



McKenna Welcomes Stephanie Peña as Assistant Planner

DECEMBER 16, 2020



McKenna is pleased to announce the addition of Stephanie Peña to its team as an assistant planner. In her new role, Peña will be responsible for performing as the project planner for the Ecorse, Mich. Downtown Development Authority Plan and the Saginaw, Mich. HUD Programs' Consolidated and Annual Action Plan preparation. Additionally, Stephanie will support the planning and zoning administration for the City of Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Specializing in community engagement and higher education student services, Peña joins McKenna full-time after recently completing her master's degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science with a minor in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan.

While pursuing her graduate degree, Peña most recently worked as a social media curator and content creator for Community Innovators Lab (CoLab) Radio in Cambridge, Mass. Prior to that, she gained industry experience working as a research coordinator and strategic planner intern for Western Avenue Studios + Lofts, and as a development intern for Homeowners Rehab, Inc.

"Stephanie brings unique perspective as a planner starting her career, having rich experience in varied roles," said John Jackson, McKenna president. "We trust that her detail orientation and broad exposure will serve our clients well."

In her time at MIT, Peña was active with a variety of organizations, including her roles as co-founder and president of MIT's Latinx Graduate Student Association, advisor for the MIT Office of Graduate Education Graduate Students of Color Advisory Council, diversity ambassador for the MIT Office of Graduate Education Diversity Initiatives and finance committee member for the MIT Department of Urban Studies + Planning Student Council.

Born in Texas, raised in East Lansing, Mich. and now a resident of Detroit's Brush Park, Peña enjoys spending quality time with her two dogs, as well as cooking, practicing yoga, hiking and watching mystery shows.

Connect with her at [linkedin.com/in/stephaniepena](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephaniepena).

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