

# ANDREA R. ROBERTS, PH.D.

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Current      **Assistant Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A & M University, College of Architecture.** Courses: Community Revitalization, Planning History & Theory, Critical Place Studies.
- Fellow, Center for Heritage Conservation, Texas A & M University**
- 2016-17      **Lecturer, *U.S. Cultural Landscapes and Ethnographic Methods*, The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture (UTSOA).** Course: Interdisciplinary cultural landscape survey course. Students learn to engage critically landscapes within their spatial, historical, and cultural contexts.
- Emerging Scholar Fellow of Race & Gender in the Built Environment of the American City, (UTSOA),** Postdoctoral fellowship during which scholars teach and produce scholarship related to race, gender, design, and planning.
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## EDUCATION

- 2016      **Doctor of Philosophy, Community & Regional Planning**
- Doctoral Portfolio, African & African Diaspora Studies**
- The University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture and African & African Diaspora Studies Department
- Dissertation: *The Texas Freedom Colony Diaspora: The Role of Foundational Stories in African American Placemaking & Preservation in Deep East Texas*
- 2006      **Master of Government Administration**
- Graduate Certificate, Public Finance**
- University of Pennsylvania

1996            **Bachelor of Arts, Political Science**  
Vassar College

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#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

African American Studies, Diaspora Studies, Community Development & Revitalization, Critical Heritage Studies, Cultural Landscapes, Cultural Studies, Historic Preservation, Social Justice, Participatory Action Research, Planning History, Planning Theory, Grassroots Movements, Public Management, Public History, Rural Planning, Womanism/Black Feminism

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#### RESEARCH & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- 2018            **Convener**, Black Digital Humanities Working Group, Center for New Media and Digital Humanities, Texas A&M University.
- 2014–Present **Researcher/Founder**, Texas Freedom Colonies Project.
- 2016-2017    **Guest Curator/Consultant**, Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC), San Antonio, TX.
- 2012–14      **Founder & Project Manager**, 5th Street Neighborhood Plan and Market Study, UTSOA.
- 2011–12      **Research Assistant**, Austin Historical Survey Wiki Project.
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#### PUBLICATIONS/SCHOLARSHIP

##### PEER-REVIEWED

R. Roberts, A. (2018). **“Performance as Place Preservation: The Role of Storytelling in the Formation of Shankleville Community’s Black Counterpublics.”** *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20518196.2018.1480002>

Roberts, A. **“Interpretations & Imaginaries: Toward an Instrumental Black Planning History,”** *Planning Theory & Practice*, (2018) 19:2, 254-288, DOI: [10.1080/14649357.2018.1456816](https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2018.1456816)

Minner, J., Roberts, A., Holleran, M., & Conrad, J. (2018). **“A Smart City Remembers Its Past: Citizens as Sensors in Survey and Mapping of Historic Places.”** In *New Approaches, Methods, and Tools in Urban E-Planning* (pp. 95-129). IGI Global.

Roberts, A. R. (2017). **“The Farmers’ Improvement Society and the Women’s Barnyard Auxiliary of Texas: African American Community Building in the Progressive Era.”** *Journal of Planning History*, 16(3), 222-245.

Roberts, A. **“What’s Missing from Black Counternarratives to Donald Trump.”** *African American Intellectual History Society-Black Perspectives*, September 26, 2016

Minner, J., Holleran, M., Roberts, A. & Conrad, J. **“Capturing Volunteered Historical Information: Lessons from Development of a Local Government Crowdsourcing Tool.”** *Geospatial Research: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications* (2016): 319.

Minner, J., Holleran, M., Roberts, A. & Conrad, J. **“Capturing Volunteered Historical Information: Lessons from Development of a Local Government Crowdsourcing Tool.”** *International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR)* 4, no. 1 (2015): 19-41.

#### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (UNDER REVIEW)

Roberts, A. **“Until the Lord Come Get Me, It Burn Down, Or the Next Storm Blow It Away: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas’ African American Vernacular Landscapes,”** *Buildings & Landscapes-Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*, Under Review, August 2018

Roberts, A. **“Black Bodies, Difficult Memories: African American Agency and Forgetting in Sugar Land, Texas,”** *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, Under Review, July 2018

**“Liminality as Resiliency: Knowledge Exchange and Spatial Agency in Texas’ Freedom Colonies and Urban Meccas,”** *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Special Issue: Black Meccas, Under Review, April 2018

## PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS (ACCEPTED)

Roberts, A and Kelly, G. **“Engaging Hidden Publics: Co-Planning with Descendants of Historic Black Communities,”** *JAPA* Special Issue on 50 Years since Arnstein’s Ladder.

## NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS: ESSAYS, OPINION, FEATURE

Roberts, A. A Texas city discovered a mass grave of prison laborers. What should it do with the bodies? Retrieved August 14, 2018, from <http://theconversation.com/a-texas-city-discovered-a-mass-grave-of-prison-laborers-what-should-it-do-with-the-bodies-101015>

Roberts, A. **“Portals to Freedom, or Researching in Limbo Time,”** *Platform: Convergent Voices, A Journal of the UT Austin School of Architecture*, Ed. Nichole Wiedemann and Charlton Lewis, November 2017.

Brand, A., Brown, Davis, L, Ford, M., Hood, W., Lopez, S., **Roberts, A.,** Robles Jr., J. **“Conversation 030317,”** *Platform: Convergent Voices, A Journal of the UT Austin School of Architecture*, Ed. Nichole Wiedemann and Charlton Lewis, November 2017.

Roberts, A. **“When Does It Become Social Justice? Thoughts on Intersectional Preservation Practice”** *Preservation Leadership Forum Blog*, National Trust for Historic Preservation, July 2017.

Roberts, A. **“Documenting and Preserving Texas Freedom Colonies”** *Texas Heritage Magazine*. Texas Historical Foundation, Austin, TX. Vol. 2, 2017.

Roberts, A. **“Homeplace: Identity, Place, and Planning”** Reading List. *Places Journal* <https://placesjournal.org/> , April 2017.

Brand, A., & Roberts, A. **Commentary: Better Communities Require Better-Educated Planners.** *Austin American-Statesman*. Austin, Texas, October 25, 2016.

## PROJECT - TECHNICAL REPORT

Roberts, A. and Galindo, A., **“The Fifth Street Neighborhood Plan & Market Study, Final Report.”** Center for Sustainable Development, The University of Texas at Austin (March 2014)

## BOOK REVIEW

Roberts, A. **“Book Review: Black Georgetown remembered: A history of its black community from the founding of “The Town of George” in 1751 to**

the present day” *Journal of Planning Literature*, May-03-2017  
[10.1177/0885412217707496](https://doi.org/10.1177/0885412217707496)

#### NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS: CREATIVE WORK

Roberts, A. “The Poetics of Black Imagination” from *What’s the New News*, Issue 2, [https://issuu.com/wtnn/docs/wtnn\\_2/12](https://issuu.com/wtnn/docs/wtnn_2/12). A public art project on neighborhood change commissioned by Project Row Houses (PRH). Houston, TX, April 2018.

Roberts, A. “Arrivals: 1930, 1964.” from *What’s the New News*, Issue 1, [https://issuu.com/wtnn/docs/wtnn\\_feb\\_2018/5](https://issuu.com/wtnn/docs/wtnn_feb_2018/5). A public art project on neighborhood change commissioned by Project Row Houses (PRH). Houston, TX, February 2018.

Roberts, Andrea. “Old Developments: Sovereign Spaces Reclaimed.” *Not That But This* (blog), December 11, 2017.  
<http://notthatbutthis.com/2017/12/old-developments-sovereign-spaces/>.

Roberts, A. “Critical Sankofa Planning-Mobilizing Texas Freedom Colony Memories” *Not That But This*, Ed. Nathaniel Donnett. Houston, TX, June 19, 2015.

Roberts, A. “Sacred Forest, Piney Veil: Black Landscapes of Deep Texas” *Not That But This*, Ed. Nathaniel Donnett. Houston, TX, June 16, 2015.

#### PRESS

Collins, Courtney. “How Natural Disasters Challenge Communities Of Color (KERA-Dallas).” *One Crisis Away: After the Flood*. Dallas, Tex.: KERA, December 21, 2017.  
<http://stories.kera.org/after-the-flood/2017/12/21/how-natural-disasters-challenge-communities-of-color/>.

