

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ann McDonald

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BIO

Ann McDonald is an Associate Professor in Design and Undergraduate Program Head: Design. She studied at the Institute of Design in Chicago, earned a BFA from the University of Washington in Seattle, and subsequently received an MFA in graphic design from Yale University.

Her research and project-based inquiries investigate the potential for increased engagement, meaningful correlation, and learning offered by dynamic information systems. Exhibit and interactive design work for The Boston Symphony Orchestra, The New England Aquarium, The National Health Sciences Consortium and the American Society of Plant Biology have offered wide audiences access to complex topics. Ongoing projects in academic planning and environmental science areas explore the potential of interactive and participatory information systems to assist individuals and communities in better linking their everyday decision-making to broader social impacts and consequences.

She was a lead investigator for the Sticks + Stones Project, a collaborative exchange examining labeling and stereotyping, which won a Core 77 Design Education Initiatives Design Award. And principal investigator for No2NOx, using participatory design methods with middle school students in science classrooms to identify better choices for a better planet, which won a MacArthur Foundation-funded Digital Media Learning Lab Award. She is also a co-founder of Advisestream, a comprehensive academic advising, and student planning platform, now part of Civitas Learning.

She is currently investigating the role of the diagram, drawing and visual notational systems to document, analyze, and synthesize understanding of current conditions and experiences, and to speculate, envision and create future experiences through the design of frameworks that anticipate participation and improvisation.