

LIZ BARRY

methods for the madness

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EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, **METAGOV**, Boston, MA. 2024-current

Lead global playground and laboratory for self-governance in a digital age, and within it, serve as the Research Director for Interoperable Deliberative Tools.

COO & HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS, **THE COMPUTATIONAL DEMOCRACY PROJECT**, Seattle, WA. 2022-2024

Implemented **Polis** for "listening at scale" with facilitators, social movements, civil society organizations, journalists, indigenous nations, governments, and peacebuilders. Maintained administrative and operational stability.

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, **THE COMPUTATIONAL DEMOCRACY PROJECT**, Seattle, WA. 2018-2022

With the creators of Polis, established a foundation to steward this open source, real-time system for gathering, analyzing & understanding what large groups of people think in their own words, enabled by advanced statistics & machine learning.

ELECTED COUNCILOR, **GATHERING FOR OPEN SCIENCE HARDWARE (GOSH)**, global. 2021-2023

Served on the inaugural Community Council of GOSH, a hacker community dedicated to making open science hardware ubiquitous by 2025. Established processes and norms for broadening participation beyond electeds for distribution and management of USD\$1M.

CO-FOUNDER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, **PUBLIC LAB**, New Orleans. 2010-2022

Established worldwide community to leverage distributed peer production towards locally-led and place-based environmental investigation. Co-created platform for geographic questioning, organizing, monitoring, and advocacy.

CO-FOUNDER, CO-DIRECTOR, **TREEKIT**, New York, NY. 2009-2019

Created citizen science and educational processes for participatory urban environmental management, scaled by the City of New York into 2015's TreesCount! in which thousands of participants mapped, measured, identified >750,000 street trees.

URBAN DESIGNER, **SKIDMORE OWINGS & MERRILL**, New York, NY. 2007-2009

Developed open space system, zero-carbon transportation plan, and sustainability argumentation for Eco-City Tianjin. Coordinated site works consultants for University Town @ the National University of Singapore (NUS).

CO-FOUNDER, **TALK TO ME**, New York, NY, and the continental US. 2002-2005, ongoing

Catalyzed public dialogue and interaction among strangers in the five boroughs of New York City & during a 10,000 mile tour across America. Organized "Talk To Me" parties for strangers in Bryant Park to meet and self-organize around questions.

COORDINATOR, **DURHAM INNER-CITY GARDENERS (DIG)**, Durham, NC. 2000-2002

Co-created a youth urban agriculture program growing fresh produce and flowers on vacant land for sale at the Durham Farmers Market. Co-created jobs program for justice-involved youth to contract with the City to regenerate neglected parkland.

SELECTED POSTS, PUBLICATIONS, PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- "Towards Interoperability: Pursuing an ontology for data exchange between deliberative democratic platforms."** Margaret Hughes, Elianna DeSota, Matthew Victor, Stuart Lynn, John M Stormonth-Darling, Liz Barry.
Adjunct Proceedings of the Sixth Decennial Aarhus Conference: Computing X Crisis.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3737609.3747119> 18 August 2025
- "Values in Governance Technology"**. Liz Barry and Joseph Gubbels. Essay in series: "Deliberative Approaches to Inclusive Governance" published by the Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy (MTD) at McGill University, MILA, and CIFAR.
<https://www.mediatechdemocracy.com/values-in-governance-technology> 18 April 2025
- "Opportunities and Risks of LLMs for Scalable Deliberation with Polis"**. Christopher T. Small, Ivan Vendrov, Esin Durmus, Hadjar Homaei, Elizabeth Barry, Julien Cornebise, Ted Suzman, Deep Ganguli, Colin Megill.
arXiv:2306.11932v1 [cs.SI]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.11932> 20 June 2023
- "Refining Relationships: How an Unlikely Community-Scientist Partnership Led to a Historic Environmental Justice Victory"**. Nicholas Shapiro, Jackie James, Liz Barry, Shaun Crawford, Jennifer Pusatier, Adele Henderson, Timothy Logsdon, Joyce Hogenkamp, and Tom Gentile. Environmental Justice. Vol 16, No 2.
<https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2022.0018> 5 April 2023
Republished in Routledge Handbook of Environmental Anthropology, 2nd Edition, 2026
- "'Coherent Mode' for the World's Public Square"**. Colin Megill, Elizabeth Barry, Christopher Small (The Computational Democracy Project).
arXiv:2211.12571v1 [cs.SI]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.12571> 22 November 2022
- "Community Science and the Design of Climate Governance"**. Liz Barry.
Climatic Change 171(3-4). DOI: 10.1007/s10584-021-03295-7 April 2022
- "Science from the Bottom Up: A Conversation with Public Lab on Facilitating Community Science in China and the U.S."**. Liz Barry and Stevie Lewis, interviewed by Gillian Zwicker. CTRL FORWARD, a blog of the Science and Technology Innovation Program, Wilson Center.
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/science-the-bottom-conversation-public-lab-facilitating-community-science-china-and-the-us> 22 August 2019
- "Citizens, Politics, and Civic Technology: A Conversation with g0v & EDGI"**. Fa-ti Fan, Shun-Ling Chen, Chia-Liang Kao, M Murphy, Matt Price, Liz Barry. East Asian Science Technology and Society, an International Journal. 13(2):279-297. June 2019
- "Public Laboratory: Play and civic engagement"**. Breen, J, S Dosemagen, D Blair and L Barry. In The Playful Citizen: Power, Creativity, Knowledge, eds. J Raessens, S Lammes, R Glas, M de Lange. Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press. 2018
- "vTaiwan: Public Participation Methods on the Cyberpunk Frontier of Democracy"**. Barry, Liz. Civicist.org; archived on the Wayback Machine and republished by the Government of Taiwan. Translated into Spanish and Chinese.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20160818184738/http://civichall.org/civicist/vtaiwan-democracy-frontier/> 11 August 2016
- "Commons-based Peer Production, Open Science and 'Small Data'"**. Schweik, C.M., Barry, L. D'Ignazio, C., and Gehrke, G. Paper presentation in Governance of New Technologies panel, American Political Science Association conference. San Francisco, CA. 2015

