SISTERS: LEVERAGING CIVIC ASSETS FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

A Sustainable City Year Program Studio

MWF 1:00-4:50PM, Lawrence 375
Instructor: Ceara O’Leary, Assistant Professor, Lawrence 316 [office hours by appointment]

The Sustainable City Year Program harnesses multidisciplinary University of Oregon thinking to address issues facing Oregon cities in today’s social, economic and climate context. In this studio, students will build upon foundational coursework in the planning program and collaborate with the city of Sisters, Oregon to leverage civic assets, re-envision existing buildings, propose new uses, and integrate public space with housing proposals that meet community needs. Key design considerations and explorations will include the adaptive reuse of an existing school building, new appropriately sized workforce housing that enables the economic and social vitality of Sisters, and the definition and design of a more resilient community center, all responsive to the culture, environment and climate of Sisters. Sisters is a small mountain town in the eastern foothills of the Cascades with a highway thoroughfare, recreation economy, robust local social life and contemporary climate-related pressures. This studio will explore how community spaces coupled with housing can maximize civic assets and contribute to local resilience – and what that means in the context of small mountain towns. Coursework will include consultation with city officials, colleagues in 3PM and site visits. Studio projects will be responsive to place, meeting multiple community needs, integrating housing and civic spaces, and prioritizing design in the public interest.

Sustainable City Year Program: https://sci.uoregon.edu/sustainable-city-year-program-0
SCYP Sisters Site: https://sci.uoregon.edu/sustainable-city-year-program-sisters-0

Ceara O’Leary, AIA is a new Assistant Professor with a focus on community-engaged design at the intersection of policy, infrastructure and neighborhood spaces. She joins UO following ten years at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center.