Michelle Stadelman joined our team in January as an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow and we are very glad to have her. Co-hosted by Delta DB and Hope Enterprise Corporation, Michelle works with us and HOPE towards our shared goal of raising social and financial equity for rural communities through the built environment. Through this partnership, Delta communities are being strengthened with the essential tools for social resiliency and sustainability. Michelle brings further capacity to our organizations, leading several of our joint projects and linking the shared values.

We asked Michelle a few questions about herself; read on to get to know her better.

Where are you from?
Originally from Northeast Wisconsin, with quite a few stops between there and my home now in Greenwood.

Where did you study?
University of Minnesota — Twin Cities and Boston Architectural College.

What are your hobbies?
I enjoy quizzing my coworkers on things from the 80s & 90s and then being terribly disarmed when they remind me they were not yet born when those events happened or have never heard of a particularly fantastic hair band. I also enjoy hiking, cooking & reading.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I love to work with community members and residents, helping them see that they can make change happen within their communities. I am able to hold an amplifier to the voices of the residents in rural communities throughout Mississippi and turn it to eleven. I am in the fortunate role where my job is to help communities recognize their own assets and help them utilize those assets to strengthen social and financial equity through the built environment. At the rural scale, the small wins are elevated and make a larger impact on the community and serves as a catalyst for further change.
Tell us about your pets.

I have three dogs: Bonsai, Lola & Leni.

What projects are you working on right now?

**EASTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION**

We are renovating and reconstructing 40+ single family houses in a neighborhood outside of Moorhead, MS.

**HOPE'S SMALL TOWNS PARTNERSHIP WORK**

We are working with small town leaders, residents, and HOPE to implement strategic investments in the 7 towns HOPE has partnered with: Moorhead, Drew, Itta Bena, Shaw, Utica, Louisville, & Yazoo City, MS. Delta DB recently completed work on Itta Bena’s community center and we are currently working on playgrounds for several towns.

**BLIGHT ELIMINATION PROGRAMS**

We have applied for funding from Mississippi Home Corporation through their Blight Elimination Program to clear blighted residential properties in the cities of Shaw and Drew.

Michelle helped lead our UPCYCLE apprenticeship program this spring. Pictured: Emily Roush-Elliott, apprentice Lewis Jones, Michelle, and apprentice Keldrick Duncan

Installing playground equipment as part of HOPE’s Small Town Partnership Work in Moorhead