

PRISCYLLA BENTO, M.P.A.

EDUCATION

PhD – Urban Planning and Public Policy

University of Texas at Arlington; Arlington, Texas - Current

Master of Public Administration

University of Texas at Arlington; Arlington, Texas –2013

Bachelor of Arts in History Pre-Law

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Bachelor of Arts in French

University of Texas at Arlington; Arlington, Texas – 2011

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of North Texas at Dallas

Dallas, TX

2016-Present

Adjunct Professor

- Serve as professor of Political Science, planning course formats and implementing learning objectives while utilizing the collaborative learning process.
- Courses cover full range of undergraduate Political Science materials, including fundamental concepts of Federal and Texas Government.
- Contributes to the evaluation of the instructional process and utilizes strategies to continually improve learning.

Dallas County Community College District

Dallas, TX

2015-Present

Eastfield College – Adjunct Professor

- Serve as professor of Government in regular, dual credit, and online course formats, with courses covering materials in both federal and Texas government.
- Design and implement course curriculum and structure. Assess student progress, provide guidance, and deliver assistance in comprehension of materials.
- Prepare coursework, lessons, and develop teaching strategies to engage students in an interactive learning process.
- Certified by the Dallas County Community College District to teach online college courses.

Garland Independent School District

Garland, TX

2013-2014

Williams Elementary School – Bilingual Aide

- Designed evaluation instruments to gauge instructional effectiveness of learning in classrooms with non- or limited English proficient students.
- Worked directly with 200 students, grades K thru 5th, in subject areas such as, reading, math, language development, social studies, art, ethnic studies, music, and physical education to enrich, review and reinforce the instructional program; translate as needed into the students' native language.
- Wrote simple instruction guides for classroom management and bilingual educational teaching methods.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION

Bezboruh, Karabi, Bento, Priscylla, Green, Brandie L., Panas, Jennifer K., & Parks, Wesley S. (2017). Cross-Sector Community Revitalization: An Experiential Case Study. *Journal of Nonprofit Education and Leadership*, 7(4), 365-377.

CERTIFICATIONS

Chief Administrative Office (CAO) - House Learning Center

- Certificates of Completion in
 - Legislative Research – LIS and ProQuest
 - House Research Tools
 - Excel Manipulating Data

Dallas County Community College District

- Online Teaching Certification

Lean Six Sigma

- Green Belt Certification

LANGUAGES

Fluent in: English, Portuguese, and Spanish

Intermediate in: French

PUBLIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

<i>City of Rockwall Main Street Advisory Board</i>	<i>2018</i>
Appointed board member by the Rockwall City Council	
<i>City of Dallas Reinvestment Zone 18 Maple/Mockingbird TIF Board</i>	<i>2015 – Present</i>
Appointed board member by the Dallas City Council	
<i>The University of Texas System - Archer Center Graduate Program in Public Policy</i>	<i>2015</i>
Competitively selected as an Archer Fellow from across The University of Texas System for a Washington, D.C., internship and academic fellowship program	
<i>Rotary Group Study Exchange Program</i>	<i>2013</i>
Selected for a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals in the early stages of their careers	

