

JOHN ASHWORTH

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EXPERIENCE

Place Foundry LLC, Urban Planning firm in Rockford, IL

Place Designer (Summer 2025 – Fall 2025); *Place Analyst* (Fall 2024–Summer 2025)

- Partnered with Illinois municipalities to advance community redevelopment and revitalization initiatives for Illinois communities under 30,000 residents to strengthen local design, planning, and economic vitality, including conducting site analyses, facilitating public engagement sessions, preparing reports, and providing place-based coaching.
- Built and maintained the *Danville 2050 Comprehensive Plan* website, ensuring accurate integration of ArcGIS data and public survey results to inform planning decisions and stakeholder engagement.
- Collaborated with municipalities on grant writing, including the T-Mobile Hometown Program, AARP Community Challenge, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

RJA Sherwin Properties and Judson University, Chicago and Elgin, IL

Property Manager (Summer 2025 – Fall 2025)

- Manage residential operations for a multi-unit residential building in the Humboldt Park neighborhood and university dormitory at Judson University, supporting housing accessibility, maintenance planning, and resident engagement.

Judson University, Elgin, IL

Adjunct Professor (Fall 2022 – Spring 2025); *Graduate Assistant* (Fall 2021–Fall 2024)

- Instructed upper-level undergraduate courses (*Project Management - BUS412* and *Business Ethics - BUS302*), guiding students through real-world projects involving planning, stakeholder engagement, and strategic communication, culminating in presentations to university leadership and community partners.
- Supported the Office of the President (Dr. Gene Crume) on strategic campus and community projects, including representing the university at Elgin City Council meetings, contributing to on-campus development initiatives, and assisting with program design and communications.

City of Elgin, Award-winning municipal GIS Department in Elgin, IL

GIS Technician (Spring 2023 – Spring 2024)

- Developed GIS maps and analyzed field data for Elgin's Forestry (70%) and Water Management (30%) programs, translating engineering plans into actionable spatial data.
- Provided in-house SketchUp design consultation for the renovation of the Elgin GIS office.

100 Fold Studio Non-Profit Architecture Firm in Lakeside, MT

Construction Intern (Fall 2020 – Summer 2021); *Videography Intern* (Summer 2020 – Fall 2020)

- Assisted with planning, demolition, and construction during 100 Fold Studio's relocation to a renovated school facility, contributing to spatial design and project coordination.
- Responsible for creating digital media and web design, including (drone) videography, to support 100 Fold Studio's first fully online conference (during pandemic), and international architectural studio launches in Cambodia and Nepal.

EDUCATION

Judson University Graduate School of Business, Elgin, IL

M.A. (Organizational Leadership) May 2023

Judson University School of Art, Design and Arch., Elgin, IL

B.A. (Graphic Design, Architecture), May 2020

Cygnus Gymnasium, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

High School GED, July 2015

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certificate in Project Management, May 2024 (Technology & Manufacturing Association of Illinois)
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship, May 2020 (Judson University)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- **Judson Bike Shop**, Founder (2019): Founded and lead the only bike shop in Elgin, Illinois' sixth-largest city, operating as a nonprofit focused on community access and sustainable transportation.
- **River Life Elgin**, (2025): Drive community engagement and redevelopment efforts by serving on various planning committees, collaborating with partners including LJC, and shaping long-term planning initiatives in Elgin.

PUBLICATIONS

- Master's Thesis: "The Illinois Bicycle Comeback – Why the Bicycle is Making a Comeback in Illinois and the Solution to a Car-Centric Society", May 2024
- The Language Booklet, pt.1: Most-spoken languages, June 2024