



16863 - Amanda Gxagxa: Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Participant Application

Status: Not Yet Submitted

General Information

First Name(s)/Given Name(s)	Amanda	Middle Name (Other Name)	
Last Name(s)/Family Name(s) or Surname(s)	Gxagxa	Date of Birth	04/01/1992
Biological sex as it appears on your passport and/or official government-issued identification.	Female	Country of Citizenship	South Africa
Second Country of Citizenship		Country of Residence	South Africa
City of Birth	Cape Town	Country of Birth	South Africa
Do you currently live in a national capital city?	No	What location type best describes where you currently live?	Other city or town
Do you live in the same location in which you currently work?	No	What location type best describes where you currently work?	Other city or town
Did you grow up in a national capital city?	No	What location type best describes where you grew up?	Rural area
Do you have a passport?	No		

Contact Information

Primary Phone	0679131362	Work Phone	
Mobile Phone	0636256704	Email Address	amanda.gxagxa@babesgotbytes.org
Alternate Email Address			
Current Address			
Street, Building, and/or Apartment Number	8251 Winnie Mandela Street, Langa	City	Cape Town
Region/Province	Western Cape	Country	South Africa
Permanent Address			
Street, Building, and/or Apartment Number	8251 Winnie Mandela Street, Langa	City	Cape Town
Region/Province	Western Cape	Country	South Africa

Eligibility

What is your country of citizenship?	South Africa	Do you have a second country of citizenship?	No
What is your country of residence?	South Africa	What is your date of birth as listed on your passport or other government-issued identification?	04/01/1992
Are you a U.S. Citizen or a U.S. Permanent Resident?	No	Are you, or is any member of your immediate family (parents, siblings, spouse, or children) or household, employed by the U.S. Government?	No
Have you previously participated in the Mandela Washington Fellowship?	No		

Demographic Information

Do you identify as a person with a disability?		What best describes your gender identity?	Female
Do you identify as LGBTQI+?	No	What are your pronouns?	She/her/hers
Do any of the following apply to you?	I prefer not to respond.		

Institute Track

First Choice	Leadership in Business
Second Choice	Leadership in Public Management
Third Choice	Leadership in Civic Engagement

Current Professional and/or Educational Experience

Educational Experience	
What is your highest level of education?	Professional certificate
Professional Experience	
Select up to five sectors from the list below in which you have expertise and/or interest. Doing so will help us better understand your professional area of focus.	Business & Entrepreneurship Community Development Education Technology Women's and Girls' Issues
Are you currently or were you ever an elected or appointed public/government official?	No
How many years of	3-5 years

professional work experience do you have?	
Please indicate if any of the following apply to you.	I currently run or am the head of a non-profit/non-governmental organization.
At which level is your current position or was your most recent professional position?	Entry-level
What best describes your employment status?	Employed by a company, organization, or government
Do you work full-time or part-time?	Full-time
What best describes your current title?	Other
What best describes your organization?	Private (International)
If your organization is best described as an international governmental organization, please select your organization.	
What best describes the field in which you currently work?	Technology

U.S. Government Program Experience

U.S. Travel

Have you traveled to the United States before or do you have upcoming travel to the United States planned?	No
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English Language

Is English your native language?	Yes	Assess your interpersonal communication English proficiency.	Advanced
Assess your presentational speaking English proficiency.	Advanced	Assess your writing English proficiency.	Advanced
Assess your listening English proficiency.	Advanced	Assess your reading English proficiency.	Advanced

Personal Statements

Provide an overview of your major professional accomplishments from the past year, as well as your long-term goals and aspirations. What motivates you to work in the field that you do?
I am Amanda Gxagxa, I am situated in Western Cape, Cape Town. In 2021 I was fulltime working for BabesGotBytes Non Profit Organization, but due to lack of funding I decided to look for the job that will groom my skills as I am Teaching Programming at BabesGotBytes. So my current job is helping me financially and also growing my Coding skills. I am as well working for

BabesGotBytes. So my current job is helping me financially and also growing my Coding skills. I am as well working for BabesGotBytes parttime because I love giving back to the community and delivering the skills that I am getting at work, so the aim of BabesGotBytes is to get more females in technology industry and also raise awareness of technology in the disadvantaged areas of South Africa. So we teach the to be computer literate and be able to create computer programming. In the next 5 years I see myself owning the tech school in South Africa.