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Community and Economic Development
- Evaluation Research
- Urban Research and Analysis
- Strategic Economic Development
- Quantitative/Qualitative Research and Analysis
- Public Capital Budgeting
- Urban Planning
- Training in Localization and Translation
- Training in instruction of Second Language Acquisition (SLA)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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|---|-------------------------|--------------|
| City of Dallas
<i>Office of the City Secretary – Elections Manager</i> | Dallas, TX | 2018-Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for the Elections Division of the City Secretary’s Office conducting elections and maintaining official records.• Coordinate election processes with state, county, and city to ensure elections procedures and records comply with statutory requirements.• Prepare public notices and supply news media with elections information; negotiate and administer contracts for services. | | |
| City of Dallas
<i>Office of the City Secretary – Open Records Coordinator</i> | Dallas, TX | 2017-2018 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operate in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Public Information Act [Texas Government Code Chapter 552] completing open records requests for the City of Dallas• Prepare and deliver written requests for exceptions to the Texas Attorney General’s Office, maintaining information that must be withheld from public disclosure.• Establish strategic plan and city-wide training for the newly formed Open Records Request Center in the City Secretary’s Office | | |
| U.S. Department of State
<i>Virtual Student Foreign Service - eIntern</i> | Washington, D.C. | 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hispanic Employee Council of Foreign Affairs Agencies (HECFAA) - Engaging Hispanic Youth in U.S. Diplomacy.• Conceive, design and implement marketing strategy & community to increase the number of Hispanics in diplomacy.• Establish community outreach plans & objectives, coordinate networking policies, apply for grants, and research institutional image positioning.• Design and maintain marketing tools, website, and manage social media accounts. | | |
| University of Texas at Arlington
<i>North Texas Regional Housing Assessment – Community Outreach Manager & Researcher</i> | Arlington, TX | 2017 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD Public Participation Lead completing outreach to communities in 13 North Texas counties and facilitating over 100 community focus group meetings.• Perform comprehensive assessment in accordance to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule planning process and complete research divided into three interrelated parts, including: Data Collection and Fair Housing Analysis, Community Participation, and Development of Goals and priorities.• Contribute comprehensive assessment examining not only housing-related challenges but also employment, transportation, and accessibility to opportunities. | | |
| University of Texas at Arlington
<i>Institute of Urban Studies – Graduate Research Assistant</i> | Arlington, TX | 2016 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct revitalization project for the Dallas Fair Park and surrounding community.• Prepare strategic analysis and comprehensive plan, producing architectural and economic development approach for the Dallas Fair Park.• Organize neighborhood engagement and community development research, detailing best practices for the area’s improvement and growth | | |

U.S. House of Representatives**Washington, D.C.**

2015

Office of Congressman Marc Veasey – Congressional Fellow

- Developed and advanced legislative initiatives utilizing legislative research and analysis for bills such as the reintroduction of the Notario Victim Relief Act.
- Attended policy briefings handling a diverse portfolio of policy issues including international affairs, immigration, education and environment.
- House Learning Center Certificate of Completion in: Legislative Research – LIS and ProQuest, House Research Tools, and Excel Manipulating Data.

City of Dallas**Dallas, TX**

2014-2015

Office of the City Secretary – City Council Support and Departmental Internal Support

- Provided service to Dallas City Council Members and researched requests from city departments regarding inquiries over various city services.
- Attended all City Council Committee meetings and other related activities; provided meeting support and maintained Council attendance.
- Administered and managed the City Secretary’s Office database for the City of Dallas Boards & Commissions, City Resolutions & Ordinances and City Administrative Actions.
- Provided internal support to 44 city departments including city council, city attorneys, and city auditors with service requests regarding official documentation such as city resolutions, ordinances, and administrative actions.

City of Dallas**Dallas, TX**

2012-2013

Office of the Mayor – Intern

- Performed research and data analysis, prepared reports and made recommendations to Chief of Staff.
- Researched priority city projects and provided feedback on topics such as Public Safety and Education.
- **GrowSouth**: Mayor Mike Rawlings’s Southern Dallas economic development plan. Planned outreach and effective interaction such as the High School Leadership Program. Authored briefings and speeches, created program evaluation and assisted in the development of strategic planning.

Peoplefund**Dallas, TX**

2012

Lending Assistant – Intern

- Implemented marketing strategies, outreach activities to media and public relations related to community partners and prospective clients.
- Successfully targeted market of minorities, women, veterans, and businesses in low-income areas with 89% of loans approved.
- Analyzed research data including grant related research/applications; proposed recommendations along with processing and upkeep of clients.

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Summer - Fall 2017: Community Outreach Manager & Researcher

University of Texas at Arlington - North Texas Regional Housing Assessment

The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Research Team is working with participating local jurisdictions, interested parties, and the public to assess fair housing challenges and ultimately provide guidance to program participants in furthering fair housing. The assessment consists of a comprehensive analysis examining not only housing-related challenges but also related to employment, transportation, and accessibility to opportunities.

