

# Leslie Marshall, PhD

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Detail-oriented manager, researcher, fundraiser, and program developer with 10+ years of unique cross-sectoral experience leading collaborations between companies, researchers, higher education institutions, civil society organizations, local, state, and national governments, international organizations, and foundations in the areas of community engagement, sustainability, economic development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in the United States, Uganda, and Lebanon.

## SKILLS & KEY COMPETENCIES

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- Developing and managing cross-sectoral research and advocacy partnerships involving government, industry, academic, non-profit, and community stakeholders
- Identifying potential barriers to engagement, participation, and cooperation across racial/ethnic, gender, socioeconomic class, and political identity group lines
- Program development and research design with an intersectional focus on gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic equity
- Communicating with diverse populations through public talks and panel discussions, webinars, podcast episodes, radio and television interviews, and social media campaigns
- Strategic planning; budget development and oversight
- Program monitoring, evaluation, and assessment, including impact measurement and KPI development
- Designing and leading trainings and workshops; event planning and coordination
- Fundraising and relationship management, including corporate clients and foundation partners
- Grant research, writing, and reporting
- Qualitative, quantitative, and experimental research design
- Fluent in the use of Microsoft Office Suite, Wordpress, Weebly, Qualtrics, Google Applications, STATA, & LaTeX.

## EXPERIENCE (selected)

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### Foundation Manager, SFPE Educational & Scientific Foundation

March 2021 – Present

The SFPE Foundation's mission is to enhance the scientific understanding of fire and its interaction with the natural and built environment. The SFPE Foundation operates under the auspices of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), a global professional society representing over 4,700 members and 108 chapters worldwide. As Foundation Manager, I provide strategic support and leadership to advance the SFPE Foundation's mission, guide and implement the day-to-day operations, manage the activities of the Foundation's Board of Governors, and generate revenue, including solicitation of sources of funding from public and private funding sources as well as the SFPE membership. My role includes primary responsibility and oversight for all Foundation operations, program and project management, research and education planning, development, and implementation, as well as communications and outreach.

### Co-Owner, The Research Group for Sustainable Impacts (RG-SI), LLC

April 2015 – Present

Recent projects include: (1) designing and implementing a system for measuring and evaluating the impact of a foundation's contributions to communities in need of assistance during natural disasters (global scope); (2) designing and implementing a survey-based system for evaluating volunteer and user experiences of 12+ language programs offered across a large public library system reaching thousands of participants each year; and, (3) leading a workshop for 30+ nonprofit professionals on impact measurement.

### Associate Director, Center for Sustainable Business, University of Pittsburgh

July 2019 – March 2021

Highest ranking full-time staff member; responsible for managing all corporate and foundation partnerships, budget, operations, strategic planning, marketing and public relations, research collaborations, and teaching and training initiatives; hiring and supervising CSB staff and student workers; and, representing the CSB at high-level conferences and convenings, in live, print, radio, and social media interviews, and on internal and external task forces and committees. Selected accomplishments include:

- Serving as Co-Principal Investigator, Project Manager, and Lead Author for the "Marshall Plan for Middle America" Roadmap, a joint collaboration between eight cities, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Enel Foundation, Heartland Capital Strategies Network, Steel Valley Authority, and university researchers to develop a sustainable regional economic transition strategy built on investment in diversified energy infrastructure and equitable workforce and community development.
- Writing successful grant proposals to fund the Center for Sustainable Business (\$375,000, The Heinz Endowments) and support cross-sectoral research on equitable and sustainable regional economic strategies (\$50,000, Enel Foundation).
- Recruiting 10 major corporations to commit to annual sponsorships valued at \$10k to \$25k per year (\$145,000 annually).
- Coauthoring a case study on employee education and engagement strategies for a Global Fortune 500 corporate partner; conducting interviews and focus groups with employees, accessing and analyzing non-public data.
- Supervising semester-long MBA student consulting projects focused on sustainable business development with corporate partners; leading to new lines of business and more diversified and sustainable sales portfolios.
- Organizing 20+ sustainability-related events for internal and external stakeholders, engaging more than 500 individuals over 18 months.
- Planning, coordinating, and hosting four flagship "thought leadership" events over 12 months; collectively brought together 300+ senior corporate sustainability and c-suite managers, government officials, researchers, and civil society leaders for full-day convenings on topics like "Sustainable Finance Policy," "Enticing, Empowering, and Engaging Employees through Corporate Sustainability Initiatives," and "Using Purpose to Drive Sustainability across Corporate Business Models."

- Creating and supervising the production of a podcast series featuring interviews with c-suite managers and civil society leaders from around the world on topics related to corporate sustainability commitments in the context of COVID-19; produced 19 episodes to date, reaching 1,200+ listeners direct to email inbox and 10,000+ via social media impressions across multiple platforms.
- Spearheading the CSB's Racial Justice programming to show linkages between sustainability and diversity, equity, and inclusion; co-hosting events with University partners, including a public training to help more Black-owned businesses enter the University's procurement pipeline; a training for staff members on the tools needed to make more diverse and sustainable procurement choices; and, a public panel discussion with Black women businessowners and sustainability professionals focused on sustainable economic development.
- Connecting Pitt Business to University-level sustainability programs through new waste and energy reduction efforts, community education campaigns, and data collection, e.g. building-wide composting resulted in 16.69 tons of waste diverted from landfills in a 6-month period.