So that people can be tech equipped also want to groom kids with technology at an early stage. Since most of people from disadvantage areas didn't get that opportunity.

Based on your understanding of your preferred Institute track of study, what skills and knowledge do you hope to gain from the Fellowship that you would not be able to develop through other opportunities? How will you use those skills and that knowledge to enhance your activities in your community within the next three to five years?

From the fellowship I wish to gain more on how to run a successful business, ways of doing fundraising in order for an organization to be successful.

This opportunity will be very helpful to me in a way that I will get more understanding of thing I need to learn in order to run my organization successfully.

I believe that with the knowledge I have and the willingness to grow I can do more to reach my goal. As my goals are to my South Africa a better place in terms of technology, I believe that with this Fellowship We can make a big difference to the community. I also believe that this opportunity will give me an exposure to other companies That that I can work will to get the tech School.

Nelson Mandela said, "A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of." Public and community service are essential responsibilities for leaders. What changes or other improvements do you hope to implement in the communities that you engage through your work? How are you working toward this/these goal(s) now, and what else do you hope to accomplish in the future?

The improvement in the community, will be getting many people with technology knowledge, will have less unemployment rate as there are so many jobs in technology field but less people with the technology skills. This also play a big role that some can even start their own tech startup businesses, therefore it will contribute to the economy of the country.

I am working towards those changes by starting the Tech awareness events and also have the tech skills development like teaching them Digital literacy, Software dev skills etc so the skills we offer are the best skills for getting them into the tech world. Also we are communicating with tech companies so they can take our student for internships for them to get experience in the field.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship values diversity, equity, and inclusion and strives to reach diverse audiences through all programming. What do these values mean to you, and how do you exemplify these values in your professional and/or personal life? Please be specific.

These values mean a lot to me as a leader, that I can include everyone from different backgrounds, tribes, and different genders, however we mostly focusing on females so that we can close gender gap in the technology industry. I believe that by getting more females we are doing the gender equality, and as well we are looking to get more people including males.

Strong leaders demonstrate resiliency in the face of challenges. The repercussions of the COVID-19 global health pandemic, economic crises, and conflict pose significant challenges, both globally and locally. How have you demonstrated resiliency during challenging times? What lessons have you learned from this experience, and how are you applying these lessons in your current work?

I demonstrate the resilience as the good way to adapt and be able to be innovative. as a Leader I believe the flexibility is very important, with all the challenges I always tell myself that giving up is not an option and also reflect on why I started, asking myself if have I reach my goal, have I made a change in the community. And with that I always find someone to advice and mentor me. So I believe that even if there are challenges I can find way to tackle them through my flexibility and resilience.

Nelson Mandela was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for working with leaders of the South African government to agree on a peaceful transition to multiparty rule and an end to apartheid, demonstrating that leaders can achieve progress despite

differing views or identities. Describe a situation where you used your leadership skills to resolve a conflict or disagreement. How do you encourage respectful discussion when working with people from different backgrounds, identities, or perspectives?

When in my team we had a member who was not contributing to work, I requested a meeting about then we sat down trying to find the reasons for her not to contribute in the work and also finding a solution to that. So with that she was able to pickup again and be able to work again in a good manner. Working with people needs someone who understands that we are from different backgrounds find ways to understand the purposes and be positive every time. Also find the right way to address something even if I don't like it so it doesn't end up to a fight but to lead to a solution.

Optional Professional Development Experience (PDE)

Would you like to apply to the Mandela Washington Fellowship Professional Development Experience (PDE)?

Yes

Provide a brief description of your current work, both professionally and in your community (if applicable), and your long-term goals and aspirations. If you are selected for a PDE, this will be used as a short profile to share with U.S. organizations.

My current work I am working as a Software developer, which helps me to understand very well what I am bringing to the community, and also I am in getting the growth through this profession. So with the community work I do I create small projects for my students explain what I did to my peers so we can all work together in as the team when training our people.

