

PERSONAL DETAILS

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Date of Birth: 10 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 / VALUES

- Proficient in delivering complex, large-scale community development/regeneration projects and community-based environmental/social sustainability projects involving user-led designed methodologies.
- Proficient in managing all stages of the project lifecycle, from planning and scoping, through to delivery, change management and evaluation using project management best practices.
- 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.
- Values include teamwork, community, wellbeing, multiculturalism, human rights, equality, & sustainability.

EXPERIENCE - PUBLIC, PRIVATE, ACADEMIC

Oct 2009 – present Design Council (London, UK)

Programme Manager - Sustainability

- Manage and deliver a portfolio of user-led designed community sustainability programmes including 'Low Water Living' and 'Design Out Crime' tackling environmental, social and security issues around sustainable water consumption in Southern England and reducing crime in the UK.
- Successfully managed the delivery of an innovative customer experience/service design to support water metering and an educational programme engaging students to design water-saving solutions.
- Successfully managed scoping independent living projects to enable mobility, support wellness/nutrition, and re-design assisted living/communication technologies, based on user-led ethnographic methods.
- Supervise the Design Council Sustainability Team, coordinate input from Design Council's design strategy/skills, communications, research, and policy specialist teams, and manage procured suppliers.
- Engage effectively with external stakeholders including funding partners and project advisors.
- Manage combined programme budgets valued at £1 Million, involving authorising expenditure, managing actual expenditure/variance, providing forecasts, monitoring and reporting performance.

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

Principal - Vice President/Partner

- Developed and expanded professional and technical consulting services within the sustainable development context from California to the United Kingdom (www.ska-consulting.com).
- Provided custom presentation, training, research, translation, project management, town planning, environmental, and community design consulting services.
- Managed UK-based business development activities and IT/web design/content work.

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 includes 3,400 acres of associated mixed-use

commercial/residential/industrial/open space land uses and dedicates 1,300 acres to the largest city-owned metropolitan park under planning and development in the USA.

- Ensured seamless communication among internal/external stakeholders including City of Irvine staff, Great Park Corporation, Lennar Corporation, local/regional jurisdictions, and community groups.
- 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.
- 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).
- Managed stakeholder input to 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.

EXPERIENCE - COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT

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

Lead 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.

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.
- 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

- Co-Founder/Artistic Director/Instructor – London Dunya Middle Eastern Dance Troupe (2009-2011)
- Member, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Environmental Planning & Protection Network (2009-2011)
- Chairman, London Alumnae Pocket, Pi Beta Phi Women's Fraternity (2009-2011)
- Writer/Blogger/Owner, www.MichelleDroue.com (2009-2011)
- Member of Orange County 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

- Management Development Certification - Institute of Leadership and Management (2010)
- 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, professional and personal references available upon request.