Feldman, Nina. “Confronting Urban Design’s Diversity Crisis with a Return to Black Places.” *Next City*. April 17, 2017.  
<https://nextcity.org/features/view/urban-design-diversity-urban-planning-shankleville-texas>

Joseph, Cheryl and Mankad, Raj, Rice Design Alliance. “When ‘historic’ doesn’t mean ‘white’ In Houston and elsewhere, a movement grows to preserve a wider range of places.” *Houston Chronicle*. December 16, 2016

Hasan Syeda. “These Black Women Hope to Build Diversity Within Austin’s Architect Community,” *KUT Radio -Austin*. September 13, 2016.

<http://kut.org/post/these-black-women-hope-build-diversity-within-austins-architect-community>

Mattioli, Guglielmo. "UT Austin Urban Planning Initiative Explores Race and Gender." *Metropolis Magazine*. October 3, 2016.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

Journal Article. Roberts, A. "Kinkeepers, Cultural Workers, and Asset Builders: Identifying and Translating Vernacular Preservation Practices"

Roberts, A and Kelly, G. "Engaging Hidden Publics: Co-Planning with Descendants of Historic Black Communities," *JAPA* Special Issue on 50 Years since Arnstein's Ladder.

Book. Roberts, A., **Never Sell the Land! African American Historic Preservation as Resistance**

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## EDITORIAL & JOURNAL POSITIONS

- 2016      **Peer Reviewer**, Journal of Critical Race Inquiry, Queen's University, and Department of Gender Studies. Deliovsky, K. (2017). Whiteness in the Qualitative Research Setting: Critical Skepticism, Radical Reflexivity and Anti-racist Feminism. *Journal of Critical Race Inquiry*, 4(1)
- 2014      **Editor**, Journal of Black Business History, UT Department of History

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## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, & LECTURES

- 2018      Roberts, A. Panelist: Rural Women and Their Places. "Until the Lord Come Get Me, It Burn Down, or the Next Storm Blow it Away:" Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas' African American Vernacular Landscapes" Rural Women's Studies Association Conference, Virtual Participation, May 19.
- Roberts, A and Butler, M. Roundtable. "Looking for the 'Black Fantastic' in Diasporic Geographies and the Literary Imagination" 2018 Black Communities Conference Roundtable, Durham, NC, April 23-25
- "The Power of Stories: Leveraging Heritage to Preserve Historic Black Settlements," Panelist, 2018 Black Communities Conference Session, Durham, NC, April 23-25

**“Everyone Has a Story: The Role of Oral Tradition among Grassroots Preservationists in Texas' Historic African American Settlements,”** Texas Oral History Association Conference. Texas A & M University, April 6

**“Black Places Matter! Grassroots Solutions to Preserving Our Communities.”** University of Houston, Center for Public History, Lecture Series at **The African American Library at the Gregory School**, March 9

**[“Hacking Heritage: Lessons Learned from Grassroots Preservationists.”](#)**  
Presenter, Center for Heritage Conservation’s 19th Annual Historic Preservation Symposium, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. February 17

Andrea Roberts and Brent Fortenberry, **“The Brazos Valley Manifesto: What's Next for Preservation of African-American Places in Texas?”** Co-Presenters, [Center for Heritage Conservation’s](#) 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Preservation Symposium, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. February 17

Andrea Roberts and Donna Carter **“[A Conversation: Seeking Praxis when Preserving African-American Places.](#)”** Co-Presenters, Center for Heritage Conservation’s 19th Annual Historic Preservation Symposium, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. February 17

**“The Homeplace Aesthetic: Finding Black Pasts and Seeking Black Futures in Bottom Land,”** Lecture, Art League Houston, In conjunction with artist, Nathaniel Donnett’s exhibition 'In One Form or Another; Verse One' January 13

**“Hacking Heritage: Lessons Learned from Grassroots Preservationists,”** Real Places Conference, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX. January 10

“Roberts, A., Cook, W., and Conti, K. **“When The Archive is ‘Woke!’ Ethnographic Methodologies That Bring Collections and Cultural Landscapes to Life,”** Real Places Conference, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX. January 10

2017

**[“Preservation practice and Possibilities in Texas’ Freedom Colonies.”](#)**  
David Dillon Symposium: Equity + Freedom's Footprint in Dallas Freedman's Towns, Keynote Speaker, University of Texas-Arlington, Event at Paul Quinn College, Dallas, TX.

