

Lauren Fernandez

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Executive Summary

Sustainability professional passionate about social change. Areas of specialization are climate change and resiliency, zero waste, and recycling and waste policy. Experienced in working remotely. Proficient in Spanish.

Education

University of South Florida – Master of Arts in Global Sustainability

Concentration in Climate Change

August 2020

University of South Florida – Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Concentrations in International Relations and Africana Studies

May 2008

Environmental Experience

Zero Waste Policy Analyst

Conservation Law Foundation

- Advocate for research-based zero waste legislation at the state level through an environmental justice lens
- Initiate and implement large-scale reuse systems across New England to prevent and reduce waste
- Research how communities would best be supported by and benefit from zero waste legislation
- Collaborate with regional environmental organizations to advocate for zero waste legislation and educate the public

USF Patel College of Global Sustainability

Graduate Student Researcher

May 2020- August 2020

- Researched the intersections of race, class, and abilities in the Zero Waste movement to satisfy Capstone requirement for completion of graduate degree
- Analyzed current best practices in Zero Waste which create greater accessibility for more people to participate in the movement, thus mitigating both the waste crisis and climate change
- Developed solutions via a Systems Thinking lens to increase level of participation in the Zero Waste movement

City of Dunedin and Patel College of Global Sustainability

Graduate Student Consultant

January 2018- May 2018

- Researched viable funding options for the City of Dunedin, FL to implement public solar energy projects on local government buildings
- Consulted with local government officials to help determine most economically feasible funding options
- Contributed as a writer to the final report for the City of Dunedin to move forward with the solar energy project.

Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing (SMASH) August 2017-Present

Board Member and Pro-Bono Grant Writer

- Organize fundraisers and recruit financial partners to support SMASH's mission to address the housing needs of vulnerable residents affected by climate gentrification
- Research, write, and edit grants and LOI's
- Advise on affordable housing campaigns, particularly around the creation of Miami's first Community Land Trust

Professional Work Experience

Grants Ink, LLC

January 2020- Present

Freelance Grant Writer

- Prepare LOI's and full grant proposals for several different non-profits to help diversify and meet funding needs
- Document and securely maintain client information via Dropbox and Google platforms
- Provide consultation to non-profits in program development to increase their likelihood of receiving grants

Transit Alliance Miami

June 2019-July 2019

Fellow

- Collected data for the Better Bus Campaign, an effort to sustainably redesign the county bus network to increase efficiency and ridership
- Provided education to the community about the campaign in both Spanish and English

Grants Ink, LLC

February 2017-October 2017

Project Liaison, Contract

- Maintained client support by identifying potential funders and creating work plans using Google platforms and Microsoft Word
- Wrote and edited grant proposals and LOI's
- Organized and executed monthly community grant writing workshops via Eventbrite
- Launched and maintained social media marketing through LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram; created graphics via Canva