

Rania R. Ahmed

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SUMMARY

Research Professional passionate to learn and grow. I bring 23 years of experience in data-driven mixed research methods, community engagement, participatory research, peer learning, collaboration, and project management. As an impact-driven and equity-centered social researcher, I engage diverse communities and stakeholders to inform a decision-making process that meets the community's needs. The Urban Institute acknowledged my work with a 2020 national community engagement impact [award](#). My professional goal is to address the Bay Area's most pressing challenges impacting communities of color, disproportionately, around violence prevention, food security, housing, and education by advancing an equity-centered mission.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Quantitative, qualitative, and geospatial data analysis skills using Power BI, Tableau, Carto, and ArcGIS.
- Proven ability in designing participatory research methods, training curriculums, multicultural interviews, focus groups, and surveys.
- Computer proficiency: Microsoft Power BI, Forms, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, InDesign, and Photoshop.
- Excellent written and verbal communication – delivering original written content in multiple settings.
- Multitasking expertise – juggling priorities and delivering timely results in fast-paced environments.
- Interpersonal and communication skills managing multicultural team members.
- Adapt evaluation processes based on contexts and needs to improve outcomes.
- Project management: managing complex projects while effectively delegating tasks.
- Native Arabic Language speaker.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Urban Strategies Council, Oakland, CA, Nov 2015 - Present

Research Director

- Authored the City of Antioch's Police Department's Data Needs Assessment (DNA) to recommend practice changes on data collection for an alternative community-based response model to policing.
- Authored the City of Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention [report](#) to recommend strategic direction, a 2020 community engagement impact [award](#) by the Urban Institute.
- Trained 16 community research fellows to conduct participatory research methods on violence prevention in Oakland.
- Aggregated learning across issue areas and population subgroups to deliver easy-to-understand data visuals motivating open learning and informing actionable insights for stakeholders and funders.

City of Albany, Albany, CA, Dec 2013 - Nov 2015

Urban Planner & Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist

- Researched affordable housing policies in the Bay Area, formulating policy papers, reports, and maps to present to the Planning and Zoning Commission, increasing the learning of housing issues.
- Developed and maintained community engagement culture and strong relationships with community-based organizations, increasing survey community responsiveness by 30%.
- Administered establishment of new programs to address community needs of affordable housing.

UC Berkeley Village, Albany, CA, Nov 2012 - May 2014

Secretary & Community Engagement Director

- Improved attendance by 200% by engaging the community and organizing public events.
- Created multicultural and multilingual communication strategy and website: UCBerkeleyVRA.org.
- Managed nine board members and staff, delegated tasks, and recruited community ambassadors.
- Managed budget and supervised expenditures and cash flow adhering to the allocated annual budget.

EcoCity Builders, Oakland, CA, Jun 2014 - Oct 2015

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Associate

- Designed qualitative research curriculum for UN Habitat III 2016 Urban Thinkers Campus.
- Collaborated on partnerships with the University of Geneva, Cairo University, and the University of Casablanca, including business management, external consulting, and decision support.
- Transferred data sets between data systems, ensuring efficient data sharing and interpretation.

Ministry of Housing, Cairo, Egypt, Jul 2001 - Sep 2011

Urban Planner & Team Leader

- Managed and trained eight urban planners to conduct surveys and map neighborhoods by building internal staff capacity, increasing \$100K in the department's savings.
- Implemented GIS platform for Rural Egypt Built Environment Documentation (RE-BED).
- Facilitated motivational meetings with stakeholders and external consultants, attaining the Award of Best Employee in Sep 2011.

EDUCATION

University of San Francisco

M.A. in Urban Affairs (Public Policy and Urban Planning), GPA 3.98, May 2013 - May 2015

Thesis: Institutionalizing Urban Agriculture Can Provide More than Hope for Poor San Franciscans: A Geospatial Analysis of the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone Act.

Cairo University, Egypt

B.Sc. in Regional and Urban Planning, Sep 1995 - May 2000

TRAINING

- Microsoft Power BI, Forms, Teams, and SharePoint Oct 2021 - Feb 2022
- The Bridgespan Group - Strategic Planning, Feb - Jun 2021
- The Aspen Institute - Results-Based Accountability, Apr-Oct 2020
- Tableau Foundation - data cleaning, analysis, visualization, and dashboards, Mar 2019 - 2020
- Project Partners Consulting - Facilitation and Leadership, April 2019
- Stanford University - Certificate in Statistics, Python, Machine Learning, and D3, Aug 2019
- Wellesley College - Women in Public Service, Jun 2012

VOLUNTEER WORK

Diverse Housing Working Group, Albany, CA, 2013 - 2015

Community Coordinator

Engaged the community and public officials in local events to discuss affordable housing issues via education, research, presentations, and strategic communication, shaping the City's Housing Element.

Community Building and Support, the Bay Area, CA, Present

In collaboration with community groups such as Rotary clubs, we serve meals to workers in clinics serving undocumented immigrants. I also help deliver care packages to seniors and the unhoused with limited access to food due to COVID-19; providing leadership and direction to volunteers while promoting equitable access to food and healthcare.