

Brooke Kuykendall, AICP
Community Planner | Community Engagement Specialist

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Mission-focused AICP certified planning and community development professional with experience across the public, nonprofit, and private sectors, offering a comprehensive understanding of system-based approaches to improving community outcomes. Skilled in urban, rural, regional, strategic, corridor, comprehensive, and functional planning. Strong analytical and project management abilities supporting economic development, transportation, housing, and environmental initiatives. Experienced in community engagement, public outreach, organizing, zoning administration, research, and data analysis. Holds a Master's in Community Development and Regional Planning from Kansas State University, graduating with honors (4.0 GPA) in 2023 from the Department of Urban Planning, Regional Planning, and Community Development. Additional training in grief-informed communication, empathy, and active listening skills.

Keywords: Collaboration, Strategic Planning, Communication, Collaboration, Zoning Knowledge, Urban Planning, Stewardship, Environmental Planning, Multi-Modal Transportation, Land Use, Community Engagement, Problem Solving, Leadership, Report Preparation, Grant Administration, Data Analysis

Professional Experience

Community Planner and Engagement Specialist

Vireo

Nov 2024 – April 2026

Served on planning projects across federal contracts, regional councils, and municipal governments, supporting both planning and community engagement efforts. Developed and executed comprehensive engagement strategies, materials, and data-driven insights to inform planning processes and outcomes.

- Helped aid in the design and creation of public meeting display boards, large-format worksheets, flyers, handouts, comment forms, social media content and social media content calendars, surveys (digital and print), websites, presentations, press releases, slideshows, QR codes, invitation letters for stakeholders, agencies, public, and coordinated stakeholder and public outreach and engagement through canvassing, pop-ups, public meetings, neighborhood meetings, presentation events, and collaborated with internal teams and external partners.
- Contributed to planning deliverables including public participation plans, planning chapters, meeting outlines and room layouts, demographic analysis reports, and engagement summaries and matrices, Used the Knight Foundation.
- Collected, analyzed, and visualized collected and existing data, through charts, graphs, spreadsheets, memos, scorecards, matrixes. Used Mural, PublicParticipation.com, and SurveyMonkey
- Provided event photography and field site visits for documentation, graphical and marketing usage. Utilized Microsoft products, Adobe Creative Suite products (Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign, Illustrator)

Consultant / Contract

Endyna / U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

May 2024 – 2024

Supported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's \$2B Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program through a consulting role with Endyna, advancing community-driven planning and environmental justice initiatives nationwide. Provided technical assistance to federal, tribal, state, and local entities to develop competitive proposals, programs, and strategies addressing climate resilience, housing, transportation, and pollution reduction.

- Advised tribal governments, municipalities, CBOs, and special districts on project proposal development, including scope, timelines, budgets, and implementation strategies
- Developed and supported community-driven initiatives emphasizing capacity building, cross-sector collaboration, and equitable engagement for disadvantaged and historically disinvested communities
- Guided applicants through complex federal processes, aligning projects with environmental justice, energy, housing, and transportation funding priorities
- Contributed to program development and strategic planning efforts, supporting nationwide initiatives focused on climate justice, workforce development, energy efficiency, and sustainable community development

Interim City Planner

City of St. Joseph, Missouri

Jan 2023 – Nov 2024

Supported daily planning and zoning operations for the City of St. Joseph, overseeing regulatory review, development processes, and public-facing planning functions. Coordinated interdepartmental workflows and ensured compliance with municipal codes, ordinances, and development standards.

- Conducted planning and zoning reviews including site plans, subdivisions, lot line adjustments, conditional use permits, variances, and zoning verification requests Oversaw permitting processes for residential and commercial projects including new construction, additions, solar panels, fences, garages, billboards, signage, and business licenses
- Responded to public inquiries regarding zoning, planning, and code requirements; issued zoning violations and compliance citations when necessary Drafted reports, code updates, and planning documentation; utilized GIS and I-County
- Staff liaison for municipal boards, conducted training, coordinated interdepartmental workflows, and produced data- driven reports utilizing qualitative and quantitative methods

Neighborhood and Community Services Planner

City of St. Joseph, Missouri

Jan 2023 – Nov 2024

Led neighborhood planning, revitalization, and community development initiatives focused on housing, economic development, public engagement, and organizational support. Managed grant-funded programs and collaborated across agencies and community partners to advance goals aligned with the Comprehensive Plan and Imagine 2040.

