

# LEAH MARGARETA GAZZO REISMAN

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I am a **bilingual nonprofit leader and sociologist** with demonstrated experience in both high-level strategy and grassroots community-based work, and a proven commitment to community-led and culturally-responsive practice.

## Competencies

- Strategy consulting and evaluation
- Qualitative and quantitative research
- Program leadership and management
- Fundraising and partnership development

## Substantive Expertise

- Nonprofit management
- Arts and culture in the U.S. and Latin America
- Partnering with immigrant communities
- Ethnography and narrative

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**The Barra Foundation** Philadelphia, PA | *Program Officer* | February 2023 – Present

- Source and steward arts and culture and education-related projects that embody a commitment to risk-taking, innovation, and novel approaches to community challenges.

**Puentes de Salud** Philadelphia, PA | *Health and Wellness Director* | October 2018 – January 2023 (Promoted 2020)

- Launched, managed, and grew new service areas and programs in food access and case management; led multi-year community-driven mental health and COVID-vaccine promotion initiatives
- Designed and executed programs focused on art, narrative, and healing in collaboration with a teaching artist
- Shepherded organization-wide initiatives to better integrate services across departments
- Built and stewarded partnerships with entities ranging from major health systems to community-based nonprofits to Latinx-owned restaurants and churches
- Served as spokesperson, champion, and teller of hard truths to funders, partners, the public, and the community
- Supervised 4 direct reports, approximately 25 contractors, and many volunteers and interns; managed department budget and administrative functions. Raised over \$1.8M in under 2 years

**Metris Arts Consulting** Easton, PA | *Affiliate* | March 2021 - Present

- Lead strategy, evaluation, and research projects focused on arts-based community development, creative placemaking, and cultural policy, with clients including the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and HumanitiesDC

**Independent Consultant** Philadelphia, PA | *Principal* | August 2019 – Winter 2023

- Led strategy and research projects focused on philanthropy, social justice, and the arts
- Recent projects include commissioned research for LISC and the Wallace Foundation, and, as a Research Fellow at NYU's Brademas Center, a Mellon Foundation-funded study of the arts and social wellbeing in California

**Fairmount Ventures** Philadelphia, PA | *Affiliate* | July 2019 - February 2021

- Guided strategic planning processes for nonprofits, from universities to grassroots organizations
- Led research design and execution for clients, including survey design, interviewing, and document analysis
- Collaboratively created solutions to complex organizational problems via hands-on working sessions with diverse stakeholders, consultants, and organizational leaders

**The Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley** | *Assistant Research Specialist* | February 2012 - July 2014

- Designed and executed evaluations for clients from museums to schools
- Led major program evaluation for museum client over two years, including research design, outreach, data collection and analysis for more than 10 types of data, report-writing, and oral and written communications
- Managed 10-year strategic planning and visioning process and led coordination for Hall-wide initiatives
- Oversaw the national Coalition for Science After School, served as lead manager for executive summit

**Greatschools.org** San Francisco, CA | *Research Analyst* | June 2011 - February 2012

- Led ethnographic evaluation of college-readiness product including study design, execution, and funder reporting

**The Field Museum** Chicago, IL | *Exhibitions Department Development Intern* | June 2010 - June 2011

- Designed, tested, and produced interactive displays in collaboration with scientists, designers, and educators

## EDUCATION

**Princeton University** Department of Sociology | *M.A.* | 2017 | *Ph.D.* | 2020

- Specialization in organizations, economic sociology and culture, training in qualitative and quantitative research
- Relevant Coursework: Complex Organization; Nonprofits, NGOs, & Philanthropy; Nonprofit Financial Management

**The University of Chicago** The College | *B.A. with Honors* | 2011

- Major: Anthropology, Minor: Art History, Select Awards: Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List, Marshall Scholarship Finalist

## SELECT RESEARCH PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

*How Consultants Shape Nonprofits: Shared Values, Unintended Consequences* | 2024

- Book project forthcoming with Stanford University Press (Stanford Social Innovation Review Book Series)
- Based on dissertation focused on strategy consulting to nonprofits and philanthropy

*Local Philanthropy and the Transformation of Culture in Oaxaca, Mexico* | 2022

- Paper on cultural philanthropy in Mexico. Published: [International Journal of Cultural Property 29\(1\): 63-80](#)

*Impact of the 2020 Crises on the Arts and Culture in the United States* | 2021

- With Stanley Katz. Published: [International Journal of Cultural Property 27\(4\): 449-465](#)

*Re-Evaluating the Consultant's Role in Social Change* | 2021

- Opinion piece. Published: [The Center for Effective Philanthropy Blog, June 30](#)

*What Role Should Consultants Play in the Nonprofit World?* | 2020

- Opinion piece. Published: [The Chronicle of Philanthropy, July 28](#)

*Managing Amidst Mosaic: Integrating Values and Rationalization in the Nonprofit Arts* | 2018

- 2-year ethnography of visionary art space. Published: [Nonprofit Management & Leadership 28\(4\): 453-470](#)

## SELECT AWARDS & HONORS

*National Science Foundation Dissertation Research Improvement Grant* | 2017

- \$12,000 grant to support dissertation project about strategy consultants to nonprofits

*Rockefeller Foundation Junior Scholars Forum* | 2017

*University of Pennsylvania Social Impact Doctoral Fellow* | 2015

## SELECT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEER WORK

**Forman Arts Initiative** | *NextGen Advisor* | 2021 – Present

- Provide input and advice to major Philadelphia philanthropic initiative in the arts

**Asociación de Empresarios Mexicanos de Philadelphia** | *Board Member, Treasurer* | 2020 - Present

- Founding board member and advisor for nascent association of Latinx small businesses in South Philadelphia

**Philadelphia's Magic Gardens** Philadelphia, PA | *Board President* | June 2019 – Present (President beginning 2024)

- Provide financial, strategic, and managerial oversight to organization

**Philadelphia Futures** Philadelphia, PA | *Mentor* | October 2017 - Present

- Long-term mentor to a Mexican first-generation-to-college Philadelphia high school student

## SKILLS

**Languages:** English (Native), Spanish (Fluent, Non-Native) **Computer:** Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Acrobat, R Statistics