

MURP Speaker Series

Thursday, September 21, 2023

2:15-4:00pm, Wilkins Room, Humphrey School 215



Please join us for a presentation by Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District's Lisa Middag and Ben Shardlow titled **The Post Urban Renewal Downtown**. Lisa and Ben will provide a fun history lesson that highlights how the downtown core/Nicollet has been in a state of constant evolution, including challenges facing the core today.

2:15-2:30pm – Gather (light refreshments provided)

2:30-3:30pm – Program

3:30-4:00pm – Informal conversation

About Lisa and Ben

Lisa Middag is an urban planner who collaborates with communities and artists to support equitable, vibrant, and sustainable public spaces through inclusive placemaking and intentional community development. She is responsible for placemaking and public space engagement in downtown Minneapolis, including the historic Nicollet Mall. Lisa is the Director of Public Space Engagement for the Mpls Downtown Improvement District.

As Director of Urban Design for the mpls downtown council and Downtown Improvement District, Ben Shardlow advocates for investments that create a more successful pedestrian environment and leads collaborative work with community partners addressing root causes of public space challenges. Ben conceived of and directed the DID's Tactical Urbanism Initiative, which reframed safety hotspots as urban design challenges that can be addressed by experimental changes to environmental design and activation. He also serves as Vice Chair for the Creative Enterprise Zone in Saint Paul, where he leads their Public Space Committee.

