



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

REBECCA MOORE | BELMONT UNIVERSITY

WEST GAINES SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTER: UTILIZING SERVICE-LEARNING IN THE DESIGN STUDIO

ABSTRACT:

Third-year interior design students collaborated with alumni of the West Gaines Colored School in Lawrence County, Tennessee, to design a Black history museum and community center. This service-learning studio enabled students to work in partnership with community members from an underserved rural area. Through this experiential learning opportunity, students gained a sense of purpose while applying skills learned in the classroom.

**THEMATIC FOCUS: LEARNING THE CHORDS | SURPRISING
COLLABORATIONS | LISTENING CLOSELY**

BIO(S):

REBECCA MOORE

Rebecca Brewer Moore obtained her Bachelor of Interior Design from Auburn University and Master of Interior Design from Savannah College of Art and Design. She practiced design in the commercial industry for 10+ years in Nashville, TN, beginning her teaching career as an adjunct professor, teaching Building Systems. She has now been in the academic realm of higher education for 24 years, serving in many roles including Department Chair. She is NCIDQ certified and is a registered Interior Designer in Tennessee. She has taught a variety of classes but is most passionate about conceptual development, design for social impact, and service learning in design education. Additionally, she is on a quest to define "Meaningful Design" and how meaningfulness impacts the future of the built environment.

Nashville, TN | March 26-28, 2025