#### **Lead Investigator, LGBTI Focus**

**October 2016 – December 2017**

Gender Equality in Public Administration Working Group, Ford Institute for Human Security

- Collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme to collect data on the level of inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*, and intersex (LGBTI) participation and leadership in public administration worldwide to support the LGBTI Inclusion Index; evaluated existing data to develop new measures and proxies for LGBTI inclusion; prepared key reports and presentations for the UNDP including "Proposed Indicator and Data Template for Measuring the Political and Civic Participation of Trans\* and Intersex People Cross-Nationally Over Time," and "Targeted Case Studies for Developing Indicators of LGBTI Inclusion in Public Administration Worldwide."
- Invited by the UNDP to participate alongside 28 other experts from around the world on the final design of the "LGBTI Inclusion Index;" nominated by peers to present the findings of the Political & Civic Participation sub-group during the "Multi-Sectoral Expert Consultations on the Draft Indicators of the LGBTI Inclusion Index" at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington D.C.

#### **International Consultant, Gender Equality in Public Administration**

**December 2016 – February 2017**

United Nations Development Programme, Support to the Design of Tracking Mechanism Prototype

- Supported the consolidation of regional data monitoring systems on gender equality in public administration; analyzed national monitoring practices to produce a typology of tracking systems; specialized in the challenges to developing a cross-national standard for data collection, reporting, and analysis; co-drafted a manual for developing and institutionalizing tracking mechanisms suitable for a range of resource conditions based on a combination of the best practices analyzed: "Developing a Tracking Mechanism for Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA): Challenges, Considerations, and Recommendations" (submitted to the UNDP).

#### **Program Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, Women's Leadership Development Programme**

**November 2015 – July 2016**

Centre for Women in Governance – Kampala, Uganda

- Partnered with a local NGO to design pre- and post-training survey questionnaires implemented in 10 study districts to more than 300 women candidates for public office in the Western Region of Uganda during the 2016 election cycle.
- Authored a report on the findings that included an evaluation of the project's implementation, recommendations for improvement, and suggestions for more targeted interventions in the pursuit of improving women's leadership in Uganda: "Program Evaluation: Training Women Candidates – An Attitudinal Survey of Women Candidates for Public Office in Western Uganda."

#### **Project Manager, Sectarian Politics, Public Opinion, and Oil & Gas in Lebanon**

**May 2015 – July 2015**

The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies – Beirut, Lebanon

- Collaborated with a local non-profit and their international funders (World Bank, International Development Research Centre, and the Norwegian Embassy) to study cooperation across groups in the context of natural resource wealth, yielding three peer-reviewed journal publications in high-ranking outlets and two policy publications to date that draw on the data collected, including a national survey of 2,400+ individuals and 120 group discussions involving 720 participants of mixed economic and sectarian backgrounds.
- Developed the data collection instruments, communicated with relevant stakeholders, supervised piloting, observed focus group discussions, provided feedback to group moderators, and advised on the sampling design; worked with an interpreter to conduct the pilot training of all field teams, ~45 enumerators and field supervisors total.

#### **Project Coordinator, The Community Connector Project**

**July 2014 – October 2014**

Innovations for Poverty Action – Uganda, Southwestern Region, Uganda

- Supervised the final weeks of endline survey data collection for the USAID-funded project, "Healthy Lives, Healthy Families," which gave health education and women's empowerment training to a sample of 5,516 households across 4 districts.
- Managed multiple enumeration teams to reduce attrition from the baseline survey from 11% to 5% in just 5 weeks; conducted briefing sessions, oversaw all financial transactions and co-managed the field project budget (endline activities budgeted at \$250,000), ensured data quality via statistical programming checks, and managed the incoming raw data; designed and supervised the entire qualitative data collection follow-up to the endline survey, including working with a team of local researchers to complete 36 focus group discussions and 36 in-depth interviews in 36 villages in 4 districts in 9 working days.

#### **Project Manager, Public Opinion on Oil and Oil Governance in Uganda**

**May 2014 – July 2014**

University of Pennsylvania / University of Pittsburgh / The Ohio State University – Kampala, Uganda

- Supervised all aspects of implementation and data production and analysis for a nationwide survey of public opinion on oil in Uganda, including coverage of 2,736 individuals from 76 constituencies and 304 villages. Conducted informal interviews with multinational oil companies and community stakeholders in oil-affected regions; coordinated with the survey firm's Managing Director and other researchers involved in the project and participated in meetings with international partners and donors; managed 19 field research teams and led survey piloting and training of enumerators in the use of survey tools; developed the quality control protocol used to ensure the integrity of the data collection process.

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. – Political Science, University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA**

**April 2019**

*Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellow; Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award; Graduate Affiliate, Economic & Social Rights Research Group*

**M.A. – Political Science, University of Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA**

**December 2013**

**B.A. – Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE), Denison University – Granville, OH**

**May 2010**

*Critical Language Scholarship – Indonesia, U.S. State Department; Harold Titus Prize in Social Philosophy; Honors Program Graduate & Gilpatrick Fellow; Political Science Department Fellow; Pascal Carter Scholarship for National Merit Finalists*