

SAMANTHA - NICOLE TERRY

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PROFILE

A dedicated public servant and community leader with over 25 years' career experience imparting credible project management, quality program development and impactful community engagement to the constituents of the City of Atlanta.

KEY SKILLS AND SPECIALITIES

Project Management | Program Development and Implementation | Strategic Planning | Team Management | Special Event Planning | Grant Writing | Interpersonal Communication Skills | Partnership Development | Adobe Creative and Microsoft Office Suite | Social Media Management and Development | Georgia Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

CERTIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Mandated Reporter | GEMA Basic Public Information Officer Certificate | SUMMECH Board of Director | GRPA Board of Trustee Member | Mechanicsville Civic Association Board Member | #8DollarChallenge Founder

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Manager | City of Atlanta : | Dept. of City Planning | October 2019 - Current

- Evaluated, executed, and managed diverse programs within the Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) system, encompassing educational and training initiatives (NPU University), civic engagement strategies, communications, process enhancements, and grant administration.
- Identified educational program topics, spearheaded the development of program curricula, and provided comprehensive on-site and virtual management of NPU University educational offerings, including webinars and teleconferences.
- Designed strategies to effectively address the educational and training needs of Atlanta residents, collaborating with subject matter experts to anticipate community requirements and deliver high-value programs.
- Coordinated services and activities at the NPU level, fostering collaboration among City departments and quasi-public agencies to streamline operations and enhance community engagement.
- Managed and facilitated the execution of NPU programs, driving community outreach and awareness initiatives such as the NPU Grant Program, Annual Bylaws Review, Public Participation Plan, Neighborhood Directory, Community Education & Leadership Training Courses (NPU University), and specialized projects.
- Developed collaborative relationships with NPU officers, council members, and stakeholders to strengthen community ties and ensure effective program implementation.
- Maintained a robust community engagement system, contributing to the development of vibrant neighborhoods with a strong sense of community identity.

Community Affairs Coordinator | City of Atlanta : | Dept. of Public Works | December 2017 - September 2019

- Liaised between the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Atlanta's 25 Neighborhood Planning Units (NPUs), ensuring alignment with city initiatives and community needs.
- Managed the "NPU Ride-Along" program, fostering transparency and direct interaction between citizens, DPW staff, and community leaders to address local issues.
- Planned and executed community engagement meetings and special events for diverse demographics (youth, teens, adults, seniors) in line with DPW's community vision.
- Collaborated with City Council staff and the Communications Director to enhance public communication efforts and community relations projects.
- Proactively built relationships and facilitated dialogue with community stakeholders.
- Prepared detailed monthly reports on stakeholder engagement activities, social media metrics, and outcomes of special events to guide strategic decision-making.

Program Director | City of Atlanta Dept. of Parks & Recreation | October 2007 - November 2017

- Developed, implemented, and administered diverse youth (ages 5-12), teen (ages 13-17), and young adult (ages 18-24) programs across the City of Atlanta.
- Managed hiring, training, supervision, and performance monitoring of 200+ Camp Best Friends program staff across 25 locations, ensuring adherence to program goals and timelines.
- Created and managed a \$1.2 million seasonal budget for youth development programming, analyzing trends and advising management on financial decisions.
- Established and maintained productive relationships with vendors, schools, nonprofit, and for-profit agencies to support program operations and community partnerships.
- Designed and executed recruitment and retention strategies in collaboration with stakeholders and agency-wide programs, optimizing service delivery to children and teens.
- Led recruitment processes, conducted training sessions, and performed on-site observations to ensure program quality and staff development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Managed the creation and delivery of 38 courses, impacting nearly 6,300 individuals with a remarkable 97% satisfaction rate based on survey feedback, demonstrating substantial training gains.
- Hosted 25 students from the Foundation for International Understanding, representing five countries in the Southern Africa region. Facilitated their study of community engagement models and guided their exploration of creating NPU University models in the context of urban development
- Led the development, implementation, and administration of diverse programs tailored for youth aged 5-18 and seniors (55+), including the Camp Best Friends Summer Program (25 sites), Spring Break and Intercession Camps (4 sites), Atlanta Teen Leaders program (8 sites), Centers of Hope After School programs (15 sites), and the Play Mobile initiative. Successfully served over 30,000 participants to date.
- Served as Project Manager for the One Atlanta Band Camp, overseeing logistics for 600 youth grades 6th-12th at Morehouse College.
- Recognized as a 2019 Southeast Regional EMMY® nominee for co-producing the "Voices Unheard" Dept. of Public Works P.S.A.
- Published author in the National Recreation and Parks Association magazine, "Parks & Recreation," highlighting expertise in program innovation and management.
- Pioneered the #8DollarChallenge, leveraging social media to raise awareness and collect over \$10,000 worth of donations for teens experiencing homelessness in Atlanta, distributed to local organizations and schools.
- Developed a comprehensive leisure guide and achieved accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (C.A.P.R.A.), enhancing departmental standards.
- Recipient of 4 Georgia Recreation and Parks Association state awards for outstanding programming and professionalism.
- Received City Council Proclamation for outstanding contributions to the Camp Best Friends summer program, recognized for youth development excellence.
- Established successful partnerships with Grammy Award-winning Clifford "T.I.P." Harris, Gulf Youth Action Coalition, and Operation Reach, enhancing community engagement and program impact.
- Implemented the City of Atlanta's first after-school "supper" program, enhancing nutrition access for youth participants.
- Secured over \$200,000 in grant funding from Wal-Mart Foundation and Coca-Cola Foundation to support program initiatives.
- Co-Chaired the 34th Annual Youth Holiday Party in collaboration with the S.C.L.C. W.O.M.E.N.S. Coalition, providing memorable experiences for youth in the community.
- Implemented the Children's Defense Fund (C.D.F.) National Freedom Schools model at four sites in 2012, establishing the municipality's first comprehensive youth enrichment program.

EDUCATION

2014 - 2016 Executive Masters in Public Administration
Texas - Southern University - Houston, Tx
3.8 GPA | Pi Alpha Alpha Global Honor Society

2018 - Current Candidate for Doctorate in Human Services
Social and Community Services with a Specialization in
Leadership and Organizational Management
Capella University - Minneapolis, Mn
3.6 GPA