

designer | planner
**jenna
wargo**

www.jennawargo.com

jennalwargo@gmail.com

570.452.5102

I am AICP certified with a broad range of local government experience in State College, PA. I'm trained as an urban planner and graphic designer, I bring an artistic sensibility to the physical, social, and environmental aspects of my projects.

Design is a way of thinking, of determining people's underlying needs, and then delivering products and services that help them. Design combines an understanding of people, technology, society, and business.

Planning is about people, and I'm committed to broad engagement, moving the process forward while never losing sight of the purpose of my work. I have been inspired by the voices and dedications of the communities I've worked in, and I am committed to building stronger, better and more equitable places. My passion for economic development and redevelopment—moving jobs closer, enabling vibrant mixed use communities, and restoring the historic fabric of places is what drives me.

EDUCATION

2014 - 2016

University of Georgia | Athens, GA
Masters of Environmental Planning & Design
(Masters of Urban Planning & Design)

2010 - 2014

University of Louisville | Louisville, KY
Bachelors of Communication Art & Design

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Local Planning
Project Management
Physical Planning/Design
Graphic Design
Grant Writing
Land Development Review

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite
ArcGIS 10.5 & ArcGIS Pro
SketchUp
MS Office

PERSONAL SKILLS

Team Builder
Innovative
Organized
Efficient
Creative
Reliable
Effective Communicator

MEMBERSHIPS & ACCREDITATIONS

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
American Planning Association | No. 31458

Women in Leadership
eCornell | Cornell University, NY | 2020

Commercial Real Estate
eCornell | Cornell University, NY | 2019

Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP)
National Development Council
Anticipated Certification Completion: 2023

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 2019 - PRESENT

Township of Ferguson | State College, PA | Director of Planning & Zoning

- Responsible for the short and long term community planning of Ferguson Township
- Plan, organize, schedule, direct and oversee the work and activities of the personnel assigned to the Planning & Zoning Department
- Attend and participate in municipal and regional meetings with planning commissions, elected officials, Council of Governments and municipal staff
- Represent the Township's interest on a regional and county level regarding projects and prepare reports on analysis of regional/county studies and their importance and effect on the Township
- Review, critique and make recommendations on subdivision and land development plans
- Prepare the Capital Improvement Plan and a budget to meet the approved goals of the Department and is responsible for departmental expenditures and operating within budget limitations

KEY PROJECTS: Worked with staff to complete a **comprehensive rewrite** to the Township's **Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances** that resulted in more flexibility when land development plans are submitted. Recently initiated a **zoning district rewrite** for a **mixed-use corridor** in the Township, directly abutting Penn State University and the Borough of State College.

APRIL 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2019

Borough of State College | State College, PA | Planner | Senior Planner, Redevelopment

- Responsible for project prospecting, development and management for public-private economic and community development projects
- Evaluated potential real estate deals involving public resources, pro formas and negotiated terms for assistance
- Responsible for administration of Opportunity Zone development, and other public initiatives in housing, business support and public infrastructure financing
- Identified, researched and matched potential funding opportunities from State and Federal entities
- Assisted with the Planning Department's efforts to prepare and implement neighborhood plans, downtown plans, specific area plans and other community planning documents
- Coordinated implementation of activities resulting from the adoption of community plans and managed working relationships among Borough departments and outside agencies
- Prepared and submitted Capital Improvement Programs and operating budget requests related to the preparation and implementation of planning activities
- Conducted research and prepared reports, presentations and maps and served as the main GIS support for the Planning Department

KEY PROJECTS: Saved a **walkable elementary school** from closing due to school district budget cuts. Established two **local historic districts** and the **Historic and Architectural Review Board** to preserve adjacent neighborhoods to Penn State University and downtown. Worked on implementation of the **Neighborhood Sustainability Program**, managing a **\$5 million line of credit** to advance opportunities for homeownership and to maintain safe, stable and attractive neighborhoods.

HONORS & AWARDS

2014 - 2016

Women's Track and Field Scholarship | Academic All-American | University of Georgia, Athens, GA

2013 - 2014

Mortar Board - Pallas Chapter Communications Chair | University of Louisville, Louisville, KY

2010 - 2014

Women's Track and Field Scholarship | Academic All-American | University of Louisville, Louisville, KY