- "Five Borough Farm II: Growing the Benefits of Urban Agriculture in New York City"**. Altman, L., L Barry, M Barry, K Kuhl, P Silva, B Wilks. Eds. C Bauer, and R Fletcher. The Design Trust for Public Space. New York: Vanguard Printing. 2014
- "Civic, Citizen and Grassroots Science: Towards a transformative scientific research model"**. Dosemagen, S., M. Lippincott, L. Barry, D. Blair, J. Breen. Eds. Offenhuber, Dietmar, and Katja Schechtner. Accountability Technologies - Tools for Asking Hard Questions. Vienna, New York: Springer. 2013
- "TreeKIT: Measuring, Mapping, and Collaboratively Managing Urban Forests"**. Silva, P., Barry, E., Plitt, S. Cities and the Environment (CATE). Volume 6, Issue 1: Urban Forestry Practitioners Share All, Article 3. 11 June 2013
- "EcoHack Highlights: Sewage Sensors, Pedal Power, and DIY Cotton Candy"**. Liz Barry. PBS MediaShift IdeaLab Blog. 19 December 2012
- "Movement Based Arts Inspire Public Lab's DIY Environmental Science"**. PBS MediaShift IdeaLab Blog. 13 August 2012
- "Occupy UC Davis, November 21, 2011"**. Michele Marie Tobias, Stewart Long, Liz Barry, Alex Mandel. Public Lab Journal of Environmental Research: The Grassroots Mapping Forum. Q1 2012
- "With Public Lab, a Camera Flies in Brooklyn to Monitor Pollution"**. Liz Barry. PBS MediaShift IdeaLab Blog. 10 March 2011
- "Re:Source_Value"**. Liz Barry. Columbia GSAPP Abstract. 2008
- "You Talkin' To Me?"**. Liz Barry and Bill Wetzell. Harper's Magazine. April 2005

MEDIA COVERAGE

Liz Barry has been quoted in The New Yorker, the New York Times, The Nation, MAKE Magazine, and Atlantic Cities. She was named an Open Government Champion by the Sunlight Foundation.

Public Lab has been featured in the New York Times, the Economist (with a Public Lab foldout paper spectrometer included in every print issue), the Guardian, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, BBC, NPR, PBS, The New Yorker, Al Jazeera, Huffington Post, Gizmodo, MAKE Magazine, LifeHacker, Inhabitat, Good Magazine, Wired, TechCrunch, Fast Company, Yes! Magazine, Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Discover Magazine, Nature, Newsweek, Landscape Architecture Magazine, Vice, and many other outlets. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Lab

TreeKIT became an official city-wide initiative of the New York City Parks Department as discussed in NYC 2.0: The Problem Solvers on WNYE and in The Columbia Spectator.

Talk To Me and related initiatives have been covered by the New York Times, CNN, MSNBC, the BBC, The Oprah Winfrey Show, This American Life, The Associated Press, Reuters, The New York Post, The New York Daily News, NY1, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Washington Post, and in other national and international media outlets.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk_to_Me_\(NYC\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk_to_Me_(NYC))

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ADDITIONAL ROLES

- Member, **g0v** ("gov-zero")
- Member, **OpenStreetMap Foundation**
- Member, **Wikimedia Foundation**
- Member, Deliberative Technology Working Group, **Engage California** (2025+)
- Technology Advisor, **RewriteLA** (2025+)
- Member, **SEEKCommons** Project (2025+)
- Founding Board Member, **Centre for Applied Ecological Remediation CAER** (2024-2025)
- Member, **Citizen Assemblies & Deliberation Allies CADA** (2023+)
- Guest critic, urban design program, **Columbia GSAPP** (2007+)
- Member, **Traditional Dream Factory**, DAO & village in **OASA.earth** network (2020+)
- Advisory board member, **Future Democracy Hub** (2019-2020)
- Facilitator & trainer, Self-Organizing Systems; Internal coordinator, Political Strategy and Strategy Stewardship; **Extinction Rebellion NYC** (2019-2020)
- Expert reviewer, mentorship program, **Open Hardware Makers, Mozilla** (2020)
- Consultant and traveling artist, **Aerocene by Tomas Saraceno** (2015-2019)
- Adjunct professor, urban & landscape design and geographic information systems, **Columbia GSAPP, Pratt Institute, Parsons the New School for Design** (2007-2019)
- Lead organizer, **Data Rescue NYC, Environmental Data & Governance Initiative EDGI**; Contributor to Data Together, **Qri** (2017-2018)
- Co-founder and co-operator, **Quality Operations Hackerspace**, top floor corner lab of the original Pfizer Pharmaceutical Factory, Brooklyn (2012-2017)
- Founding board member then Advisory Board Member, **596Acres** (2012-2014, 2015-2016)
- Board member, **GreenMaps** (2012-2013)
- Co-organizer, **GeoNYC** (2013)
- Member of **GeoNYC, MapTime, #geobreakfast, OSM NYC, BetaNYC** (2009-2016)
- Artist in Residence, **Institute for the Future of the Book** (2004-2006)

EDUCATION

M.Sc. ARCHITECTURE + URBAN DESIGN 2007

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

B. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 2002 *summa cum laude*

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, College of Design

LINKS

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