

DIDIER M. SYLVAIN

13 E 131st St, Apt 2A
New York, NY 10037

disylvain@gmail.com
646.326.6422

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Technomusicology | Hip-hop | Jazz | Afrofuturism | Critical Race Studies | Haiti | Transnationalism | Social Change

EDUCATION

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, Heinz College of Public Policy & Management
Master of Science in Public Policy and Management
Pittsburgh, PA
5/06 - 5/07

BOSTON COLLEGE, College of Arts & Sciences
Bachelors of Arts in Economics
Bachelor of Arts Minor in Music
Bachelor of Arts Minor in Philosophy
Chestnut Hill, MA
8/00 - 5/04

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
International Baccalaureate Program
New York, NY
8/96 - 6/00

EXPERIENCE

ZOOLABS

Freelance Consultant

- Providing business-planning support to a social enterprise that propels and sustains creative careers in music, arts, and technology.
- Conducting market research and documenting best practices for providing key resources, securing partnerships, and eliminating barriers for aspiring musicians in the U.S.

Oakland, CA
10/12 - Present

ECHOING GREEN

Senior Associate, Alumni Programs

- Designed the organization's first Alumni program to magnify the social impact of nearly 500 social entrepreneurs.
- Provided direct 1:1 strategic and technical support to Alumni including leadership development training, executive and life coaching, and organizational capacity building.
- Built community amongst all Fellows and Alumni by planning and executing conferences, and providing opportunities for mentorship and collaboration, networking, and peer learning via webinars.
- Established institutional partnerships and assisting in business development and proposal writing efforts, having already secured approximately \$200K from foundations and educational institutions.
- Co-led the Fellowship search and selection process, including finding and recruited talented social entrepreneurs from various fields, annually narrowing an applicant pool of nearly 3000 to 20 finalists.

New York, NY
1/11 - 10/12

TAPROOT FOUNDATION

Pro-Bono Lead Strategy Consultant

- Engaged the senior leadership of a youth development and digital arts organization, Global Action Project, to redesign a 5-year strategic approach including scalability planning, updated programming, and continual evaluation.
- Engaged the Executive Director of Public Allies New York to refine a 3-year strategic plan including recommendations for diversifying revenue streams, developing private sector partnerships, and branding.

New York, NY
12/10 - 10/12

DELOITTE CONSULTING LLP*Senior Consultant, Strategy & Operations*

Washington, DC
9/07 - 12/10

- Team lead for writing, winning and executing a \$10MM proposal to provide project management support to senior leadership at the Transportation Security Administration.
- Facilitated weekly meetings with senior leadership at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to develop a 5-year strategic plan, corresponding project plans, and performance metrics.
- Team lead for the development of policies, procedures, communications and training for managing 117,000 physical assets at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

ACTIVE MINDS INSTITUTE*Co-Founder*

St. Louis, MO
5/08 - 5/09

- Collaborated with a cohort of eight Coro Alums to craft the initial mission and vision of a non-profit organization devoted to the development of experiential learning in St. Louis public schools.
- Assisted with business planning, including the development and execution of needs assessments, organizational structure, curriculum instruction, marketing, budgeting and fundraising.

CORO LEADERSHIP CENTER*Coro Fellow in Public Affairs*

St. Louis, MO
8/05 - 5/06

Participated in a nine-month training program on ethical leadership in public affairs, acquiring public speaking, meeting facilitation, project planning and consensus building skills.

Performed six consulting projects, including:

- Designed and implemented a new media marketing strategy for KDHX Community Television and Radio, increasing the listener and viewer base by 40%.
- Designed St. Louis WizKids, an after-school literacy program for 200 6-8th graders. Participants gained an average increase in literacy levels by 25%.
- Researched the impact of Medicaid cuts on state home care for AFSCME-Local 41, surveying 25 centers for independent living. Assisted in drafting written communications for a Medicaid reform campaign.

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION*Project Officer, Fulbright U.S. Student Program*

New York, NY
11/04 - 8/05

- Developed partnerships with universities and education NGOs to increase minority applications by 75%.
- Coordinated website redesign and published monthly e-newsletters on education, culture and the arts.

KERRY/EDWARDS 2004 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN*Field Organizer*

St. Louis / Miami
7/04 - 11/04

- Recruited, trained and mobilized 850 students to register and vote for Kerry/Edwards in St. Louis.
- Coordinated the Get Out The Vote initiative in Little Haiti, Miami with local elected officials.

NATIONAL COALITION ON BLACK CIVIC PARTICIPATION*Graduate Assistantship*

Washington, DC
5/03 - 8/03

- Researched and reported on urban voting trend data for 18 – 34 year olds in the U.S.
- Assisted in strategic planning of national voter registration, education and turnout initiatives.

UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP*Artist and Repertoire Intern*New York, NY
5/02 - 8/02

- Managed and reviewed incoming audition tapes circulating to Chief Artist and Repertoire Executive.
- Designed posters, flyers, and other marketing materials to promote current and upcoming artists.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM*Intern*New York, NY
Summer '01/'02

- Served as liaison between 200 employees stationed in Sub-Saharan Africa and UNDP headquarters.
- Managed employee travel documentation, entitlements/benefits, and education grant applications.

TEACHING**METROPOLITAN EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING SCHOOL***Teaching Artist, Music*Forest Hills, NY
10/12 - Present

- Co-facilitating an 8th grade music class in an interdisciplinary, project-based, and community-action oriented charter school in Queens, NY; leading a unit on the art of sampling and remixing as a means of cultural production.
- Providing guidance on students' soundscapes using GarageBand and incorporating samples from U.S. protest songs from the 1960s, speeches, and their own instrumental improvisations.

LINCOLN CENTER INSTITUTE*International Educator Workshop*New York, NY
July '11

- Received certification on inquiry-based teaching and learning through aesthetic education.
- Taught a workshop on sound listening from a cross-cultural perspective to twenty-two other arts educators from around the world.

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY*Teaching Assistant, Strategic Presentation Skills*Pittsburgh, PA
8/06 - 5/07

- Co-taught a core course requirement for 40 policy students on professional speaking over two semesters; provided 1:1 feedback on student presentations.
- Integrated traditional principles of rhetoric with three practices analyzed by Daniel Coyle in *The Talent Code* (2009): "ignition," "deep practice," and "master coaching."

CORO LEADERSHIP CENTER, ST. LOUIS*Workshop Leader, "The Art of Listening"*St. Louis, MO
4/06 - 5/06

- Designed and taught a workshop on interpersonal listening for over 60 local high school students as part of an annual Youth Leadership Summit.
- Incorporated music to facilitate best-practice exercises exploring the relationship between listening, leadership, and team-building.

SEMENTES DO AMAYA*Student Volunteer*Salvador, Brazil
5/04 - 6/04

- Taught English as a second language to a group of eighteen students at an orphanage for 12-18 year olds, through Boston College's program for service learning.
- Created a space for mutual exchange, identifying transnational cultural patterns using breakdancing and capoeira.

HAITIAN MULTI-SERVICE CENTER / CATHOLIC CHARITIES*Student Volunteer*Dorchester, MA
8/01 - 12/01

- Volunteer English teacher at a multi-service agency for Haitian immigrants through Boston College's program for service learning.
- Designed and taught a class on computing and typing for twenty-two job-seeking Haitian immigrants.

PUBLICATIONS

"Afrofuturism is the New Negritude," *International Journal of Africana Studies* (TBD 2013)

PRESENTATIONS

"*Word Rapport: Raoul Peck with Didier Sylvain*," Moderator and Interviewer, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (March 2012)

MUSIC TRAINING

CLASSICAL/ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Djembe, Independent Study (2002-Present)

Hindustani Classical Voice, Dr. Nagaraja Rao Havaladar, Bangalore (January 2010)

Tabla, Durjay Bhaumik, Delhi (January 2010)

Chromatic Harmony, Boston College (Spring 2004)

Music in the Holocaust and the Third Reich, Boston College (Spring 2003)

Harmony, Boston College (Spring 2003)

Introduction to World Music, Boston College (Fall 2002)

Rhythm and Blues/American Music, Boston College (Fall 2002)

Opera, Boston College (Fall 2002)

Performance in Acoustic Guitar, Boston College (Fall 2002)

Fundamentals of Music Theory, Boston College (Fall 2002)

DIGITAL AUDIO PRODUCTION

Abelton Live, Independent Study (Summer 2009 – Present)

Logic, Independent Study (Winter 2005 – Present)

FL Studio, Independent Study (Spring 2001 – Present)

Fundamentals of Abelton Live, Dubspot, New York (Summer 2011)

WZBC Disc Jockey, Boston College (Fall 2003 – Spring 2004)

Pro Tools, Boston College (Fall 2003)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Proficient in French

Conversational in Haitian Creole

Conversational in Spanish

AWARDS

Carnegie Mellon Heinz College Dean's Diversity Fellowship, 2006-2007 (Full-tuition)

Carnegie Mellon Heinz College Dean's Leadership Fellowship, 2006-2007

UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH

"Speculative Futures of Affirmative Action Policies in U.S. Higher Education," May 2007

"The Impact of the 1825 French Indemnity on Haiti's Economic Development," May 2007

"Creating Seedbeds for Social Innovation," January 2007

"A Case for Teaching Moral Pluralism in U.S. Public Schools," November 2006