

# NATALIE PRUETT

nataliepruett.com

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Effective leader, cerebral economist, and resourceful urban strategist with more than a decade of experience blending analysis, institutional insights, and community input to improve the impact and transparency of governments and nonprofits. A proven track record of developing and implementing innovative solutions to complex problems. An engaging communicator who values collaboration and excels at public speaking. Successfully secured and awarded more than \$60 million in grant funding. Grounded by extensive experience working with community-based groups and residents. Technical skills include econometric/regression analysis (Stata and R), spatial analysis (ArcGIS and QGIS), graphic design, and cost-benefit analysis.

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## EDUCATION

### Ph.D. in Economic Geography

*London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom, 2024*

### Master of Science in City Design and Social Science

*London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom, 2018*

### Bachelor of Science in Economics

Specialization in Environmental Economics & Management

*Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 2009*

### Bachelor of Arts in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy

Specialization in Political Economy

*James Madison College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 2008*

### Undergraduate Semesters Abroad

*Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey, Summer 2007*

*Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Spring 2007*

*Nimes, France, Summer 2006*

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Executive Director

Flint Police Foundation, Flint, Michigan

*August 2020 – Present*

Increased annual donations by 36%. Forged new partnerships to position the organization for long-term sustainability.

### Head of Growth

Dynamo Metrics, Ann Arbor, Michigan

*August 2020 – Present*

Oversee sales and accounts divisions for the company, which specializes in software solutions for government, philanthropic, and nonprofit institutions. Doubled sales revenue during my first year.

### Research Fellow

Center for Local Government Finance & Policy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

*September 2018 – August 2019*

Researched state-level early warning systems for detecting local government fiscal distress with support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. Authored a case study analysis and developed a fiscal distress calculator tool.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

### Co-Developer

Flint Property Portal, Flint, Michigan

*January 2016 – June 2018*

Designed the Flint Property Portal – an online platform that visualizes and collects 4 million parcel data points for properties located in Flint, Michigan. Secured project funding and managed partnerships with the platform hosts (City of Flint and Genesee County Land Bank Authority). The Portal was awarded the Bloomberg International Cities of Service “Engaged Cities Prize” in the fall of 2019.

### Planning & Development Consultant

City of Flint, Department of Planning and Development, Flint, Michigan

*December 2013 – December 2018*

Worked with executive-level staff across multiple administrations and within various governance structures to author and implement bold, nationally recognized plans that have led to more than \$70 million investment. Designed and implemented programs and policies, built and maintained relationships, developed communication strategies and materials, facilitated community engagement, and conducted rigorous data analysis.

### Neighborhood Revitalization Consultant

Genesee County Land Bank Authority, Flint, Michigan

*September 2011 – July 2018*

Provided an array of services in program leadership, policy development, communications, and research to the Executive Director and the Director of Planning & Neighborhood Revitalization in acquiring, managing, adapting, and transferring its inventory of publicly owned property, which accounts for more than 20% of all property in the city of Flint.

### Director, Clean & Green Program

Genesee County Land Bank Authority, Flint, Michigan

*September 2012 – 2016*

Directed the Clean & Green Program, which organizes 60 community-based groups in reimagining, adapting, and maintaining more than 10,000 vacant properties annually. Quadrupled the operating budget during my first three years. Managed staff, secured grant funding, and directed all program activities to invest more than \$3 million in Flint.

### Fellow

Center for Community Progress, Flint, Michigan

*May 2014 – May 2016*

Authored a report analyzing tax-foreclosed property conveyance systems in Flint. Convened and provided technical assistance to cities across the country in undertaking new initiatives around vacant property adaptation.

### Program Manager

Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Flint, Michigan

*April 2012 – August 2014*

Managed the Neighborhoods Small Grants Program that annually awards grants between \$500 and \$15,000 to dozens of community-based organizations. Developed a nationally recognized data collection process that continues to increase resident engagement in local-level planning, the *Flint Neighborhood Inventory*.

### Neighborhood Planning Consultant

Ruth Mott Foundation, Flint, Michigan

*September 2011 – December 2012*

Facilitated dozens of community workshops on historic segregation, urban resilience, vacant property adaptation, neighborhood planning, and community visioning. Co-authored a Flint Southside Neighborhood Plan.

