

PERSONAL DETAILS

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Date of Birth: 10th January 1979
Nationalities: USA & Turkey
UK Visa: Tier 1 General Migrant-Highly Skilled

EDUCATION

2001-2004 University of California, Irvine (Irvine, California, USA)
MA - Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP)
Concentration: international sustainable development, public policy, environmental law & urban design
Master's Thesis: An Examination of Sustainable Development - Safety in Southeastern Turkey/GAP Region

1997-2001 University of California, Irvine (Irvine, California, USA)
BA Hons - Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Analysis and Design (Honours)
Concentration: cultural ecology, elements of design, environmental analysis & French
Honours Thesis: Religion, Identity and Space - Muslim Youth

SKILLS

- Proficient in managing, preparing and reviewing large-scale regeneration and development projects including all reports, plans, graphics, databases, and multimedia presentations associated with: environmental impact analysis disclosure documents; strategic policy, design, and standards plans; master plans, subdivision maps, and construction plans.
- Proficient in managing all elements of project contracts using Microsoft Project to maximize outcome and meet deadlines, including: establishing scopes of work, scheduling, resource allocation, budget monitoring, quality control, resource re-allocation and budget amendments, highlighting financial risks and taking appropriate action, and effectively reporting updates.
- Strong leadership, management, delegation, and coordination skills in a team environment.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including public speaking and presentations.
- Extensive management experience in social, multicultural, environmental and women's organisations.
- Competent in Mac/Microsoft Office applications, social media, web development and GIS/AutoCAD.
- Fluent in English (native language) and conversational fluency in oral and written Turkish and French.

EXPERIENCE - PUBLIC, PRIVATE, ACADEMIC

Feb 2009 – present SKA Consulting (Aliso Viejo, California, USA & London, UK)

Principal - Vice President/Partner

- Expanding and developing professional and technical consulting services within the sustainable development context from California to the United Kingdom (www.ska-consulting.com).
- Provide custom presentation, training, research, translation, project management, and town planning/environmental consulting services balancing sustainability and climate change considerations.
- Managing all information technology and communications efforts including web site development.

July 2007 – Feb 2009 City of Irvine, Community Development Department (Irvine, California, USA)

Associate Planner

- Managed highly political regeneration, redevelopment and master plan projects for the Orange County Great Park and Great Park Neighborhoods valued at £1.3 Billion. This award-winning 4,700-acre redevelopment of a contaminated, former military base dedicates 1,300 acres to the largest city-owned metropolitan park under planning and development in the USA. The mixed-use development features business parks, retail services, transit-related uses, a college campus, commercial recreation, residential units with senior housing, a private cemetery, golf courses, lakes, civic buildings, active sports fields, passive recreation and open space, field house, botanical gardens, natural water treatment systems, wildlife corridor restoration, open space preserve, man-made canyon, and associated backbone infrastructure.
- Ensured seamless communication among internal and external stakeholders including City of Irvine, its Great Park Corporation development department, Heritage Fields El Toro LLC (Lennar Corporation), US Department of the Navy, adjacent local and regional jurisdictions, transit agencies, utility entities, developers, community groups, the public and other stakeholders.
- Managed the Environmental Impact Analysis process including mitigation compliance and monitoring.
- Prepared policy reports and presented project findings to decision-making bodies at public hearings.
- Supported the community at the City of Irvine front counter with a strong customer service focus.

- Incorporated climate change/sustainability measures in Great Park/Neighborhoods developments.
- Coordinated Planning & Intelligence Section on the City of Irvine Emergency Management Team.
- Responsible for enhancing public engagement with a customer service focus on City of Irvine projects.
- Managed colleagues, subordinates, and consultants on a project basis.

June 2006 – June 2007 Civic Solutions, Inc. Consultant to City of Irvine (Irvine, California, USA)

Associate Planner

- Managed Orange County Great Park regeneration projects as a consultant to the City of Irvine Redevelopment Department and implemented new environmental policies and procedures.
- Supervised colleagues, subordinates, and consultants on a project basis.
- Oversaw quality control of all ministerial project products including demolition and grading.

April 2005 – June 2006 FORMA Design, Inc. (Irvine, California, USA)

Planning Project Manager

- Served as a project manager for large-scale master-planned residential, commercial, mixed-use, and open space development projects in California, USA – Brightwater/Bolsa Chica (Orange County), Sutter Pointe (Sutter County), and Fanita (San Diego County), Heritage Fields/Great Park (Orange County).
- Managed scopes of work/budgets and prepared entitlement documents (specific plans, environmental impact report project descriptions, community design plans, and habitat management plans).
- Coordinated and managed engineers, architects, planners, mapping staff, graphics staff, & document production staff, to create and deliver high-quality development and policy documents for clients.

Sept. 2003 – April 2005 Civic Solutions, Inc. Consultant to City of Irvine (Irvine, California, USA)

Assistant Planner/Planning Technician

- Served as a project manager in Planning and Development Services for the City of Irvine's Project Entitlement section and managed environmental/zoning compliance for ministerial/discretionary cases.

July 2002 – July 2003 University of California, Irvine (Irvine, California, USA)

President, Associated Graduate Students

- Represented over 3,300 UCI graduate and professional students and advocated on their behalf regarding UCI, UC system-wide, local, state, and national issues, including leading UCI's youth vote.
- Served as Chief Executive Officer, chaired all meetings, and supervised eight officers and support staff.
- Lobbied in Sacramento, California and Washington DC to advocate for affordable housing/fair wages.