**[“The Homeplace Aesthetic: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas’ Vernacular African American Landscapes.”](#)** Natural, Built, Virtual

Research Symposium, College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

**“Planning the Twentieth Century American City: A Cross-Generational Conversation on Next Directions”** Panelist, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) Conference, Cleveland, OH.

**“Planning Anti-blackness: Dispossession and Resistance in Washington DC and Baltimore,”** Panel Discussant, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual SACRPH Conference, Cleveland, OH.

**“The Homeplace Aesthetic: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas's Vernacular African American Landscape”** Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

**“The Homeplace Aesthetic: Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas's Vernacular African American Landscape”** Cornell University Colloquium Lecture. Cornell University, NY.

**“Texas Freedom Colony Day.”** Lecture and Panel Organizer. Institute of Texan Cultures, UTSA, San Antonio, TX.

**“Exploring Texas Freedom Colonies: Training for Texas History Educators”** Texas Freedom Colony Symposium, Newton, TX.

**“The Homeplace Aesthetic: The Homeplace Aesthetic: African American Principles of Place Preservation in Deep East Texas' Vernacular Landscapes.”** Vernacular Architecture Forum Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

**“The Freedom Colony Repertoire: The Role of Oral Tradition in African American Planning and Preservation Practice.”** Department of City & Regional Planning Lecture Series, University of California, Berkeley College of Environmental Design.

2016 **“Power Session: Exploring Texas Freedom Colonies.”** Presenter, PastForward, National Trust of Historic Preservation Conference, Houston, TX

**“Preservation Leadership Training: Issues in Preservation Law.”** Presenter, PastForward, National Trust of Historic Preservation Conference, Houston, TX

**“Kinkeepers, Cultural Workers, and Asset Builders: Identifying and Translating Insurgent Planning Practice.”** Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Portland, OR

**“Goldsmith Talks: Toward an Inclusive City.”** Panelist, Roundtable on Race, Gender, and LGBTQI Issues in the Built Environment, UTSOA

**“The Freedom Colony Repertoire: The Role of Memory in Rural, African American Planning Practice.”** Panelist, African and African Diaspora Studies Department Doctoral Portfolio Presentations, UT, Austin, TX

**“Texas Freedom Colonies: Research, Preservation, & Innovation.”** Discussant & Panelist, Preservation Texas State Summit, Austin, TX

2015 **“The Texas Freedom Colony Diaspora: The Role of Foundational Stories in African American Placemaking & Preservation in Deep East Texas.”** Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Houston, TX

**“Texas Freedom Colonies.”** Discussant & Panelist, American Planning Association Conference (Texas Chapter), Galveston, TX

**“Planning for Diverse Communities.”** Panelist, American Planning Association Conference (Texas Chapter), Galveston, TX

**“Freedom Colonies: Action, Research, and Memory.”** Guest Lecturer, Community Engagement and Public Interest Design, UTSOA

**“Houston Freedom Colony Diaspora: Grassroots African American Planning & Preservation,”** Panelist, Houston History Alliance Conference, Houston, TX

2014 **“Planning in the Progressive Era.”** Lecturer, Planning History & Theory, UTSOA

**“Equity, Heritage, & Planning in Unincorporated Communities.”** Presenter, Institute for Urban Policy & Research Analysis, UT African and African Diaspora Studies Department

**“Knowledge Production, Identity, and Planning in Texas’ Freedom Colonies.”** Discussant and Panelist, ACSP Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA

**“Diaspora, Dispossession and New Collectivities in Texas’ Freedom Colonies.”** Panelist, UT African Diasporas: Old & New Conference, Austin, TX

- 2013      **“Memory to Movement: Mobilizing Memory to Spur Community Development.”** Panelist, Biennial Collegium for African American Research, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA
- 2012      **“Black Bodies, Difficult Memories: An Exploration of African American Human & Spatial Agency in Ft. Bend County, Texas.”** Panelist, Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
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#### ADVISING

