

Mikhaela Donaldson is the Business Manager for Local Abode a Precinct Management company based in Johannesburg. She obtained her Masters in Urban Studies from the University of the Witwatersrand in 2016 through a study on urban regeneration and has over several years' experience within the built environment industry, starting initially as an urban studies and planning researcher and moving into precinct management space in 2017.

Within her current role at Local Abode which includes precinct, project, company and client relationship management and facilitation, she is tasked with the development and implementation of public space management tools and strategic urban intervention projects related to city building, urban renewal, community activation and public private partnership.

She has had further opportunity through the U.S. State Department International Visitor Leadership Program on Urban Revitalisation, to explore themes around social equity in rapidly urbanising cities, community driven public space management and activation models, strategic planning as a mechanism for just city building and public private partnerships as a delivery instrument.

Her approach to urbanism is informed by an appreciation for the symbiotic relationship between physical environments and the people who use and shape them, and her pursuits have sought to explore how these places can be and should be adapted and transformed to better suit the greatest number of users, ideally becoming sustainable, supportive and innovative spaces.