January 2002 – June 2003 University of California, Irvine (Irvine, California, USA)

Professor's Teaching Assistant

- Evaluated exams, held weekly tutorials and maintained record-keeping system for scores for 60- to 300-student courses (Elements of Environmental Design, AIDS Fundamentals, and Race, Ethnicity & Cities).

Sept. 2001 – Sept. 2003 City of Irvine (Irvine, California, USA)

Council Executive Assistant, Mayor Pro Tempore

- Assisted Mayor Pro-Tem Mears in reviewing council meeting agendas and correspondence packets.
- Represented Mayor Pro-Tem Mears at a variety of community events and supported in their planning.
- Engaged with the community to support grass-roots political activities including support of Measure W to develop the non-aviation use of the Orange County Great Park and the Centerline light rail referendum.

July 2001 – Sept. 2001 National Association of Industrial & Office Properties (Laguna Hills, California, USA)

Storm Water Management Project Coordinator/Intern

- Prepared a report summarizing key changes in storm water regulations impacting the commercial real estate industry, and facilitated building a coalition of commercial real estate and business organisations.

EXPERIENCE - COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT

Feb 2007 – Feb 2009 Orange County Multicultural Coalition (Orange County, California, USA)

Coordinator/Great Park Liaison

- Led a coalition of individuals and groups advocating for the development of a Multicultural Center celebrating diversity at the Great Park and coordinated with the Great Park Corporation/Design Studio.
- Oversaw community visioning for the Multicultural Center campaign through online surveys/meetings.

- Established, managed, and executed all communication efforts including: presentations, surveys, website/blog/Facebook, e-newsletter publications, and fundraising outreach and programs.
- Influenced the Board to consider the Multicultural Center as a potential program for feasibility analysis.

Jan 2008 – Dec 2008

Association of Environmental Professionals (Orange County, California, USA)

President

- Served as chief executive officer supporting the mission to enhance, maintain and protect the natural and human environment through member professional development efforts and communication.
- Managed and monitored the day-to-day activities of 15 Board of Directors members and committees.
- Developed the first Strategic Plan, implemented new programs and exceeded membership goals.
- Ensured that all policies, objectives and tasks were in line with the strategic operational plan.
- Revised bylaws and procedures and implemented an award-winning student scholarship program.
- Established Sustainability and Legislative Committees to stay abreast of emerging climate change issues.

Sept 2004 – Dec 2008

Pi Beta Phi Women's Fraternity (Aliso Viejo, California, USA)

Risk Management/Policy Regional Specialist & Alumnae Advisory Committee Chairman

- Served as an International Officer for a women's leadership development and service organization consisting of university members and alumnae in the USA, Canada, UK, France, and Japan.
- Oversaw member adherence to and education of policies, standards, contracts and procedures to ensure member safety and risk free activities, events and facilities for 17 university chapters.
- Directed, monitored, and educated chapters in areas of policy, liability and legal issues of risk management and provided leadership in setting goals and action plans for success.
- Acted as an adviser to California Eta Chapter at UC Irvine to ensure overall chapter excellence.

Aug 2004 – Dec 2008

Orange County Turkish American Association (ATASC Chapter)

Chairman of the Board/Public Relations Chairman

- Founded the organization dedicated to enriching Turkish-American community members' lives through countywide recreational, social, educational, cultural, professional development, and outreach activities.
- Served as acting Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary on Southern California parent organization board, ATASC.
- Managed and monitored the day-to-day activities of over 10 Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
- Created bylaws, policies and procedures and ensured that all tasks were in line with the operational plan.
- Oversaw implementing policies to open and sustain a Turkish culture and language school.
- Enhanced the organization's public image through coordinating outreach events such as: Irvine Multicultural Association Foreign Film Series, City of Irvine Global Village Festival, Orange County Multicultural Coalition, and Building Bridges with Consul Generals of Azerbaijan, Israel, and Turkey.

A V O C A T I O N S

- Member, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Environmental Planning & Protection Network (2009)
- Chairman, London Alumnae Pocket, Pi Beta Phi Women's Fraternity (2009)
- Writer/Blogger/Owner, www.MichelleDroue.com (2009)
- London Dance Works – Advanced Belly Dance (2009)
- Member of Middle Eastern Dance/Music Troupe & Instructor (2001-2008)
- Emerging Leaders Committee, American Jewish Committee, OC Chapter (2008)
- Writer, Turkish-American Perspective in Southern California, www.TurkLA.com (2007-2008)
- Building Industry Association (2005-2006), American Planning Association (2006-2008)
- Travel in North America, Europe and Asia

A W A R D S

- Employee Team of the Year – City of Irvine (2008)
- Outstanding Leadership – Association of Environmental Professionals, OC Chapter (2008)
- Outstanding Leader – Orange County Turkish American Association (2008)
- Diversity Article Publication Award – American Planning Association, OC Chapter (2008)
- Outstanding Leadership Award at City of Irvine – Civic Solutions, Inc. (2007)
- Outstanding Advisor – Greek Awards (2007-'08), UCI Dean of Students (2007), & UCI Housing (2006, 2008)
- Woman of Distinction Award – Daughters of Atatürk (2005)

REFERENCES – Strong former supervisor and personal references available upon request.