My long term goal is to own a tech school in South Africa with good and updated curriculum that focusses in ICT specifically.

What are your goals for the Professional Development Experience, including the specific skills and knowledge you hope to gain? How would you apply an experience working with a U.S. organization to your work after returning to your home country?

My goal is to grow my skills as a leader and as in business. I am mostly lacking in business side of things however I always try my best to do the right thing business wise. I wanna be able to lead and protect my company. so I believe this programme will grow me in that and wanna create my own curriculum that I can also sell so it can be used by other organizations as well.

Optional Supplemental Document

Certificate

[codeX MICT SETA Certificate - Amanda Gxagxa.pdf](#)

YALI Engagement

How did you first learn about the Mandela Washington Fellowship?

Other (Recommended by an applicant)

Have you applied for the Mandela Washington Fellowship in the past?

No

Have you previously participated in other YALI programs through the YALI Regional Leadership Centers?

No

Have you previously participated in other YALI programs through the YALI Network?

No

Have you organized a YALIServes event or YALILearns session in your community?	No
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Amanda Gxagxa

Cape Town, South Africa

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TFG LABS

Software Developer

Cape Town, South Africa

Apr 2022-Present

(6 months)

I work as a Software developer, where we build sites and app for the TFG stores and we maintaining it. The company knows that I am running an NPC that trains Coding and we have flexible hours, meaning I can work from every where.

EDUCATION

Project codex IT Academy

Cape Town, South Africa

Non-Degree Program, Information Technology

Jan 2018-Nov 2020

(2 years, 11 months)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

communication | Cape Town, South Africa

Nov 2021-Jun 2022

(8 months)

The training was about how to run a business, and offered communication skills in a business.

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER WORK

BabesGotBytes

Cape Town, South Africa

Oct 2018-Present

(4 years)

I am a coding facilitator and a project planner for the students that we teach to code. I am also volunteering as a Chairperson of BabesGotBytes.

Just Grace

Cape Town, South Africa

May 2018-Nov 2018

(7 months)

I was volunteering at Just Grace as the Coding Facilitator.

AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND/OR SCHOLARSHIPS

Certificate of Recognition

City of Cape Town

Aug 2021

There was a business Ideation competition and I was in a top 10. #YouthStartCT

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Languages:

- English
- IsiXhosa

Software:

- Coding Skills
- Communication Skill
- Javascript
- MSoffice

PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND NOTABLE PRESENTATIONS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhLaF6w71PI>

[youtube.com/shorts/arNm7UhCROQ](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/arNm7UhCROQ) : Just an intro of what we are doing, I did this video when I was applying for #YouthStart competition and I was selected in a to 100.

ASSOCIATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

A non-profit organization aimed at teaching and empowering girls to code. Situated at 94 NY 7 ST, GUGULETU, CAPE TOWN, 7750, SOUTH AFRICA.

We have different sessions at BGB. Coding sessions are held every Saturday's for high school girls and unemployed youth from 16-35 of age. This 6 months training prepares youth with little or no prior experience to work as web developer.

BabesGotBytes has an agile working environment, which include respect, collaboration, improvement and learning cycles, pride in ownership, focus on delivering value and the ability to adapt to change.

Our Workshops are a 3-months, hands on and full-day in-person training that teaches participants from basics of computer literacy to advance programs with a panel of experts.

The spaces for these workshops take place in Khayelitsha, Gugulethu and Mfuleni every Friday from 9am to 15pm.

BabesGotBytes scratch classes are held in different primary schools during the week, for children who are in grades 3-7. In this program, the participants learn problem solving, thinking and presentation skills by building their own interactive games, stories and animations using Scratch.



NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SAQA ID: 48872

NQF LEVEL 5

Amanda Gxagxa

ID NUMBER 9204011085080

has completed the requirements to obtain a National Certificate:
Information Technology (Software Development) SAQA ID: 48872



CARA TURNER

CEO



14 MAY 2020

DATE



MICTSETA

ACC/2016/01/0008

PROJECT CODEX (PTY) LTD

ACC/2016/01/0008