David Wachsmuth – Principal investigator and Lead Designer

David Wachsmuth is the Canada Research Chair in Urban Governance at McGill University, where he is also an Associate Professor in the School of Urban Planning. He directs UPGo, the Urban Politics and Governance research group at McGill, where he leads a team of researchers investigating pressing urban governance problems related to economic development, environmental sustainability, and housing markets. He is the co-lead of the Adapting Urban Environments for the Future theme of the McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative, where he is part of a broad interdisciplinary team developing new ways of conceptualizing, measuring, and improving urban sustainability. He is one of the world’s leading experts on the impacts of short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb on cities around the world, and consults widely with municipalities and community organizations on designing appropriate regulations. Dr. Wachsmuth has published widely in top journals in urban studies, planning and geography, and his work has been covered extensively in the national and international media, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Associated Press, and the Washington Post.

Kevin Manaugh – Principal Investigator

Andrew Gonzalez – Principal Investigator

Maxime Bélanger De Blois – Senior Designer

Cloé St-Hilaire – Contributor

Cloé St-Hilaire is currently a PhD student in Planning at the University of Waterloo, studying the financialization and digitization of Canada’s rental housing sector. She is working as a research assistant at UPGo and has co-authored numerous reports on short-term rentals. She completed a master’s degree in Urban Planning at McGill University, as well as a Bachelor of Commerce in Sustainability Management and Urban Studies. During her master’s studies, she worked as a lab supervisor for MSSI, leading a team of students developing content on housing and neighbourhood change. Practical application of her education was gained while working in the social enterprise sector as a food security analyst for a vertical aquaponics start-up. Cloé also worked to promote female entrepreneurship in Senegalese female-led agriculture businesses. Her research interests are at the intersection of housing justice, financialization and the social implications of technology.

Emma Ezvan – Contributor

Currently a second-year master student in Urban Planning at McGill University, Emma completed an undergraduate degree in Political and Social Sciences in France, and a Master’s degree in Inequalities and Social Science at the London School of Economics during which she did a research project on the impact of gentrification in East London on the long-established Bangladeshi community. She worked as an intern for the Société de Requalification des Quartiers Anciens in Paris, a public housing firm combating poor housing conditions by replacing derelict buildings with new social housing units. She is currently working as a research assistant with the McGill UPGo group, studying the Green Alley Program in Montreal through the lens of public space appropriation, and analyzing how discourses about the environment are mobilized in urban planning projects.

Daniela Rodriguez – Contributor

Daniela Rodríguez is currently a second-year master's student in Urban Planning at McGill University. She completed a Bachelor of Architecture. She has worked in landscape architecture and urban ecology projects at Diana Wiesner Landscape Architecture Studio in Bogotá and on urban planning topics in Bogota's public sector. She is currently working as a research assistant with the UPGo group, studying the Green Alleys in Montreal as an opportunity to approach the climate emergency from local and community-oriented interventions to enhance environmental benefits, accessibility to public green spaces and support walkability. She is also studying how institutional, political, and civil society discourses about the environment influence urban planning projects.

Connor Cordingley – Contributor

Connor is a current Master of Urban Planning student at McGill University. He completed a Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology - also at McGill - in 2017, studying the social and economic geography of colonial cities. His current research focuses on the creation and implementation of municipal climate plans: specifically, the relationship between these documents and key stakeholders in Montreal’s urban governance apparatus. He works as a research assistant with McGill’s Urban Politics and Governance research group (UPGo) and contributed sections on Montreal’s recent climate action plans to the sustainability dashboard.

Robin Basalaev-Binder – Contributor

Robin completed their Master of Urban Planning in 2018 at McGill University. Their passion for social and racial justice, equity, as well as affordable and accessible housing has led them to pursue research centered on these issues. Their sustainability research focuses on access and equity in Canada, and the disparities present in Smart Cities approaches. They have also conducted studies exploring gentrification, urban resilience, short-term rentals in the housing system, and the intersection of immigration and housing. Robin is particularly interested in how communities marginalized by the system and individuals with vulnerable immigration status can participate in urban planning processes and advocacy. Their work focuses on the US, Canadian, and Latin American contexts.

Jennah Landgraf – Contributor

Sara Hashemi – Contributor

Josh Medicoff – Contributor

Camille Forest – Contributor