Their mission is to promote smart growth and regional collaboration*

#### SENIOR HOUSING AND LAND USE PLANNER

DECEMBER 2021 – CURRENT

- Manages projects related to housing goals throughout Greater Boston.
- Implementation of the *MetroCommon 2050 Regional land use and policy plan*.
- Technical assistance to local municipalities and others as needed.
- Housing Production Plans
- Neighborhood and municipal comprehensive planning
- Community Engagement for the public and small groups

### Washington University in St. Louis, George W. Brown School of Social Work

**St. Louis, MO**

*The Brown School of Social Work is one of America's top-ranked schools of social work and is a globally recognized leader in the training of social science researchers.*

#### ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

JANUARY 2020 – CURRENT

- Instruction of graduate students in introductory concepts of geospatial analysis, data management, cartography, and computer science through a social science lens.
- Instruction of computer software ArcGIS desktop.
- Engages in all aspects of adjunct instruction including, but not limited to: lesson planning and curriculum development; in-class and online teaching; and individual student assistance.

### City of Crestwood

**St. Louis County, MO**

*The City of Crestwood is an independent and incorporated Municipality in St. Louis County, Missouri. The City Planner is part of the City Administration Department, working closely with the Department of Public Works and City Clerk's office.*

#### CITY PLANNER

MAY 2021 – DEC 2021

- Overseeing conformance of developments to the municipal code, comprehensive plan, and overlay districts.
- Conducting official city review, including zoning review for commercial properties and development review.

- Implementing the City's comprehensive plan.
- Provides reports and recommendations to the Planning, Zoning, and Architectural Review Commission as well as the Board of Aldermen.
- Responsible for setting the agenda for, and managing as staff the Planning, Zoning, and Architectural Review Commission.
- Customer service functions of city government, including the validating of commercial occupancy permits and interfacing with the public.
- All other duties related to municipal planning, zoning, and economic development including permitting.

**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 – MAY 2021*

- Geographic Information Systems for geospatial analysis and cartography.
- Data analysis via spreadsheets and database systems - with a focus on neighborhood indicators.
- Work both individually and as part of a team on multiple projects at once with multiple deadlines, including affordable housing development.
- Community Planning and community development, including community master planning and consolidated planning for the City of St. Louis and St. Clair County.
- Experience with HUD systems and comprehensive planning elements including the CAPER, Annual Action Plan, and analyses to the impediments of fair housing.
- Technical assistance and consulting to community organizations, non-profits, government entities, and others.
- Community Engagement via public meetings, charrettes, trainings as a data intermediary, various speaker engagements / workshops, and others.
- Research and writing including duties related to grants, the production of public documents, and urban planning.

**Old North Restoration Group  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INTERN**

**St. Louis, MO**  
*SEPTEMBER 2015 – DECEMBER 2015*

**Face3 Media  
WEB DEVELOPER**

**Montreal, QC**  
*MARCH 2014 – JULY 2015*

**Global Detroit  
IMMIGRATION RESEARCH AND MAPPING INTERN**

**Detroit, MI**  
*NOVEMBER 2012 – JULY 2013*

**EDUCATION**

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Wayne State University  
MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING WITH CONCENTRATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Detroit, MI**  
*SEPTEMBER 2009 – DECEMBER 2012*

**Baker College  
BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN WEB DEVELOPMENT**

**Online / MI**  
*SEPTEMBER 2003 - JUNE 2008*

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

**St. Louis Regional Data Alliance  
PERMANENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**St. Louis, MO**  
*JUNE 2018 – APRIL 2022*

Former Co-Chairman of the permanent steering committee of the Regional Data Alliance. Helping to oversee the policy and projected path forward for a newly launched initiative to centralize data sharing and distribution throughout the St.

Louis region.

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

Board secretary and communications committee chairman. Was on the Host Committee for 2017 Missouri Planning Conference in St. Louis and is currently on the host committee for the 2022 conference.

**St. Louis, MO**

*JULY 2016 – DECEMBER 2021*

**National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership Executive Committee**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

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. Served one, three-year term.

**Washington, D.C**

*JANUARY 2018 – DECEMBER, 2020*

**Saint Louis Civic Tech and Data Collaborative**

**CHARTER BOARD MEMBER**

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.

**St. Louis, MO**

*AUGUST 2017 – SEPTEMBER 2018*

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**TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)  
Racial Equity Learning Exchange Training  
Crossroads Anti-Bias, Anti-Racism Training  
St. Louis Regional Arts Commission Community Arts Training (CAT) Fellow  
Focus St. Louis Emerging Leaders Program Graduate  
Certified Public Interest Design Professional

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**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

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

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**ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

Microsoft Office • Adobe Creative Suite • Photography • Saxophone and Guitar • IT and network debugging • Computer programming and website development