

DHYIA M. THOMPSON

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PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 years of consulting experience, including project management in the public, for-profit and not-for-profit sectors in the areas of community development, project/program structure design and implementation; curriculum development; conducting trainings; strategic planning and meeting facilitation
- Experience with monitoring administering funds under federal compliance guidelines and OMB circulars
- Experience with community and economic development projects that involve working closely with locally elected officials, public agencies, media, subcontractors & community constituents in order to execute tasks

EXPERIENCE

virgoProject

08/2008 – current

Chicago, IL

Managing Director/Consultant

Own a small contract consulting company to complete short-term contract projects for small organizations in the non-for-profit and for-profit arenas. Current and past assignments include: technical and research support for the development of an industry-focused White paper; strategic communication planning for a public transit campaign; developed a project management report; event fundraising; grant writing; and brand & marketing development.

- Met and built political support from Chicago municipal leaders and state legislators to gain approval for transit improvements on the Southside of Chicago by working with transit agencies, community organizations, and lobbying elected officials to obtain funding for an alternatives analysis study
- Created a strategic communications plan to support the client's transit campaign; was successful in obtaining sympathetic media stories from NPR, WBBM, Chicago Maroon, and Hyde Park Herald
- Currently working on a strategic plan to re-design a national non-profit's organizational structure

Huron Consulting Group

10/2005 – 07/2008

Chicago, IL

Consultant

Completed assignments for public and private Higher Education institutions and Healthcare systems in the areas of research administration, compliance, and organizational assessments; facilities and administration space studies; post-award (restricted fund accounting) interim staffing; training; salary costing practice reviews; and institutional policy and procedure review and development.

- Assisted clients with the administration of federal research grants by communicating with the grant managers to ensure compliance standards were met and funds were appropriately allocated according to applicable OMB circulars, as well as submitted various financial status reports for NIH, NSF, and AHRQ awards
- Developed a full summary/reference guide and relevant recommendations for an institution's current compliance practices using accounting and administrative standards from federal OMB Circular A-110
- Interviewed over 30 faculty, principal investigators, and executives for a mid-sized Catholic teaching institution to assess their operational and compliance processes for costing practices on their research funded projects and helped develop the final deliverable report to the institutional leadership
- Reviewed and analyzed client business environments including completing basic financial models, conducting benchmark analysis, as well as create and develop client deliverable reports and/or presentations based on the assessment of client engagement goals
- Managed a consulting sub-project that presented the organization with a \$75,000 add-on project to develop, plan, and create a retreat for a university's research enterprise staff and investigators -- the purpose of the retreat was three-fold: 1) to announce the organizational re-design of the division, 2) conduct a research compliance training highlighting federal compliance, and 3) develop a cohesive culture for interdepartmental collegiality
- Created a financial model for submitting backlogged financial reports for approximately \$55 million in federal sponsored awards for a large public institution's central research administration

Quad Communities Development Corporation

6/2004 – 10/2005

Chicago, IL

Project Manager

Created entire planning and implementation of the organization's Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) Full Circle project, which collected community assets in an effort to help facilitate commercial development in the Bronzeville Community. Recruit, hire and supervise a team of 10 Community Mapping Interns to collect and analyze data as well as mentor and foster an educational learning environment. Manage and allocate budget specifically for the NIPC project. Assist community partners with organization's quality of life plan and implementation activities.

Collaborate with non-profit residential developers in an effort to sustain housing preservation in the community.

- Served as the interim community organizer and worked closely with the community and external organizations to help inform low-income housing residents on affordable housing programs, participate in local community events to answer questions on activities and events related to community development; i.e. education programs, home buying seminars, and child care service providers
- Managed and developed a retail development study funded by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) to collect community assets in order to attract retailers -- handled all aspects of the project including developing the entire program, hiring, budget allocation, community outreach and conducting community meetings, grant compliance, and monthly financial reports submitted to funder
- Provided support to Chicago's 4th ward Alderman and the Executive governing Board with various organizational and quality-of-life strategies
- Collaborated and assisted urban planning consultants and architectural firms with completing a design standard for the 4th ward Cottage Grove corridor
- Wrote sponsorship proposals to corporations to help fund and support organization-sponsored events
- Worked closely with governmental organization program officers to meet and set standards for the NIPC Full Circle project; making periodic efficiency adjustments

C.H.Robinson Worldwide

10/2002 – 10/2003

Chicago, IL

Account Executive

Maintained daily operational functions, quality assurance, and customer service for a large third-party logistical transportation brokerage, as well as brokered freight to regular, new, and lead carrier clientele.

EDUCATION

REAP (Real Estate Associate Program)

2009

Chicago, IL

Commercial Real Estate & Development Program for minorities

Loyola University Chicago

Chicago, IL

Master of Education in Higher Education Administration

- *Illinois Consortium of Education Opportunities Program Fellow*

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Champaign, IL

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science

Double Minor: Afro-American Studies & Computer Science

Tec de Monterrey

Mazatlán, Sinaloa MX

Study Abroad: Intensive Spanish Language Study

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
- Member, MetroBoard: Chicago Urban League
- President, Diversity Initiative Group, Inc. (DIG)
- Member, Women in Planning & Development (WP+D)