

Mitra Elena Ghaffari

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EDUCATION

University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

September 2021—June 2023

Master of Fine Arts: Social Documentation

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

December 2017

Bachelor of Arts: magna cum laude, GPA: 4.0, Dean's list, Phi Beta Kappa, Colorado Merit Scholarship recipient

Major: Intercultural Communication, Minors: Spanish; Luso-Brazilian Studies

CIEE Cuban Studies Program and Colorado College Semester in LA, Havana, Cuba

August 2016 – May 2017

CIEE Salvador da Bahia Program, Universidade Católica do Salvador, Salvador, Brazil

July – December 2014

Rotary International Youth Exchange, IES Huelin, Málaga, Spain

August 2011 – June 2012

WORK EXPERIENCE

Trip Leader, Backroads, International

May 2020—Present

- Guide biking and hiking trips, coordinating activities and equipment while managing trip logistics.

Spanish-English Translator and Editor Prensa Latina: Agencia Informativa, Cuba

January 2019 – Present

- (Now Remote) Serve as the translator and editor for The Havana Reporter print and online publication.

Program Assistant CC Mobile Arts, CO

November – June 2020

- (Remote & PT) Manage design, logistics, social media & programming of a project for accessible community arts.

Digital Media Specialist (Remote & PT) In.Visible Paradigms, Boston, MA

December—June 2020

Production Assistant Zero Point Zero/CNN United Shades of America with W. Kamau Bell, San Diego, CA

December 2020

Independent Documentary Production Assistant Viva Vida Productions, CA

June—December 2020

- (Remote & PT) Assisted all aspects of post-production for a film about the migrant caravans and US immigration policy, including transcription, translation, archival research, grant writing, data entry, and social impact campaign.

Voter Education Canvasser for Civic Engagement Program (PT), Alliance San Diego, CA

September – November 2020

- Canvassed up until Election day, advocating for Prop 15 and offering general voter education.

International Program Leader, Overland Summers, Costa Rica

May – August 2019

- Coordinated and directed intensive Spanish language trips in San Isidro, Costa Rica for high school students.

Brazilian Cultural Program Coordinator and Tutor, Colorado College

August 2017 – June 2018

- Organized cultural events and communal, student art exhibits, provided mentorship and Portuguese tutoring.

Assistant Curator and Translator, Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs

February 2016 – March 2017

- Managed curation, marketing, event planning and media components of contemporary Brazilian art exposition.

- Served as the translator and interpreter for English-Portuguese communications.

Rio 2016 Games Intern, United States Olympic Committee, Colorado Springs; Rio de Janeiro

May – September 2016

- Managed facility tasks and communication as a Portuguese-English interpreter and created digital content.

FYE Program Mentor, Colorado College

August 2015 – June 2016

- Served as an academic peer advisor to first year students, tutoring for the Spanish and Portuguese Department.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Project Manager and Media Teacher, Akokán Socio-Community Project, Havana, Cuba

November 2016 – June 2020

- Helped initiate a community organization, headed its social media and lead media & art workshops for youth.

PhotoVoice Assistant Facilitator and Media Support, Havana, Cuba

September-December 2019

- Helped lead PhotoVoice (community-based storytelling) workshops for the leaders of 8 social impact initiatives.

Projects for Peace Fellowship Recipient, Davis Foundation

March – September 2018

- Organized infrastructural and artistic development of Los Pocitos, Havana, including kids' art workshops.

- Served as a translator and coordinator for international workshop leaders and volunteers.

Workaway Volunteer, Paraíso Azul, Marea Hostel, DDRIO Sailboat Tours, Living Forest

January 2018– April 2019

- Volunteered as translator, media specialist, photographer, visual artist and videographer for various businesses.

Digital Media Specialist, MUSE: Music for Kids Nonprofit, Boulder, Colorado

September 2015 – Present

- Producing media content, administering website and social media and directing marketing campaigns.

Filmmaker and Volunteer, Colorado Documentary Project, Colorado Springs, Colorado

May – August 2015

- Created a short doc that was a 2016 ACM Film Festival Social Impact Award nominee and was broadcast on PBS.

AWARDS AND EXHIBITIONS

Ver Para Querer Exhibition Wilfredo Lam (12 photos featured) Marianao, Havana, Cuba

October 2019

The Keller Family Venture Grant (Visual Narratives of Cultural Identity in Havana, Cuba)

February 2017

The Linda Hare Goddard 1977 Memorial Award in Spanish, Colorado College, Colorado

May 2016

Languages: Full professional proficiency in Spanish, professional proficiency in Portuguese and elementary Farsi