

Daniel Dermitzel, M.A.

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EDUCATION

- 1998 **M.A. Urban Planning – Regional and International Development**
University of California, Los Angeles
- 1991 **B.A. Radio and Television Broadcasting – Broadcast Journalism**
California State University, Los Angeles
- 1987 – 1988 **Coursework in biology, chemistry and statistics**
Brunswick Institute of Technology, Braunschweig, Germany

EXPERIENCE

- 4/2016 – present **Building an Independent Consultancy on Mindfulness and Sustainability**
 - Advise on sustainable (urban) design and agriculture projects; lead retreats and mindfulness circles
- 4/2017 – present **Community Gardener & Organizer**
Prinzessinnengarten, Berlin, Germany
 - Manage and develop start-up participatory garden project in Hellersdorf, formerly East Berlin
- 6/2016 – 7/2016 **Team Member in Temporary Emergency Shelter for 900 Refugees**
Albatros, Berlin, Germany
 - Supervised meal distribution and kitchen operations, de-escalated conflict
- 11/2012 – 10/2013 **Educator, Retreat Facilitator, Organic Farmer**
& 02/2015 – 04/2016 Plum Village Monastery, Thénac, France
 - Led retreats and educational programs on community, sustainability and mindfulness
 - Started and operated organic vegetable farm and internship program now in its 5th year
 - Introduced mindfulness practice to farm and office work
 - Practiced meditation, mindfulness and community living under Thich Nhat Hanh
- 2010 – 2014 **Adjunct Professor**
Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design
University of Missouri, Kansas City
 - Developed and taught courses in urban studies, urban planning, sustainability and food systems

- ECON 158 / URBAN ST 101 / BLKS 101 / UPD 101: Introduction to Urban Studies (Anchor 1: Values and Reasoning)
- UPD 412 WI: Urban Planning and Design Studio IV – Planning the *City Ecological: Vacancy and Opportunities for Ecological Urbanism in Kansas City, MO*
- ENVSC/AUPD 332: Environmental Sustainability
- UPD 499B: Planning for Urban Agriculture
- UPD 332CZ: Environmental Sustainability: Planning for Urban Agriculture

2004 – 2012

Co-Founder and Associate Director

Cultivate Kansas City (formerly Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture)
Kansas City, KS

- Built resilient communities through urban farming and permaculture
- Co-developed nonprofit from startup to nationally recognized urban agriculture organization
- Performed strategic planning, program development and staff management
- Created educational programs, including refugee training farm
- Managed highly productive vegetable farms grossing over \$80,000/acre
- Produced and edited outreach materials, newsletters and radio stories
- Served as frequent lecturer, conference speaker, policy consultant and panelist

1999 – 2004

Organic Farmer and Co-Founder

Trailside Farm, Calhoun, MO

- Turned neglected property into certified organic vegetable farm and demonstration site; profitable in 5 years
- Designed and built greenhouse, movable poly-tunnels, irrigation well, packing and cold storage facilities

1992 – 1998

Producer and Researcher

German Television Films, Los Angeles, CA

- Developed and produced news stories and documentaries for European TV
- Coordinated domestic and international productions

1996 – 1997

Community Planning Assistant

Shelter Partnership, Los Angeles, CA

- Designed database for homeless shelter survey
- Analyzed data for report to Housing Authority

1994

News Desk Researcher, Field Producer

KCBS-TV, Los Angeles, CA

- Researched and produced news stories

1985 – 1987

Caregiver through National Civilian Service Program

Home for the Blind, Braunschweig, Germany

- Assisted elderly blind residents with daily chores, hygiene, meals and group activities

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2016	Leadership Development Communicating Under Conflict Embodied Leadership Series, Braveheart Institute, Berlin, Germany
2016	Embodied Awareness Embodied Leadership Series, Braveheart Institute, Berlin, Germany
2015	U.Lab: Transforming Business, Society, and Self Online course delivered through MITx / Edx
2010 – 2011	Environmental Conservation Leadership Training National Audubon Society / Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$10,000 fellowship, year-long web-based leadership training and 2 residential leadership retreats in Washington, DC
2014	Mindfulness, Stress Reduction and Conflict Resolution Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction University of Missouri, Kansas City <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8-week training program developed at Center for Mindfulness, University of Massachusetts Medical School
2014	Mediation Certificate Center for Conflict Resolution, Kansas City, MO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5-day training in mediation and interpersonal conflict resolution plus 20-hour practicum
2014	Trauma-Informed Care Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health, Kansas City, MO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-day workshop in trauma awareness and resilience
2012 – 2013 & 2014 – 2015	Mindfulness, Meditation and Sustainable Living Plum Village Monastery, Thénac, France <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retreats under guidance of Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh and monastics
2009, 2010, 2011	Mindfulness Retreats <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeklong retreats with Thich Nhat Hanh and monastics in USA and Germany
2011	Nonviolent Communication Peace Matters, Lee's Summit, MO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1-day workshop
2008	Holistic Design Permaculture Design Certificate Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute, Basalt, CO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10-day intensive workshop in ecological design for agriculture and sustainable communities

