

Abby Wilson uses design practice and other deliberative tools to change how we work and to help women lead. Abby is rooting for tech that enables authentic interpersonal connections, deepens self-knowledge and awareness, and cultivates empathy. She has been a member of LUMA Institute's Senior Instructor community since 2011, and believes that design literacy supercharges the human 'fixing' instinct by making it more resilient and creative, especially in the presence of material, financial or cultural constraints.

She served as founding director of the federal government's first design-led innovation lab, the Lab @ OPM, partnering with the Obama White House and over a dozen federal agencies to develop more user-friendly policies and services. She created and led a new policy organization at the Allegheny County Health Department, where she was a Deputy Director for 4 years. There, she spearheaded design-led policy & civic engagement efforts on healthcare access, substance use, vaccination & lead exposure.

Trained as a cultural anthropologist and international lawyer, Abby has lived, worked & studied all over the world, observing the power of people & organizations to solve even the most complex problems.

Abby has contributed research to international tribunals, built a policy network across the Rust Belt & conducted health fieldwork in rural South Africa. She is a practitioner of deliberative democracy, and used this approach to guide discourse on issues including climate change, sexuality, and municipal consolidation. She was a Press Secretary at the New York City Council, where she developed expertise in education, housing and health policy. Abby has supported the drafting of numerous pieces of legislation.

Abby holds a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University, an LL.M. in Public International Law from Universiteit Utrecht, a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, and is a certified mediator. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, Newsweek, National Public Radio, 'The News Hour with Jim Lehrer,' The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The Cleveland Plain-Dealer, & others.

A professionally trained alto & seasoned theatrical improviser, this woman loves the stage. Her proudest theatrical accomplishments include *Senioritis*, a one-night only original musical about delusional community theater performers (she co-starred), *Hello Donny!* a monthly cabaret show sponsored by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust from 2012 - 2014 (she co-produced), and *Kenneth - What is the Frequency?* which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival before running off-off Broadway (her non-speaking role helped many props move across the stage).