BETSY PANDORA ‘10

GRADUATE DEGREE: Master of City and Regional Planning
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE: B.A. in Theatre - The Ohio State University
CURRENT JOB: Executive Director for the Short North Alliance

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE OSU FOR YOUR MCRP DEGREE?
I was impressed by the range of experiences that students receive in the program. From the diversity of the curriculum, to the study abroad opportunities and connections to internships - it was the perfect place to expand my career.

DESCRIBE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE YOU HAD IN GRADUATE SCHOOL.
One of the most memorable experiences I had in the program was studying abroad in Dresden, Germany. I learned so much about how people from different backgrounds can unite to solve common and fundamentally similar problems regardless of language or other barriers.

DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNSHIP WHILE IN THE PROGRAM?
Yes. I did two internships and use everything I learned in them on a daily basis in my current job. The internships were instrumental in exposing me to both skills and networks that helped me to advance my knowledge and effectiveness as a planning professional in Columbus, Ohio.

HOW DID YOUR TIME IN THE PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?
OSU’s CRP program was very valuable in launching my career in the planning world. The connections and expertise of faculty are key and it is a very special place.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE MCRP PROGRAM?
Shortly after graduating, I took a position at the City of Columbus in the public health department managing a program on Health & the Built Environment. I was responsible for educating developers about the importance of active living and creating programs to beautify dis-invested neighborhoods through public art.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT JOB?
Today, I am the Executive Director for the Short North Alliance. I oversee one of our communities most active and influential neighborhood based non-profits, operate a special improvement district, and facilitate initiatives which support a vibrant community of over 300 small business owners, spur tourism, and foster economic development in the City of Columbus.

WHAT HAVE YOU VALUED THE MOST WHEN YOU HIRE CRP GRADUATES?
Focus, discipline, honestly, maturity, and compassion.