- Current      **Chair**, Karan Patel, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning Professional Report
- Chair**, Madeline Hunter, Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning Professional Report
- 2016-17      **Advisee/Reader**, Kelsey Riddle, Historic Preservation Master’s Thesis, University of Texas at Austin
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#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2018      Texas Oral History Association. “Getting Started with Oral History” workshop, April 6
- Designing International and Cultural Diversity (ICD) and Cultural Discourse (CD) Courses. March 2
- Roadmap Workshop for a Successful Academic Career, March 5-6
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#### ASSISTANT TEACHING - THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

- 2015      Department of Geography, Urban Studies Research Methods, Undergraduate.
- The Modern American City, Department of Geography, Undergraduate.
- 2014      Planning History & Theory, Community & Regional Planning Program, Graduate.
- 2012      Principles of Physical Planning, Architecture, Undergraduate.

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- 2008–11      **Planning Division Coordinator/Administrative Coordinator**, City of Houston, Housing & Community Development Department.
- Senior Staff Analyst**, City of Houston Economic Development Division, Finance Department.
- 2006–08      **Deputy Budget Director, Program Evaluation**, City of Philadelphia, Finance Department.
- Program Analyst**, City of Philadelphia Program Evaluation, Finance Department.
- 2006           **Strategic Consultant**, Public Financial Management Group, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2004–06      **Operations Analyst**, Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2002–04      **Director**, Outreach & Volunteer Services, Houston READ Commission, TX.

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**AWARDS & HONORS**

- 2015           Diversity Scholar Award, National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference Scholarship, Washington, DC
- 2014           Dissertation Workshop Scholarship, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), Harvard University, Boston, MA
- 2008           Leadership Forum Participant, Urban League of Philadelphia
- 2004           U.S. Congressional Unsung Hero Award, Houston, TX
- 2001           U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Best Practice Award, ACORN Housing Corporation, Houston, TX

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## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 Author, X-Grant Proposal. **“The Texas Freedom Colonies Diaspora: Archiving, Crowdsourcing, & Mapping African American ‘Roots & Routes’ to Freedom”** (Advancing to Prelim-Round of Review)
- Co-Researcher, X-Grant Proposal. **“An Engagement Framework for Enhancing Community Flood Resilience: Validating Citizen Science through Living Laboratories.”** (Under Review)
- Co-Researcher, Global Engagement Grant Proposal. **“Roots and Routes—Tracing and recording the cultural landscapes of the African Diaspora”** (Under Review)
- Co-researcher, **“Maymester Course 2019-2021 with Study-Abroad: Youth and Travel in Cape town South Africa”** (Under Review)
- 2017 TAMU, PESCA Grant, **“Mapping the Unmapped,”** \$10,000
- TAMU Diversity Matters Seed Grant, **“Aggie Cultural Landscapes,”** \$4,089.
- 2015–16 Continuing Fellowship, Community & Regional Planning PhD Program, UTSOA.
- 2014 David Bruton, Jr. Graduate School Fellowship, UT.
- 2012–14 Sustainable Cities Doctoral Initiative Fellowship, UTSOA.
- HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Ft. Bend County, TX for Fifth Street Project at UTSOA’s Center for Sustainable Development.
- 2011–12 Minority Mentor Graduate Fellowship, UT.

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## ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Current Secretary (2017-19), Faculty Women’s Interest Group (FWIG), Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
- Founder/Administrator, “Is a PhD or Me?” Online resource & support group for nontraditional PhD applicants, students, and scholars
- Member, Preservation Texas

2014	Board of Editors, Journal of Black Business History, UT Department of History
2012–15	Commissioner, City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission
2012-13	Community & Regional Planning PhD Program Curriculum Committee, UTSOA
	Co-Coordinator, Annual Austin Jane Jacobs Walk Preservation Tour
2006 –08	Board Member, Calvary Center for Culture and Community, Philadelphia, PA
1994–96	Women's Studies Major Committee, Vassar College
1994	Ford Foundation Global Feminisms Curriculum Committee, Vassar College

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#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Current	Secretary, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning--Faculty Women's Interest Group American Studies Association  American Planning Association  Society for American City & Regional Planning History  Association of Black Women Historians  Memory Studies Association Vernacular Architecture Forum  National Council for Black Studies  Vassar College Alumnae Association
2013–2015	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions
2008–11	National Black MBA Association, Houston Chapter
2003–04	National Council of 100 Black Women, Houston Chapter