

LAURA MESSIER

lmessier@usc.edu

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2022-Present PhD Student in Population, Health and Place
University of Southern California, Spatial Sciences Institute
- 2011-Present Registered Architect, States of California (current), New York and Texas
- 2019-21 Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
The University of Texas at Arlington
- 2013-19 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional
U.S. Green Building Council
- 2003-2008 Bachelor of Architecture with High Honors
The University of Texas at Austin

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Built environment impacts on behavior and health, especially related to public space.
Government policy, processes, and investment shaping built environments.
Socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial disparities in the built environment.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2023-2024 Research Assistant, Urban Trees Initiative
Spatial Sciences Institute, University of Southern California
Assistant to Professor John Wilson, conducting research related to policies
shaping the urban tree canopy in Los Angeles
- 2011-16 Associate for Operations, Jensen Architects, San Francisco, CA
Architect and Project Manager specializing in private school projects
Member of office leadership reporting to principals
Chair of Business Development Committee
- 2008-11 Designer and Project Manager, Bade Stageberg Cox Architecture, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 Intern, Agence Patrick Jouin, Paris, France

2005 Intern, RedArcOne, Austin, Texas

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2022 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation
Grant number DGE-1842487

2020 Scholar, National Institute for Transportation and Communities, Portland, OR
Awarded by The University of Texas at Arlington

PRESENTATIONS

2024 Messier, L. (2024, November 20-21). *Tree spacing guidelines as a barrier to tree equity* [Conference presentation]. Arbor Day Foundation Partners in Community Forestry Conference, Chicago, Illinois, United States. https://www.arborday.org/sites/arborday.org/files/media/2024-12/pcf2024_messier.pdf

2024 Messier, L. (2024, September 24). *30 cities, 1 challenge: Examining sidewalk policies for inclusive access and equity* [Invited workshop presentation]. Investing in Place. <https://investinginplace.org/workshop-recap-30-cities-1-challenge/>

2024 Messier, L. (2024, April 16-20). *Tree spacing guidelines in Los Angeles: Opportunities for future growth* [Conference presentation]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States. <https://www.aag.org/events/aag2024/>

2023 Messier, L. (2023, March 17-18). *Broken sidewalks, broken policies* [Conference presentation]. Pacific Southwest Region UTC Annual Congress, Los Angeles, California, United States. <https://www.metrotrans.org/events/2023-psr-annual-congress-moving-forward-improving-transportation-in-region-9>

PUBLICATIONS

2025 Messier, L., Macdonald, B., & Wilson, J.P. (2025). Equity impacts of street tree spacing guidelines: A case study in two Los Angeles neighborhoods. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 259, 105345. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2025.105345>

2025 Messier, L., Wilson, J.P., Margulies, E., Macdonald, B., Dean, M., Babboni, M., Vega, K. (2025). Research brief: How street tree spacing guidelines can improve

Los Angeles tree canopy [Research brief, in press]. *Public Exchange*.
<https://publicexchange.usc.edu/urban-trees-initiative/>

2025 Messier, L. (2025). Complete streets meet fragmented policies: Sidewalks in 30 U.S. cities. *Cities*, 157, 105588. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2024.105588>

2025 Messier, L., Margulies, E., & Wilson, J. P. (2025). Elevating street trees to infrastructure status: A comparison of street tree spacing guidelines in Los Angeles with U.S. peer cities. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 103, 128584. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2024.128584>

SERVICE

2024 Reviewer for journal: *Transactions in GIS*

2020-21 Sidewalk Master Plan Committee, City of Dallas, TX
Invited by Dallas Public Works; participated in drafting Sidewalk Master Plan

2020 Mobility Advisory Committee, City of Dallas, TX
Invited by councilman Chad West; participated in drafting Strategic Mobility Plan

2019 Volunteer for Dallas City Council Candidate Chad West, Dallas, TX
Prepared policy briefs for candidate's mobility platform

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 First place, presentation competition for "Broken sidewalks, broken policies"
Graduate Research Symposium 2023, University of Southern California

Design Awards for projects with Jensen Architects

Minnesota Street Project:

2019 The Bay Area's 10 most important buildings of the past decade, Curbed SF

2017 Merit Award, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

2017 American Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum

Children's Day School Project:

2017 Rehabilitation Design Award, California Preservation Foundation

2016 Citation Award, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2022-Present American Planning Association
Legislative Review Committee

2022-Present American Association of Geographers

2023-2024 International Society for Environmental Epidemiology

2008-16 American Institute of Architects

SKILLS

Languages French, B1 Level reading, writing, listening, speaking
Spanish, A2 Level reading, writing, listening; A1 Level speaking

Digital ArcGIS, R, AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Suite, and Microsoft Office Suite