WORKSHOPS AND RETREATS TAUGHT

Reflections on Deep Sustainability: A Mindfulness Retreat in the Tradition of Thich Nhat Hahn. (November 2017). A four-day residential farm retreat at Lebensgut Retreat Center, Pommritz, Germany.

Sustainability, Mindfulness and Community Life: An EIAB Happy Farm Retreat. (March 2016). A four-day residential retreat at the European Institute for Applied Buddhism, Waldbröl, Germany.

Organic Farming Techniques for Mindfulness Practitioners (Winter 2015-16). A series of weekly workshops / presentations designed for interns at monastic farm. Plum Village Monastery, Thénac, France.

Sustainability, Mindfulness and Community Living: A Plum Village Happy Farm Retreat. (June 2015). A weeklong residential retreat at Plum Village Buddhist Monastery, Thénac, France. Co-developed, presented and facilitated.

Introduction to Nonviolent Communication. (February 2015). Co-facilitator. Reaching Out from Within callout at Lansing Correctional Facility. Lansing, KS.

Introduction to Meditation and Mindfulness. (September 2014). Co-facilitator. Reaching Out From Within callout at Lansing Correctional Facility. Lansing, KS.

Designing Edible Forest Gardens. (August 2012). Co-instructor of 2-day intensive design workshop offered by Kaw Permaculture Collaborative. Lawrence, KS.

Organic Farming Techniques for Refugees. (2007 – 2012). A series of spring trainings on organic production methods for farmers with limited or no English comprehension. Offered by Cultivate Kansas City. Kansas City, KS.

Designing Edible Forest Gardens. (May 2011). A workshop on sustainable perennial food production systems for farmers and gardeners. Offered by Cultivate Kansas City. Funded by Audubon / Toyota. Kansas City, KS.

Immigrant Farmer Education Day. (December 2007). A farmer education project to build cross-cultural learning networks. Offered by the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture. Funded by USDA Risk Management Education and Heifer International. Kansas City, KS.

Poly-Tunnel Construction. (October 2005). A hands-on training on poly tunnel design and construction. Offered by the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture. Kansas City, MO.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

Reflections on Ecology, Sustainability and Mindfulness. (October 2014). Presentation to *JustMatters: Ecology*. Precious Blood Retreat Center. Liberty, MO.

Peace Is Every Step. (April 2014). Presentation to Day of Resilience: Inspire, Educate, Transform. Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health. Kansas City, MO.

There is no Way to Harvest, Harvest is the Way. (August 2013). Presentation to Health Retreat. Plum Village Monastery. Thénac, France.

Experiencing Sustainability Through Urban Food Production. (November 2012). Presentation to AIAS Midwest Quad Conference. Kansas City, MO.

Food Systems Planning and Urban Agriculture. (July 2012). Presentation to Helix Architecture. Kansas City, MO.

Foodscales: Urban Agriculture, Sustainable Design and Community Health. (March 2012). Panelist. Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics. University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS.

Scheduling Vegetable Plantings. (March 2012). Presentation to Growing Growers. Kansas City, KS.

Designing a Community Greenhouse for the Juniper Gardens Training Farm. (February 2011). Presenter and jury member at AIA-KC Design Week Challenge. American Institute of Architects. Kansas City, MO.

On Agriculture, Cities and Sustainability. (March 2012). Presentation to the Sierra Club. Kansas City, MO.

Food Systems Planning and Urban Agriculture. (October 2011). Presentation to the American Planning Association Bi-State Conference. Kansas City, MO.

The Juniper Gardens Farm Business Training Program – Efforts in Humanitarian and Ecological Restoration. (July 2011). Presentation to Environmental Excellence Business Network. Bridging the Gap. Kansas City, MO.

On Agriculture, Cities and Sustainability. (April 2011). Earth Day presentation to University of Central Missouri. Warrensburg, MO.

Scheduling Vegetable Plantings. (January 2011). Presentation to Great Plains Vegetable Conference. Saint Joseph, MO.

