LEAH BIRNBAUM

Associate

SUMMARY BIO

Leah is principal at Leah Birnbaum Consulting and an Associate with DWD Leah provides consulting, research, writing and editing services on a broad range of issues related to community planning and public policy. In her work with DWD, Leah specializes in co-designing beautifully simple engagement processes and then producing clear and concise written summaries. She is a planner with over 15 of experience in both the private and public sectors and has operated her own consulting practice since 2008.

EXPERTISE

· Plain language writing and editing
· Qualitative research design
· Concise summaries of engagement results

EDUCATION

· Master of Science in Planning (2003) University of Toronto
· Honours Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology (1997) University of British Columbia

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

· 2009—present
  Registered Professional Planner, Ontario Professional Planners Institute

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

· 2008—present
  Principal, Leah Birnbaum Consulting
· 2007—2008
  Senior Associate, Ontario Growth Secretariat, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
· 2004—2007
  Planner, Urban Strategies Inc.

SELECT PROJECTS

International Urban Cooperation Program, Canadian Urban Institute
2019

Researching and writing a series of articles on seven pairs of cities that are collaborating under the EU's International Urban Cooperation Program.

Stakeholder Engagement Summaries, Imagine Canada
2019

Designed, delivered and reported on a Canada-wide stakeholder engagement process as Imagine Canada reviewed the standards for its member organizations in the charitable sector.

Pedestrian Strategies and Mobility Plans, City of Toronto Transportation Service
2018

Researched and analyzed pedestrian planning policies in six of Toronto's peer cities to provide input into an update of Toronto's mobility plans.

TOcore, Toronto's Downtown Plan, City of Toronto
2017–2018

Writing and editing services as TOcore developed the Plan and its five associated infrastructure strategies.

United Church of Canada, EDGE: A Network for Ministry Development, 2018–present

Working with EDGE to develop a strategy for supporting United Church congregations that want to renew or redevelop their lands.

Robot Talks: Workplace Automation Study, Brookfield Institute
2017–2018

Qualitative data analysis and report writing to summarize information gathered through public engagement on the impacts of workplace automation on Ontario's workers. With DWD.

Transportation and Land Use Planning Research Laboratory, Ryerson
2017

Designed and facilitated a series of focus groups to explore participants' interest in and attitudes towards driverless cars. Authored the summary report.

Bloor West Village Avenue Study, City of Toronto
2017

Senior planner with the team preparing the Study between Keele Avenue and the Humber River. Led by DTAH, with R.E. Millward and Associates.

ResilientTO, City of Toronto Resilience Office
2017

Provided writing and editing services as the team worked to assess Toronto's resilience and develop a Resilience Strategy. Toronto is part of the 100RC network of cities receiving support from the Rockefeller Foundation to assess and increase resilience.

Autonomous Vehicles in the GTHA, Mediation Pilot Project, City of Toronto
2017

The City piloted a mediation program to assist in resolving disputes related to minor variance and consent applications. Provided neutral professional planning advice to the parties and the mediators.

Adjunct Lecturer, Ryerson School of Urban and Regional Planning
2016

Designed and taught a seminar on regional planning to undergraduates.

Ontario Municipal Board Reform, Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario
2016

Researched and wrote a report with recommendations for how to reform the OMB in advance of the provincially mandated review. With Urban Strategies

Yonge + Eglinton Built Form Study, City of Toronto
2016–2019

Planner on the built form study team making policy recommendations to update the City of Toronto's secondary plan for Yonge + Eglinton. With Perkins + Will.