

Boting (Bo) Zhang

Joyful and conscientious relationship with place and people
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NUTSHELL overview



Animated by chaos and stillness, complexity and integrity. I help groups stay curious and whole-bodied. Quick learner, slow thinker, enthusiastic dancer. Inspired by Robin Wall Kimmerer, adrienne maree brown, Liu Xiaobo, Edgar Villanueva, Nwamaka Agbo, Nanci Luna Jiménez, Nirali Shah, Bayo Akomolafe, Christopher Alexander, and many more.

Everything below reflects the labor of many. I don't list them as "my achievements", but rather as indicators of when I've acted in resonance and alignment with others.

SEEDLINGS education



Various healing trainings

PEOPLE: Practitioner's training, [Seattle School of Body Psychotherapy](#), 2018 – 2022.

GROUPS: Some lasting learnings include [Dare to Connect](#), Solfire Relational Institute, 2021; [Generating Transformative Change](#), Pacific Integral, 2018 – 2019; [Art of Participatory Leadership](#), Athena Group, 2018; [Pomegranate Center Fellow](#), 2014; [Basic mediation training](#), King County Dispute Resolution Center, 2011.

University of Washington, Master of Landscape Architecture

COMMUNITY PLANNING: [Thesis](#) on how power shaped a park over time. ASLA WA student design award. [Learning garden design-build](#), Guatemala. Rural planning study trip, India.

REAL ESTATE: Commercial Real Estate Dev. Assn. (NAIOP) Challenge winning team.

Yale University, BS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, with distinction

CS Departmental Student Advisory Committee. EE Curriculum Redesign Committee. Edward O. Lanphier Memorial Prize. Richard U. Light Fellowship, Japan.

YALESEATTLE, 2013–2016: Student-alumni conversations and visiting faculty talks on race. Alumni spotlights on finding meaningful careers. President, 2015–2016.

FORESTS primary work



City of Seattle Office of Planning & Community Development

REAL ESTATE STRATEGIST, EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (EDI)

ECOSYSTEM FACILITATION: Convenings of 500+ unique people combined over three years, to advance development led by communities of color, through historical reckoning, shared narrative, creative financing, and healing. Encouraging braver connections. Failing often.

BIPOC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP: Supporting grantees with acquisition and development. Helped secure \$45M additional City commitment to BIPOC community land ownership. Frequent presenter at community leadership trainings on financing and development.

INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE SHIFT: Staff culture surveys. Emergent project strategy. [Open letter on culture](#) (community response [here](#)). Public & institutional talks included NW Climate Conference; SOCAP 365 impact investing conference; Seattle Race & Social Justice Initiative Summit; Seattle Public Utilities; New York City Housing Preservation & Development.

Past Development Experience

BEACON DEVELOPMENT GROUP: SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPER, 2016 | HOUSING DEVELOPER, 2014–2016 | DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE, 2012–2014. Guest lecturer for University of Washington Community Economic Development class. Housing Development Consortium racial equity committee. Presented at American Planning Association Conference on

2011–

2007–
2011

1999–
2003

2018–

2011–
2016

challenges to affordable transit-oriented development. Clients included Pike Place Market PDA, 40 senior apartments at [MarketFront](#); El Centro de la Raza, [Plaza Roberto Maestas](#).

INVESTCO FINANCIAL CORPORATION: REAL ESTATE FINANCIAL ANALYST, 2012. Financial models, lender/investor packages for residential, industrial, retail, and land development.

MERCY HOUSING NORTHWEST: PROJECT ASSISTANT, 2011–2012. Assisted with housing development and rehabilitation projects in Seattle and rural Washington.

The Chiiori Project: Iya Valley, Japan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2006–2007 | ON-SITE MANAGER, 2005–2007

Here I learned the sacredness of place and community, as part of a mostly volunteer staff maintaining the historic [Chiiori](#) farmhouse as a guesthouse, farm, and gathering place. I worked to build shared power among residents, businesses, and government, in order to establish community-based tourism as a rural economic engine.

2005–
2007

FIRES

creative destruction,
creative inspiration

The Bramble Project

[Writing and activities](#) in search of healing truths. Public appearances include [UpZones](#) podcast, 2019; Seattle Race Conference, 2018; Seattle Design Festival, 2014 & 2018.

Moderated [a panel](#) with four leaders at the nexus of societal and individual healing, 2020.

[Questionnaire for Mayoral and Council candidates](#) on how to advance socially responsible development, co-signed by many local private & non-profit developers. Crosscut and the Daily Journal of Commerce published all candidates' responses, 2013.

2012–

Between Americans

Facilitated a year-long conversation among 12 Hillary and 12 Trump voters. My [interactive story about the year](#) was covered in [The Evergrey](#) and [deepened my journey](#) into healing. Honors included Seattle Magazine [Most Influential People](#) “Ones to Watch”, 2018; [KING 5 News](#) “Game Changers”. Public appearances included moderating for [UW Impact](#) between two students from UW College Republicans and Young Democrats, 2018; [Womxn Act on Seattle](#), 2018; [Crosscut Festival](#), 2018; [Town Hall Seattle](#), 2017.

2016–
2017

WE THE PUBLIC: A [one-night arts event](#) on political dialogue. Covered on [Citizen University TV](#). Follow-up conversation at Seattle Central College, 2018.

Other Community Involvement

Various small efforts in support of BIPOC communities, organically and as requested. This has ranged from mentoring young women of color, to helping with funding applications, to building a website for a small tea shop, to a land value appraisal for a local landowner.

BUILD ART SPACE EQUITABLY (BASE): Member of first [cohort of BIPOC development and cultural workers](#) training together to grow and anchor cultural spaces, 2017–2018. Helped design subsequent curriculum, 2018–2019.

CAPITOL HILL CHAMPION STEERING COMMITTEE: Collected [community priorities](#) for more responsive development at a new Light Rail station, 2013–2014.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD: [Helped review](#) new construction designs. Rotated into 4 different neighborhood boards in 2011–2012 (and as a substitute member through 2013).