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

YWCA of Greater Flint Board Treasurer, Present

Rotary International Global Grant Scholarship Recipient, 2017/2018

Community Progress Leadership Institute, Harvard University, 2015

Community Foundation of Greater Flint Neighborhoods Small Grants Committee Member, 2014 - 2018

NAACP of Flint, Michigan Member, 2014 - 2018

Rotary International Group Study Exchange Delegate to Chungcheongnam-do, South Korea, 2013

Economic Development Advisory Committee Member, *Imagine Flint Master Plan*, 2012 - 2014

Michigan Center for Innovation and Economic Prosperity Earhart Fellow, 2008

Michigan State University Freshman Class Council Representative, 2004/2005

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## PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH REPORTS, & SELECT PLANS

- "Assessing Existing Local Government Fiscal Early Warning System through Four State Case Studies: Colorado, Louisiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania," (with Eric Scorsone), *Center for Local Government Finance & Policy*, December 2020.
- "Busy Streets Theory: The Effects of Community-engaged Greening on Violence," (with Heinze et al.), *American Journal of Community Psychology*, September 2018.
- "Flint Property Portal," [www.flintpropertyportal.com](http://www.flintpropertyportal.com), online platform for parcel-information sharing and management for the City of Flint and Genesee County Land Bank Authority, launched December 2017.
- "Rebuild Flint the Right Way: Flint Water Crisis Infrastructure Response Guide" for the City of Flint, officially released August 2016.
- "Genesee County Land Bank Authority Disposition Policy for Properties in Flint" for the Genesee County Land Bank Authority, adopted May 2016.
- "Catch or Release? An Analysis of Residential Tax Foreclosure Conveyance in Flint, Michigan between 2008 and 2015," Center for Community Progress, published May 2016.
- "Mitigating Blight and Building Community Pride in a Legacy City: Lessons Learned from a Land Bank's Clean and Green Programme," (with Richard C. Sadler), *Community Development Journal of Oxford University Press*, December 2015.
- "Vacant Property Maintenance Plan," Genesee County Land Bank Authority and City of Flint, adopted April 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- "Beyond Blight: City of Flint Comprehensive Blight Elimination Framework," for the City of Flint, adopted February 2015.
- "Your Neighborhood Inventory," citywide residential and commercial parcel condition survey for the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and City of Flint, launched September 2012.
- "Vacant Land Policy for Greening and Gardening," for the Genesee County Land Bank Authority, adopted December 2010.

## **SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- Brookings Institution Municipal Finance Conference, 2020
  - Connecting Global Futures, Brussels, Belgium, October 2018
  - Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, September 2016
  - Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Community Development Forum, Rebuilding Flint Through and Beyond the Water Crisis, Flint, Michigan, September 2016
  - The White House Domestic Policy Council Flint Community Development Roundtable, Flint, Michigan, May 2016
  - United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhoods Conference, Washington D.C., March 2016
  - Michigan Association of County Treasurers Conference, Lansing, Michigan, February 2016
  - National Vacant Properties Conference, Detroit, Michigan, May 2015
  - Michigan State Housing Development Authority Conference, Lansing, Michigan, April 2015
  - Michigan Community Development Association Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2015
  - City of Gary, Indiana Blight Elimination Roundtable, Gary, Indiana, February 2015
  - Macon-Bibb County of Georgia Blight Elimination Task Force, Macon, Georgia, November 2014
  - White House SC2 Flint Blight Elimination Roundtable, Flint, Michigan, July 2014
  - Michigan Land Bank Leadership Summit, Traverse City, Michigan, June 2014
  - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Green Infrastructure Conference, Lansing, Michigan, May 2014
  - National Vacant Properties Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 2013
  - National Land Bank Conference, Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 2011
  - Michigan State Housing Development Authority Conference, Lansing, Michigan, April 2011
  - National Vacant Properties Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, October 2010
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## **SELECT GRANTS**

- Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Michigan Blight Elimination Grant (2017), \$500,000
- United States Treasury Department Hardest Hit Fund Demolition Grants (2013 – 2016), \$48.585 million
- United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Violence Prevention Research Grant (2015), \$6 million
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant (2014), \$500,000
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Michigan Blight Elimination Grant (2013), \$3.7 million
- Ruth Mott Foundation Clean & Green Grants (2010 – 2017), \$2 million