Amanda Loper — Principal, David Baker Architects

Amanda Loper, AIA, LEED AP, established and leads DBA_BHM, the David Baker Architects’ southeastern office in Birmingham, Alabama. Amanda joined the firm in 2006 and was made Principal in 2014. Her diverse projects with DBA include affordable housing, market-rate housing, commercial buildings, and policy studies. Amanda focuses on the big-picture potential of sites as well as overseeing details that create unique built environments. She presents and writes frequently on aspects of urban design, working to bring social awareness to issues of housing and density within the urban setting.

Sam Beall — Architect, Duncan Wisniewski Architecture

Sam is an architect seeking to serve is community, trying to design places that improve daily life for all. What can we do to improve access to quality early education? How can we help seniors age safely within their neighborhood? What does it mean to design for wellness? How do we balance aesthetics, functionality, and budgets to create sustainable and beautiful places? He learned about architecture at the University of Virginia. He has practiced in New York City, San Francisco, and Burlington Vermont. Husband and Twin dad. Retired Rose Fellow. Gardener.

April De Simone — Principal, Designing the WE

April De Simone has over 15 years of experience in strategically designing, developing and launching for-profit, non-profit and government projects. Ms. De Simone continues to advocate for social innovation, co-creating various for-purpose ventures and initiatives that promote market based solutions to address complex social challenges. A Dean Merit Scholar, she recently completed her Master of Science in Design and Urban Ecologies from Parsons the New School for Design. Ms. De Simone continues to be recognized for her leadership and dedication in supporting frameworks that promote a just and equitable society.