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## EDUCATION

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### University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy

Los Angeles, CA

*Master of Planning Candidate*

May 2017

- *Honors:* Diversity Fellowship and Dean's Merit Scholarship Recipient (2015 - 2017), Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship Recipient (2016)
- *Membership:* American Planning Association (APA), Associated Students for Planning and Development (ASPD), Partnership for an Equitable Los Angeles (PELA)

### University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

*Bachelor of Arts, Ethnic Studies*

December 2012

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Alta Planning + Design

Los Angeles, CA

*Urban Planning Intern*

2016

Supporting in community outreach efforts for various bicycle and pedestrians plans throughout Southern California.

- Translate bicycle master plan surveys to capture opinions from Spanish-speaking communities.
- Actively sought donations of bicycle safety goods for Long Beach Bicycle Master Plan Open House.
- Develop community outreach support to ensure successful community engagement for bicycle safety programming and bicycle master plans.

### University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy

Los Angeles, CA

*Research Assistant*

2015 - 2015

Aided in research focused on health access in public housing with Professor LaVonna Lewis and Professor David Sloane.

- Interviewed 20+ residents in 2 days to assess digital literacy and potential benefits of increased internet access.

### USC AIDS Clinical Trials Unit

Los Angeles, CA

*Study Coordinator*

2013 - 2015

Directed investigative HIV psychosocial studies by providing counseling, coaching, and patient retention.

- Created an extensive organizational tool to keep track of 4 concurrently run studies and efficiently link, retain and engage 100+ patients in medical care.
- Identified miscommunication among clinic staff and effectively established relationships between staff and providers to encourage clinical adherence of 100+ newly diagnosed patients and return-to-care patients.
- Advocated for the creation of bilingual study materials by initiating translation of surveys and manuals, and making coaching and educational sessions available to monolingual Spanish-speaking patients.

### University of California, Berkeley - Field Research Program

Mexico City, MX

*Student Researcher*

2012

Designed and conducted qualitative research into the effects of expatriate migration into Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

- Created comprehensive questions to evaluate expatriate migration effects on local economy and community dynamics.
- Developed strategic outreach efforts for recruitment of participants by seeking out local English language spaces and Merida expatriate social media communities.

### Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) Scholar Chapter at UC Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

*Chapter Coordinator*

2010 - 2011

Directed the HSF local chapter by organizing campus-based activities and outreach efforts to professionals and community.

- Coordinated college information panels and presentations for 200+ 1<sup>st</sup> generation students of all ages and their families to increase representation of more students of color in higher education.
- Effectively served as liaison between HSF corporate office, school administration and students.
- Created and hosted bi-weekly study jams to provide healthy and safe study spaces and encourage self-care.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- Computer: Proficient Microsoft Office Suite, Basic Sketch-Up.
- Volunteer: Place It! with James Rojas, LLatinas in Public Service Leadership Conference.
- Interests: Supporting local artisanship, leatherwork, traveling, cooking, reading works by James Baldwin.
- Languages: Fluent in Spanish.

April 12, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in support of Daisy Villafuerte's request for a California Planning Foundation scholarship. I have known Daisy for a relatively short time, but I am confident in stating that she exemplifies the qualities I believe the CPF is attempting to reward in their scholarship program. Coming out of a difficult childhood, she has succeeded in redefining her life through her work in the field of urban planning. Not only does she have a good heart, Daisy also has a great desire to become a planner who can make a difference for her community.

I met Daisy when she applied to the USC planning program. We had a few preliminary discussions about her decision to attend USC rather than other programs. She was kind enough to suggest that she wanted to work with my colleagues and myself because we were committed to the type of planning that matter to her. Since she entered the program she has completed one course with me, in planning history, and is currently enrolled in a second, in community health planning. My judgments are based on the formal and informal contacts we have had.

Daisy is a shy, quiet student who is very capable and when she opens up, quite delightful. Her work in my classes has varied from still maturing to quite inventive. She has worked effectively with her peers, and has gradually opened up in class discussions.

The best example of her capabilities came through in the current class. One assignment in the class asks a small group of students to develop and present material on a topic to the class. Essentially, they needed to do a case study on a community health planning topic of their choice, researching the issue, creating a Powerpoint presentation, writing a case summary, and finding an appropriate reading for the other members of the class.

Daisy's group chose transportation barriers to access for healthcare. They successfully demonstrated that their case study, an innovative health promotion program in Detroit that used low-income women as drivers could transform the development of a van ridership transportation program into a successful health and life education intervention that dramatically helped the women involved.

The group's presentation to the class was equally successful, as they brought the issue back to Los Angeles, suggesting that our area has equally distressing disparities in access to high quality healthcare, and arguing for solutions that would improve access – such as the use of Uber that is being experimented with in New York City.

The evening's class reflected Daisy's deep interest in the relationship of planning and health, yet it also showed that she is imagining new ways that traditional planning subfields, such as transportation planning, can play a role in improving communities.



The same type of gentle persuasion implicit in the class presentation characterizes many of her comments in class. She is thoughtful, diligent at reading the assigned papers, and makes clear and important contributions to our discussions.

Daisy is an ideal candidate for your award. She is intellectually capable, dedicated to the profession of planning, and emerging from a community unrepresented in the planning profession. I hope you will support her application.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Sloane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David C. Sloane  
Professor

April 14, 2016

To members of the California Planning Foundation Scholarship Program committee,

I am delighted to submit this letter of support on behalf of Daisy Villafuerte who is applying for the CPF Scholarship. Daisy was a student in a planning theory class that I taught at the University of Southern California in the fall of 2015.


The aim of the course was to introduce students to a variety of thinkers who are foundational to urban planning. The class mines a rich body of literature and links readings to everyday practice so that the work of urban planners can be both more effective and critically engaged. Daisy was reserved during the large class discussions, but when you meet with her one-on-one, her passion and intellectual drive are readily apparent.

Daisy has a quiet strength that makes her an unexpected leader. I had the opportunity to watch her in a number of group settings and observed how she could steer a factious team towards an agreed upon goal. This is a real talent and an invaluable skill for planners.

As a master's student in USC's planning program, Daisy has jumped feet first into a variety of academic and social activities. She is a valuable member of USC's Associated Students of Planning group. She is also a member of the APA and the Partnership for an Equitable Los Angeles. I believe the opportunity afforded by the CPF will enable Daisy to more effectively pursue her goal of a planning career.

I strongly recommend her and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mereditd@usc.edu](mailto:mereditd@usc.edu).

Sincerely,



Meredith Drake Reitan, PhD, MPL  
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