

*Valerie Clarke is pursuing a Master of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism degree through a full-time program at The Illinois Institute of Technology. A native Illinoisan, she received a bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois.*

*During the subsequent five years, she was involved in site strategy and analytics for commercial real estate development. She aided market share growth efforts through retail expansion, remodels, acquisitions, health system opportunities, and competitive trends across several markets within the Walgreens portfolio. Following Walgreens, she analyzed core resident demographics, key shopper patterns, and market geographies at Brookfield Properties to ascertain strategic opportunities and improvements.*

*Utilizing her past professional experience in site assessment, she hopes to further explore sustainable design in urban spaces. She places a deep priority in the importance of design in real estate development, emphasizing how form can have an impact on investment and value. Along with being a full-time student, she is currently a teaching assistant to the director of her program, a treasurer of IIT's chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects and has interned at several Chicagoland firms.*

*She believes that open spaces and appealing landscapes not only build intrinsic environments for communities and promote healthy living spaces for all, but they enhance economic values.*