- Administered and secured over \$4.5M in grant funding, including a \$2.5M River Bluff Gateway Program, \$1.9M Urban Homestead Rehabilitation Grant, \$100K Neighborhood Revitalization Grant, and \$35K Community Services microgrant program
- Managed homelessness planning, nonprofit organizational development, and cross-sector collaboration with agencies including HUD, EPA, and DOC
- Supported redevelopment, infill development, workforce development, environmental planning, urban farming, and stormwater mitigation initiatives
- Facilitated citizen participation, community organizing, neighborhood engagement, and public outreach efforts across multiple programs and initiatives
- Produced reports, conducted qualitative and quantitative data collection, and supported planning initiatives through research, mapping, and analysis

Archivist / Interim Executive Director

St. Joseph Historical Society | *St. Joseph, MO*

Jun 2020 – Jan 2023

Led organizational operations, programming, and strategic initiatives for a nonprofit historical society, advancing community engagement, cultural preservation, and museum development. Managed fundraising, grant acquisition, and board relations while overseeing exhibits, archival systems, and outreach to expand audience reach and community impact.

- Reported to the Board of Directors on projects, budgets, and strategic plans; held signatory authority and supported budget management and organizational operations
- Planned, coordinated, and executed exhibits, events, fundraisers, and organizational meetings; led communications across government entities, community organizations, and stakeholders
- Conducted research, archival cataloging, and digital archiving; maintained collections and contributed to website updates and multimedia content (interviews, video, social media management)
- Supported and secured grant funding from the Buchanan County Tourism Board, Missouri State Questers, Missouri Humanities Council, private endowments, and donor campaigns. Assisted in the development and implementation of *St. Joseph in Color* through the Morton Grant for the Arts
- Advanced community engagement, cultural tourism, and nonprofit development initiatives through strategic planning, community organizing, and efforts to expand diverse representation in museum programming

Community Development / Grant Support Intern

Mo-Kan Regional Council

Jun 2020 – Jul 2021

Supported multi-jurisdictional community development, hazard mitigation, and grant administration efforts across federal, state, regional, and local programs. Contributed to planning initiatives and funding strategies that advanced infrastructure, disaster resilience, and economic development across 36 municipalities in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

- Assisted with grant administration and proposal development for programs including CDBG, FEMA, BRIC, and HMGP; supported planning efforts related to comprehensive plans, hazard mitigation plans, and community assessments

- Contributed to securing major funding awards, including an \$800K water system grant (City of Clarksdale), \$80K HMGP tornado siren project (Amazonia), and \$55K DNR water gauge project (Rosendale)
- Conducted geospatial mapping and data analysis to support hazard mitigation planning and infrastructure investment strategies
- Supported council meetings, stakeholder engagement, surveys, and program evaluations across a six-county, 36-municipality region
- Delivered community and economic development support services, with training in environmental design, safe infrastructure, and resilience planning

Owner and Photographer

Second Story Photography

July 2012 – Jun 2020

Own and operate a full-service photography business, managing all aspects of client services, creative production, and business operations while delivering high-quality visual storytelling and maintaining long-term client relationships.

