

Franque Michele Bains

Strategic Leadership | Heartful Vision | Environmental Advocacy

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Relationship-driven leader with 10+ years of experience leveraging community input and engagement to develop strategic plans that propel initiatives forward.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION & MATHEMATICS

Claremont Graduate University

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Organizational Governance
 - Strategic Leadership
 - Legislative and Policy Advocacy
 - Strategic Partnerships
 - Community Power Building
 - Participatory Facilitation Techniques
 - Donor Engagement
 - Fundraising
 - Trauma-Informed Design
 - Team Leadership
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AWARDS

- 2025 Sageland Collaborative Partner of the Year | Celebration of leaders in environmental advocacy.
 - 2024 Utah Business Living Color Honoree | Honoring work towards a more equitable and inclusive Utah.
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WORK EXPERIENCE

CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club | 2024 - Current

Driving environmental advocacy, social justice initiatives, and organizational growth throughout Utah.

- Direct strategic planning, staff supervision, and financial management for a high-impact environmental organization, coordinating a team of 6 staff and 35,000 supporters statewide.
- Oversee impactful legislative, administrative, fundraising, and community advocacy campaigns, elevating environmental issues in Utah.
- Key Impact: Expand volunteer and donor engagement and membership to strengthen the environmental justice movement across the state.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Westminster University, Salt Lake City | 2019 – Current

Joined Westminster faculty to teach curriculum focusing on Facilitating and Negotiating for Social Change and Writing to Heal Trauma.

- Teach lessons rooted in participatory and design processes that equip students with the skills needed to facilitate meaningful experiences and lift all voices in a room.
- Support students in using writing to infuse trauma-informed practices into their curriculum to build classroom cultures of belonging.

PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE

University of Utah | Spring 2025

What dreams emerge when we have the courage to rest? Guiding Environmental Humanities graduate students through a curriculum centered on rest and wellness in the environmental movement.

- Through performance art and storytelling, designing curriculum for environmental students to explore leadership that is impactful and responsive, yet restful and connection-centered.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIST

Contractor | 2016 – Current

Hired as a contractor to oversee the design and facilitation of ongoing community engagement strategies, providing organizations with the tools necessary to align community voice and amplify the level of impact.

- Key outcomes: 90% engagement in community-driven education initiatives due to the implementation of a task force, board involvement, and approval of compensation for the community.
- Lasting Results: Hires of people of color (POC) in leadership roles, POC-led programming, and a diversified volunteer pool due to community-led initiatives.

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PROGRAM MANAGER

PROG Development Center | 2022 - 2024

Stepped into a dynamic role to foster a community of inclusion and belonging between partners and communities

- Provide organizational management, partnership development, and strategic planning to our team to build out programs for a career support-focused center.
- Key Outcomes: Managed project development and implementation for landscape analysis at the implementation of a community center.
- Lasting Results: Launch of inaugural programs boasting 85% retention rates, helping participants gain tech certifications and employment throughout Utah.

NETWORK DIRECTOR

United Way of Salt Lake | 2019- 2020

Developed cross-sector teams and implemented strategies that improved educational outcomes for 3rd-grade reading and comprehension, 8th-grade mathematics, and chronic absence for school districts in Northern Utah.

- Served as a convener to lead teams through the exploration, ideation, and implementation of initiatives to improve school outcomes for students using a collective impact framework through building teams of concerned individuals, including business leaders, parents, and educators.

TEACHER ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

San Francisco Unified | 2014 – 2016

Chosen to serve as an educator to trailblaze restorative practice-based programs focused on improving student outcomes in collaboration with administrators and school counselors to craft alternatives to suspension.

- Managed and led organized programs while navigating the school climate, socio-emotional wellness, and student leadership.

MATH EDUCATOR

Oakland Military Institute | 2013 - 2014

Hired as a teacher to design student-focused projects that enriched student learning.

- Specialized in fostering a collaborative and project-based learning environment for students of all levels of learning.
- Partnered with faculty to develop formative and interim assessments that supported student growth.

MATH EDUCATOR

Village School in Guatemala | 2012 - 2013

Joined as a teacher for a private school in Guatemala to design a project-based learning curriculum specializing in student-focused learning, neuropsychology, metacognition, and discovery learning for students.

- Leveraged intuitive problem-solving to institute project-based learning in mathematics by facilitating activities that develop youth skills through collaboration.

PROJECTS

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Of Salt and Sand | 2022 - Current

Selected to serve on the board in strategic planning and developing storytelling projects aimed at supporting rural communities to navigate economic shifts.

FOUNDING MEMBER

Utahn Conversations | 2020 - 2021

Instrumental in launching a communal project that provided support and tools for individuals to step into the role of "host" and conduct critical conversations that created change and built safety in the light of the George Floyd tragedy.

PUBLICATIONS AND STORYTELLING SPOTLIGHTS

1. "DreamSpace in the Environmental Movement", [Student Art Exhibit](#), April 2025
2. "Solution Chasers", [Great Salt Lake Rally](#), January 2025.
3. "Sankofa, This Journey: Go Back and Get It", [Salt Lake Acting Company](#), March 2023
4. "Strong and Bitter Tea", [People's Energy Movement](#), Oct 2020