- The Regional Housing Assessment is a yearlong research project taking place from January 2017 thru January 2018.
 - The scope of the assessment is dual:
 - The analysis is performed for each participating jurisdiction as well as
 - The Dallas Fort Worth Metropolitan area which covers 13 counties.
- The Regional Assessment is led by experienced and outstanding faculty and researchers from diverse disciplines including Urban Planning, Public Policy, Civil Engineering, and Social Work.
 - The research team for this project is comprised of 15 researchers including professors, doctoral students, and masters students.
- Deliverable products include:
 - The Fair Housing Analysis
 - Identify housing and living patterns of integration and segregation, racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, disproportionate housing needs, and disparities in access to opportunity
 - Identify contributing factors that cause, perpetuate, or increase fair housing issues
 - Public Engagement and Consultation
 - Facilitate public hearings and conduct outreach activities designed to encourage and broaden meaningful public participation
 - Provide continuous information of research related findings
 - Development of Goals and Priorities
 - Prioritization of contributing factors and related fair housing issues
 - Provide guidance in meeting fair housing duties

Spring 2016: Graduate Research Assistant

Fair Park Reinvigoration Plan

The Institute of Urban Studies and researchers engaged with community leaders and Fair Park tenants while exploring national best practices to ensure their commitment to shaping sustainable urban communities.

- The team examined the stakeholder group's own unique set of priorities within the context of proven approaches that have worked in other cities
- Work focused on four broad areas:
 - Improving neighborhood connectivity with Fair Park
 - Creating a world-class urban park with year-round programming
 - Recommending new uses for the mostly vacant historic buildings
 - Imagining a better State Fair within a reconfigured footprint.
- Other components of the proposal include:

- New ticket packaging process, which would allow easier access to venues by visitors and a more efficient way of tracking attendance by the State Fair and other venues;
- Extensive greening of Fair Park, including a variety of gardens;
- Attracting research consortia and other educational and cultural entities to occupy the historic buildings;
- Creating an innovation and education hub that would fuse art and technology
- Providing year-round multigenerational programming and events.

Fall 2015: PhD Researcher

Cadillac Heights Community Development Strategic Plan

A collaboration between the Department of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and Terra Shelter Inc. to develop a Community Development Strategic Plan for Cadillac Heights.

- Faculty and students of the Nonprofit Organizations in Public Policy class facilitated visioning exercise with community members, which resulted in the identification of the most critical issues facing the neighborhood. Primary parts of this Plan – strategic issues, goals and objectives, are based on community feedback.
- Plan discussed the four strategic issues identified by the community members of the Cadillac Heights neighborhood:
 - Economic Revitalization
 - Infrastructure Development
 - Social Revitalization
 - Environmental Awareness
- Final Plan outlined the 2015 Community Development Strategic Plan intended on revitalizing Cadillac Heights. Entailing the following:
 - An introduction to the strategic planning process and its execution.
 - Data summarizing the community’s various objectives
 - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis (SWOT)
 - Strategic issues and corresponding objectives formulated from data collected at the visioning meeting.

Fall 2013: Masters Researcher

Capital Improvement & Performance Measurement Methods

Part I

- Provided performance measurement methods for use by the City of Garland to analyze the inputs, outputs and outcomes of the Capital Improvement Program adopted.
- Steps included:
 - Review of the Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Garland and determining of projects within the Parks and Economic Development area that would require performance measures.
 - Development of client-approved list with specified qualitative and quantitative performance measures established.

Part II

- Conducted a survey of all cities in the State of Texas, with a population of 50,000 or more, requesting information on Capital Improvement Programs and whether Performance Measurements are conducted for programs.
- Steps included:
 - Development of contact information for the 70 Budget Directors in Texas Cities who have a population greater than 50,000.
 - Creation and distribution of survey, consisting of 20-25 questions, concerning whether the cities have an operating and capital budget and if they use performance measures for projects within their CIP.

Final Project Deliverables (Parts I & II)

- Project Report
- Presentation Materials
- Survey Analysis
- Performance Measures for City of Garland