POLICY DIRECTOR
DATA SCIENTIST
NICK HAND, PHD

Municipal Services Building
1401 John F Kennedy Blvd,
Philadelphia, PA 19102

nick.hand@phila.gov

nickhand.github.io

@nickhandphl

@nickhand

A public sector data scientist leading a team working to produce data–driven, objective analysis of policies impacting the City of Philadelphia's finances.

A lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania teaching a Python–based course on geospatial data science, data visualization, and predictive analytics.

WORK EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY, AND DATA
City Controller's Office, City of Philadelphia | 2018 – Present

- Leads a team producing data–driven reports on policies impacting City of Philadelphia finances
- Relies on a variety of analysis tools in the fields of statistics, economics, and data science
- Focuses on accessibility and clarity, producing interactive data visualizations to communicate complex ideas to the public

LECTURER, MASTER OF URBAN SPATIAL ANALYTICS
Univ. of Pennsylvania | 2019 – Present

- Python–based course in the School of Design for urban planning students
- Teaches the "pipeline approach" to data science
- Focuses on real–world case studies in the urban planning and public policy realm

EDUCATION HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

PhD in Astrophysics | 2017
- Co–authored papers with more than 1,800 citations, including 6 first–author papers (373 citations)
- DOE Office of Science Research Fellow
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in Astrophysics, Certificate of Computing | 2011
- Graduated summa cum laude
- Elected member of Phi Beta Kappa
- Thesis work recognized as a top 10 physics breakthrough in 2012 by Physics World

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- More than a decade of Python experience with extensive knowledge of the modern data science toolkit
- Frontend data visualization: Javascript, HTML, CSS, Vue
- Advanced statistics, including forecasting and regressions
- Public finance and economics research

OTHER SKILLS

- The ability to analyze complex technical information
- Can extract meaningful insights from complex datasets and communicate key results in an accessible manner
- The ability to design and carry out data–driven research projects