

# Akhil SG

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Harlem, New York City

## ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE

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- **Sahridhaya** Trivandrum, Kerala, India  
*Founder and Managing Trustee* *Jul 2013 - Present*
  - Started the nonprofit to create skill building and community engagement opportunities for the youth in addressing social issues, now in its ninth year.
  - Curated and led youth sensitisation initiatives incl. discovery learning workshops for K-12 and undergraduates, public awareness events with opportunities for talent showcasing, blood donation campaigns, fundraising for child, elderly care centers and so on.
  - Conceptualized, designed, implemented and evaluated over multiple public events and initiatives in varying domains incl. child rights, gender and inequality, disability rights, climate activism and health equity under the nonprofit.
- **SALAM** New York City, NY  
*Co-Founder and Member* *Jun 2020 - Present*
  - Served as a policy consultant for a progressive candidate in New York city council elections '21.
  - Researched and created policy recommendations in the field of education, small businesses, and worker rights for the candidate based on neighborhood data.
  - Organized and participated in reading circles and study groups on understanding the struggle of the immigrant working class in the US
- **Green Army International** Trivandrum, Kerala, India  
*Founding Member and Senior Mentor* *Feb 2017 - Jun 2019*
  - Co-created a platform where students are introduced to climate change and waste management strategies through activities and interactive sessions under the auspices of City Govt. of Trivandrum.
  - Served on the core team that recruited and monitored project fellows, interns and volunteers.
  - Created residential camp structure and reports incl. the framework and evaluation matrices, for internal documentation and public relations.
  - Conducted and optimized residential workshops and public sessions for students on climate change and volunteer training.
- **CUB – Creating Unique Brains** Trivandrum, Kerala, India  
*Program Director* *Jun 2018 - Jun 2019*
  - Co-created and wrote the successful grant proposal for the initiative funded by the State Govt. to pilot technology introduction, experiential learning techniques and advanced problem-solving strategies to students in public education under the auspices of Sahridhaya .
  - Designed the syllabus and co designed the curriculum for courses under CUB. Facilitated student orientation classes and taught course on problem solving and design thinking.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- **The New School** New York City, NY  
*Research Assistant* *Jan 2020 - May 2021*
  - Conducted qualitative research for the paper – ‘Building a research database on Indian Social Ventures and Social Innovation’
  - Analyzed interview data to support findings for the paper – ‘Understanding Legal Structure Choices of Social Enterprises from a Resource Dependence Perspective’
  - Indexed the book – Expansive Leadership: Cultivating Mindfulness to Lead Self and Others
- **International Center for Free and Open Source Software** Trivandrum, Kerala, India  
*Researcher - Assistive technology* *Aug 2017 - Aug 2019*
  - Researched and led a team of interdisciplinary practitioners using a human-centric design process to develop Kerala’s first customizable ergonomic mouse.
  - Directed FLIP Mouse redesign at 93% reduction of original price without compromising functionality, resulting in the adoption of product design within the Indian market.
  - Wrote and submitted a successful grant application for local manufacturing and development of Assistive Kit, to Govt. of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
  - Conceptualized and developed an organizational framework for a technology incubator that promotes FOSS software startups as well as serving as a transitional manager.

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

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- **New York City Economic Development Corporation** New York City, NY  
*Grants Manager – Internship* Jun - Dec 2021
  - Identified, written grant narratives, and reviewed applications for different grant proposals submitted to various state and federal agencies incl. CDBG-DR of HUD, CFA of NYS.
  - Studied existing cost reasonableness process and created documents to avoid mismanagement and reduce redundancy, the solution suggested was accepted by the teams
  - Reviewed to provide feedbacks for optimizing Grants Management System scheduled for a company-wide release, the feedbacks eliminated data errors and better data management.
- **The New School** New York City, NY  
*Project Manager* Aug 2020 - May 2021
  - Coordinated and organized the online conversation series – Management and Social Justice 2020–21
  - Benchmarked practices from events promotion to the facilitation of panels and workshops
  - Co-curated panels with panelists from industries incl. media, higher education, healthcare, philanthropy, public education, and technology to align discussions to identified themes.
- **SENS – ACT-UAW, Local 7902** New York City, NY  
*Union Representative* Jan -May 2021
  - Served as one of the five representatives of student workers union to advocate for student workers' rights and welfare in the New School campus.
  - Attended to grievances and promoted worker rights activities on campus through campaigns and open forums.
- **Kerala Startup Mission** Trivandrum, Kerala, India  
*Technology Innovation Fellow* Feb 2016 - Apr 2017
  - Designed and piloted IEDC Summit '16, a student entrepreneurs meetup, now in its sixth year.
  - Co-designed and piloted Seeding Kerala '17, an investor meetup, now in its fifth year.
  - Facilitated workshops on design thinking and leadership training.
  - Served as spokesperson for social entrepreneurship, integrating technology for social impact and promoting Govt. schemes for entrepreneurship support.
  - Represented the organization in various national and international networking forums to enhance stakeholder relationships in the startup ecosystem.

## EDUCATION

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- **The New School** New York City, NY  
*Master of Science Nonprofit Management; GPA: 3.84* Aug 2019 – Dec 2021  
Minor in Global Urban Future from Julien J. Studley Graduate Programs in International Affairs  
Final thesis – 'Urban food environments: A case study of a Harlem neighborhood'
- **Kerala University** Trivandrum, Kerala, India  
*Bachelor's in Technology Mechanical Automobile Engineering* Aug 2010 – May 2014  
Final thesis – 'Design, Fabrication, and Analysis of RCCI engine to test for low emission'

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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- **Digital Design:** Adobe Suite, Krita, Procreate
- **Data Management:** R, Nvivo, Power BI, Qualtrics
- **CRM:** Mailchimp, Splash

## HIGHLIGHTS

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- **Awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership** – to Nu Lambda Mu Honor Society by Nonprofit Academic Centers Council
- **Leadership Roles** – New School University Student Senator, Union Representative SENS – UAW
- **Author** – Kerala's Vibrant Startup Ecosystem 2017 published by Kerala Startup Mission, Govt. of Kerala
- **Co-Author** – The New School Is in Crisis in Jacobin, New York.
- **Panelist** – Going Forward from Social Impact to Social Justice: Can Technology Help? in Management and Social Justice Conversation Series, The New School on Oct 22, 2021