

I am a civic leader with extensive public sector experience. I am committed to creative problem-solving & am a skilled convener who brings people together to improve their communities. I advocate for improving social equity & advancing civil rights in all my endeavors.

Employment

Principal | **Manisha Bewtra Consulting** | Tucson, Arizona | 2020-present

With the goal of making communities more welcoming, equitable, resilient, and sustainable, I work with government, community development organizations, civic groups, unions, & political campaigns to deliver customized workshops, design effective public processes, analyze community dynamics & improve local policies.

Beacon Leadership Collaborative | **Special Projects Advisor** | Lexington, Massachusetts | 2020

Committee to Elect Manisha Bewtra | **Candidate for Mayor** | Melrose, Massachusetts | 2019

As one of five Mayoral candidates in 2019, I offered a forward-looking vision for an inclusive, accountable, & systems-oriented local government. My campaign best reflected the diversity of our community. My city planning & advocacy experience gave me a deep understanding of the complexities of governance & how changes big & small could impact the lives of community members.

City of Melrose | **City Councilor-At-Large** | Candidate 2017 | Term 2018-2019

In 2017, I was the first person of color ever elected to serve the City of Melrose. During my term, our city faced crucial decisions regarding our city budget, & we passed the first Proposition 2 1/2 property tax override in 25 years. I presented information about demographic changes, city investments, & budgetary constraints to a variety of local groups. I led our Council in endorsing "Yes on 3" in 2018, reaffirming local & state laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity & gender expression.

Massachusetts Housing Partnership | **Senior Program Manager** | Boston | 2018-2019

I provided consultation & analysis to over a dozen cities & towns across Massachusetts to promote local affordable housing production. This work included devising community engagement strategies, assessing local housing needs using demographic & economic data, analyzing construction feasibility & supporting site selection, mapping environmental & land use constraints, & writing inclusionary zoning policies.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) | **Various Positions** | Boston | 2008-2018

In addition to my project work & other duties described below, throughout my tenure at MAPC I participated in strategic planning for the agency & helped to launch & advance MAPC's equity & cultural competency initiative.

Analytical Services Manager 2016-2018

In this role, I provided supervision & strategic direction to MAPC's team of planning & GIS (geographic information systems) analysts as well as managed interdepartmental projects & communications. I was responsible for ensuring that quantitative & qualitative analyses in a range of MAPC projects were well-communicated & that data was used appropriately to illustrate trends & insights. I managed projects with statewide policy implications for state agencies and Massachusetts-focused nonprofit organizations. I managed the data & mapping elements of a breadth of projects for municipal clients including housing production plans, smart growth district designations, open space plans, greenhouse gas emission inventories, climate change vulnerability analyses, comprehensive plans, & downtown revitalization projects.

Senior Regional Planner 2011-2015 | **Regional Planner** 2009-2011 | **Associate Planner** 2008-2009

I served as a project manager & lead author for several municipal comprehensive plans, oversaw transit-oriented zoning amendments, led work on downtown revitalization & corridor management planning projects, oversaw analysis of casino impacts, & more. At different times, I served as subregional council coordinator for the Inner Core as well as for the Minuteman area. I helped to launch & operationalize implementation strategies for MetroFuture, the regional plan for Greater Boston adopted shortly after I started work at MAPC.

Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) | **Master of Urban Planning Faculty** | Cambridge | 2014

Arizona State University College of Design, School of Planning | **Faculty Associate** | Tempe | 2008

City of Chandler Planning & Development | **Current Planning Intern** | Chandler, Arizona | 2008

People's Homesteading Group | **Housing Development Project Manager** | Baltimore, Maryland | 2005-2007

National Trust for Historic Preservation | **Community Revitalization Intern** | Washington, D.C. | 2005

Philadelphia City Planning Commission | **Community Planning Intern** | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 2004-2005

Education

University of Pennsylvania | **Master of City Planning** | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | 2005

The University of Iowa | **Bachelor of Arts in Economics & Art** | Iowa City, Iowa | 2002

Volunteer roles

Arizona Democratic Party Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus | **Newsletter Lead** | 2021-2022 term

Pima County Democratic Party Legislative District 10 | **Precinct Committeeperson** | Appointed February 2021

Tucson Unified Parent Advocacy Council | **Community Representative** | Tucson | 2020-present

Sam Hughes Elementary School Site Council | **Community Representative** | Tucson | 2020-present

Mel King Institute for Community Building | **Alliance for Racial Equity Steering Committee Member** | Boston | 2011-present

Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School Site Council | **Community Representative** | 2020

Raiders Rumble First Lego League Regional Robotics Competition (4th-8th graders) | **Innovation Project Judge** | Melrose | 2019

Urban Land Institute Boston/New England | 2018

- Represented Melrose in the 2018 UrbanPlan Public Leadership Institute with city councilors from Boston, Cambridge, Watertown, & Salem
- Served as an UrbanPlan Volunteer in high school classes at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School & Boston Latin School
- Provided Town of Milton with redevelopment ideas for East Milton Square as a Technical Assistance Panelist in Milton

Melrose Human Rights Commission 2015-2017 | **Vice Chair** 2017 | **Secretary** 2016

- Organized Cultural Proficiency Workshops for the public & for city staff
- Helped to launch city's annual Ramadan Community Iftar & Diwali dinners.
- Increased awareness of the Commission's resources as well as attendance at events using Facebook & Eventbrite.

RAW Art Works | **Project Launch Mentor** | Lynn | 2015-2016

- Mentor for high school senior to assist with college applications

American Planning Association Massachusetts Chapter (APA-MA) | **Boston Region Representative** 2011-2015

Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation | Roxbury | **Board of Directors** 2011-2015 | **Marketing Committee Chair** 2013-2015

Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) | **Guest Design Critic for Urban Planning Program** | Cambridge | 2013-present

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | **Expert Judge for Urban Planning Brainstorming Study** | Cambridge | 2014

East Cambridge Planning Team | **Participant** 2008-2010 | **East Cambridge Open Space Trust** | **Trustee** 2008-2010

University of Pennsylvania College Houses/LGBT Center | Philadelphia | **SafeZone Volunteer** 2003-2005

- Certified as a residential advisor, designating dormitory as a safe space for residents to talk about sexual orientation or gender identity
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Memberships, certifications, & additional credentials

Professional associations: American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) 2010-present | American Planning Association 2003-present

Meeting facilitation: Kansas Leadership Center Your Leadership Edge Skills Lab Certificate 2020 | Interaction Institute for Social Change (IISC) Facilitation for Racial Justice 2019 & Essential Facilitation Certificate 2012

Political leadership: Emerge Massachusetts 2017 | Initiative for Diversity in Civic Leadership 2011 | MA Commonwealth Seminar 2009

Creative writing: Follow Your Art Writers Studio Melrose, Grub Street Boston, Creative Alliance Baltimore, Iowa Writers Workshop

Public speaking: Several local, regional, & national speaking engagements including community, political, & advocacy-oriented, as well as city planning & community engagement workshops for professionals & students — details available upon request.

Computer skills: GIS/mapping, data viz, some web design, email marketing, Adobe Creative Cloud, Google Drive, MS Office, social media

Languages: Hindi, intermediate/conversational Spanish, currently taking Spanish classes offered by Vive México in Tucson.