

SARAH MARIE SAYDUN

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I am a climate planner, community-based researcher, and firm believer in the transformative power of relationships, committed to building a more just and climate resilient future. I bring 10+ years of experience in program management, facilitation, youth work, and organizing to my work with local governments and community-based organizations aimed at complex urban issues.

PLANNING & POLICY RESEARCH

LINNEAN SOLUTIONS, BOSTON, MA, AND PORTLAND, ME

July 2022 – Present

Climate Planner/Project Manager

- Design and execute climate action planning and policy development processes for local governments that center equity and environmental justice
- Facilitate inclusive engagement aimed at building collective understanding about the root causes of climate change, and collaboratively identifying policy interventions that are appropriate for the community's unique cultural and regulatory context
- Convene multi-stakeholder groups to develop strategic partnerships for strategy implementation
- Lead project monitoring and evaluation; use data to inform strategy for future projects

GREENROOTS, CHELSEA, MA

July 2021 – July 2022

Youth Programs Organizer/Participatory Action Research Coordinator

- Managed and mentored ECO, GreenRoots' 7-member team of youth organizers; supported initiatives including door-knocking campaigns, event planning, and facilitating environmental justice workshops for other youth
- Coordinated ECO's role as resident researchers in the Healthy Neighborhood Study (HNS); supported ECO's learning on research question development, survey design, survey administration, and data analysis
- Produced audio story-telling piece on the connections between the HNS research findings and ECO's experiences of gentrification to advocate for housing justice in Chelsea

OFFICE OF BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU, Boston, MA

May 2020 – October 2020

Lead Housing Policy Fellow

- Researched and wrote policy recommendations related to affordable housing, development, and displacement; prepared memos and talking points for the Councilor

TUFTS UNIVERSITY, Medford, MA

Participatory Action Research Assistant

June 2019 – July 2021

- Collected and analyzed qualitative data to assess the City's unprecedented partnership with Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative around the planning and redevelopment of Upham's Corner
 - Developed public-facing materials to communicate details about the redevelopment process to a wide audience
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PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

ZUMIX, East Boston, MA

August 2016 – December 2019

Pathways Manager (August 2019 – December 2019)

Pathways Coordinator (August 2016 – August 2019)

- Managed the Pathways program, provided 1:1 college and career coaching, oversaw Youth Employment program, developed relationships with community members and school counselors to ensure participant success

- Successfully piloted the ZUMIX Teen Council, developed and facilitated curriculum on leadership, event planning, social justice, and project management skills
- Hired, on-boarded, and supervised new Pathways Coordinator and Pathways Youth Interns
- Collaborated with Northeastern University's Music Business program to design and co-facilitate a brand-new program in response to youth request, on "becoming a professional in the music industry"
- Nurtured 2 brand new partnerships with local grant-makers, resulting in thousands of dollars of previously unavailable scholarship funds for rising college freshmen

GIRLS' LEAP, Dorchester, MA

October 2014 – March 2017

Program Coordinator // Lead Teacher

- Nurtured existing, and recruited new, community partnerships to run programs; secured 16 program sites
- Streamlined communications and managed pipeline of community partnerships
- Led 16 Girls' LEAP physical and socio-emotional self-defense programs for girls ages 8-18
- Mentored to junior staff members in small group facilitation to prepare for programming

VOLUNTEERING

Co-Director, Gardens of Egleston: Community Climate Resilience Stories

April 2024 - Present

Gardens of Egleston is a community story-telling project to celebrate the spaces and people that are integral to Egleston Square's rich history, culture, and resilience.

- Seek and secure project funding through state and local grants
- Manage recruitment/hiring of Community Advisory Committee, Visual Storytellers, and others on project team
- Ensure accountability for project ethics, process, adherence to timeline, project deliverables

EDUCATION

TUFTS UNIVERSITY, MEDFORD, MA

Expected August 2025

Master of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, BOSTON, MA

August 2013

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Services and International Affairs

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Skills

Excel, Esri GIS Mapping Software; GIS StoryMaps; Participatory and democratic planning; collective governance and consensus building; facilitation; equitable climate resilience

Languages

French (Fluent), Spanish (Conversational)

Membership

Boston Food Forest Coalition: Volunteer Steward and Community Engagement Coordinator at Egleston Community Orchard (2023 – Present)

Boston Climate Action Network: Volunteer for Boston Green New Deal Coalition (2022)

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Boston Chapter: Member of stimulus check redistribution team (2020-2021) and co-facilitator of weekly Action Hours (2020-2021)