- Manage full business operations including client acquisition, contracts, scheduling, budgeting, bookkeeping, marketing strategy, and oversight of \$20K+ in professional equipment
- Produce, edit, and deliver professional photography using Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, coordinating multiple concurrent client projects and event coverage
- Develop and maintain brand presence through website, blog, social media, and third-party platforms; execute marketing campaigns and client outreach
- Design and implement custom on-site and stylized photo booth experiences; train staff on editing workflows, operations, and customer service standards
- Curate and exhibit work across regional galleries and events; published contributor and editor in multiple literary and arts publications; active sponsor and supporter of community arts initiatives

Education

Permaculture Specialist, Midwest Permaculture Institute	<i>forthcoming</i>
Introduction to Graphic Design, School of the Art Institute Chicago	2026
Introduction to InDesign, American Graphics Institute	2026
Master of Science, Community Development & Regional Planning, Kansas State University	2023
Grant Writing Certification, University of Missouri–Kansas City	2023
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature, Missouri Western State University	2006

Registration

AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners)	2025
NCIC (National Crime Information Center Certification)	2024
HSR (Certification in Human Subjects Research)	2023
CITI Certification (Collaborative Institutional Training)	2023
IRB Certification in Social and Behavioral Research and Records-Based Research	2023
Certification in IPMC International Codes	2023

Publications | Awards | Guest Lectures

In the Field, Guest Lecture, Kansas State University, Department of Landscape Architecture Regional & Community Planning 2025
Award for Professional Excellence, St Joseph Chamber of Commerce 2024
Kansas State University LARCP Scholarship for Academic Excellence 2022
Published in: *Canvas Review*, *Mule News*, *The Driftwood Review*, *The Iron Horse Review*, *The Mochila Review*
Various

Boards | Committees | Civic Engagement

Missouri Board of Directors, American Planning Association, Outstate North Chair	2023–Present
Association of Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals	Continuum of Care Housing Insecurity Board
Bridging the Gap	Cornerstone of Care/Build Trybe
Sustainable Environmental Action Committee	Green Business Subcommittee
Storm Water Management Subcommittee	Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Museum Association of Buchanan County	Main Street America St. Joseph Chapter Board
St. Joseph MPO Bike and Pedestrian Subcommittee	Administrative Review Board
Juneteenth Association Planning Committee (Art Chair)	Arbor Day Board
Coalition of Achievement (Historian Chair)	Tree Board
S.T.E.A.M. Festival Event Planning Committee	Missouri River Relief Planning Committee
Beautify Committee	St. Joseph Community Gardens
Second Harvest’s Battle for Hunger Sponsor	Allied Arts Council’s Walk for the Arts Sponsor

Recent Relevant Experience

Ames Avenue Safe Mobility Recovery Plan | Omaha, Nebraska
Route 67 St. Louis Corridor Upgrades | Madison County, Missouri
US-71 Planning Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study | Kansas City, Missouri
Inland Port Authority Innovation District Business Plan | Omaha, Nebraska
MARC Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) & Transit Center Study | Missouri-Kansas
I-70 (I-435 to I-470) Environmental Assessment | Kansas City & Independence, Missouri
MARC Regional Bikeway Plan Update | Missouri-Kansas
Route 40 Corridor Improvements | Independence, Missouri
Sugar Creek 20 Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment | Caddo County, Oklahoma
Upper Washita 57 Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment | Rogers Mill County, Ok
Kansas 4 Dams Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment | Brown & Jackson County, KS
MARC Regional Freight Study | Lawrence-Douglas County & Jackson County, Kansas & Missouri
MAPA Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan | Omaha-Council Bluffs, Iowa & NE
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Food Systems Adaptation Plan | Jackson County, Kansas
Johnson County Parks & Recreation Plan Update | Johnson County, Kansas
I-44 Corridor NEPA Study | Oklahoma State Line (Newton County) to St. Louis County, MO
US-50/400 Expressway Expansion Project | Finney & Gray County, Kansas
US-54 Kingman Bypass Realignment Project | Kingman County, Kansas
NW Arkansas Regional Planning Commission Transit Alternatives Study | Springdale, Arkansas
Lincoln Vision Zero Action Plan | Lincoln, Nebraska
Broadway Boulevard Complete Streets Plan | Kansas City, Missouri
I-35 Planning Environmental Linkages (PEL Study) | Kansas City, Missouri
Columbia Business Loop Improvement Plan | Columbia, Missouri