Toward Sustainability Through Urban Agriculture? (August 2010). Presentation to Mid-K Plants, Parks & Parking: or Green Acres in Kansas City, With or Without Backyard Chickens. American Institute of Architects. Kansas City, MO.

Toward a New Dialog for Justice and Sustainability. (November 2010). Presentation to National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Public Meeting and Workshops. Kansas City, MO.

Urban Agriculture and the Green Economy. (July 2010). Presentation to Green Jobs—Finding the Right Path Forward. Annual Dialog on Sustainability. Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

Permaculture Principles in Small-Scale Vegetable Production. (January 2010). Presentation to Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference. Saint Joseph, MO. With Steve Moring.

Building Edible Cities – Urban Agriculture for Planning and Design Professionals. (June 2009). Presentation and panel discussion in conjunction with Kansas City Urban Farms and Gardens Tour. University of Missouri, Kansas City. Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design. With Dr. Jacob Wagner.

Urban Agriculture in KC and Beyond – Lessons Learned and New Directions. (February 2009). Presentation to Kansas State University Horticulture Seminar. Manhattan, KS.

Steps Toward Reducing Tillage on a 2-Acre Market Garden. (January 2009). Presentation to Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference. Saint Joseph, MO. With Becki DeRusseau.

Visions for an Edible City. (October 2008). Presentation to American Planning Association Bi-state Conference. Kansas City, MO.

Productive Urban Greenspace – Options for Urban Agriculture. (October 2008). Presentation to the Johnson County Planning Commission. Overland Park, KS.

Visions for an Edible City. (April 2008). Presentation to American Institute of Architects. Kansas City, MO.

Spiraling Up – Urban Agriculture’s Potential to Drive Environmental Change. (September 2007). Presentation to Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7. Kansas City, KS. With Katherine Kelly.

High-end Marketing Options for Small-Scale Vegetable Farmers. (February 2007). Presentation to Missouri Small Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Springfield, MO.

Producing and Selling Vegetables in Kansas City. (February 2007). Presentation to Missouri Small Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Springfield, MO.

Intensive Vegetable Production on an Urban Farm. (January 2007). Presentation to Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference. Saint Joseph, MO. With Katherine Kelly.

High Tunnels at the Community Farm: Designs, Uses, Lessons. (January 2007). Presentation to Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference. Saint Joseph, MO. With Katherine Kelly.

The Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture – Working with Passion for Better Communities in Kansas City. (August 2006). Presentation to mayor’s office, Unified Government of Wyandotte County. With Katherine Kelly.

Producing and Selling Vegetables in Kansas City. (July 2006). Presentation to Kansas State University Olathe Horticulture Research Station. Olathe, KS.

Local Models for Urban Food Production. (January 2006) Presentation to Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference. Saint Joseph, MO. With Katherine Kelly.

High Tunnel Production at Trailside Farm. (January 2005). Presentation to Great Plains Vegetable Growers Conference. Saint Joseph, MO.

RADIO BROADCASTS

Dermitzel, D. (Co-producer, segment producer, writer) (2011). Urban farms and gardens tour special. June 26 show. [Radio series episode]. In *Eco-Radio KC*. Kansas City: KKFI.

Dermitzel, D. (Co-producer, segment producer, writer) (2009). Urban farms and gardens tour special. June 28 show. [Radio series episode]. In *Eco-Radio KC*. Kansas City: KKFI.

Dermitzel, D. (Segment producer, writer) (2009). March 17 show [Radio series episode]. In *Eco-Radio KC*. Kansas City: KKFI. Community Supported Agriculture.

Dermitzel, D. (Segment producer, writer) (2008). September 29 show [Radio series episode]. In *Eco-Radio KC*. Kansas City: KKFI. Growth in small-scale local agriculture.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Dermitzel, D., & Wagner, J. (June 2011). UMKC course examines planning and design strategies for urban agriculture. *Urban Grown*, DOI: www.cultivatekc.org.

Dermitzel, D. (April 2011). Healthier rivers through urban agriculture. *Urban Grown*, DOI: www.cultivatekc.org.

Dermitzel, D. (February 2011). A journey into perennial agriculture and food forestry. *Urban Grown*, DOI: www.cultivatekc.org.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

2014	Volunteer, Reaching Out From Within, a prison rehabilitation program
2014	Volunteer, Neighborhood Accountability Board, a restorative justice project
2006 – 2010	Board and committee member, Farmers' Community Market at Brookside
2005 – 2006	Board member, Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture
1990s	Travel through China, India, South-East Asia & Middle East
1992 – 1998	Voice-over actor for feature films and documentaries
	Literate in MS Office and basic web design

LANGUAGES

Fluency in English and German; basic proficiency in French