

TESANDRA COHEN

(860) 690 – 2320 ♦ www.linkedin.com/in/tescohen ♦ tesandra.cohen@gmail.com ♦ Denver, CO

SKILLS

In-Person & Remote Facilitation ♦ Curriculum/Training Design ♦ Team Leadership
Effective Communication ♦ Relationship Development & Strategic Partnerships
Bilingual Spanish/English oral and written communication
Microsoft Office Suite ♦ Salesforce

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GATHER BETTER, Denver, CO (and beyond!) *September 2022-Present*
Founder + Chief Gathering Officer

- Guide purpose-driven organizations to design and facilitate transformative workplace gatherings.

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Denver, CO *March 2020-June 2025*
Program and Partnership Consultant

- Developed pilot to bring dynamic, participatory mentorship and career exploration programming to middle school students in order to develop meaningful relationships with professional adults and open their eyes to a wide variety of potential career paths.
- Supported Career and College Success' External Partnership team develop mission and vision statements and provided recommendations to refine processes to improve interdepartmental collaboration.

COLORADO YOUNG LEADERS (CYL), Denver, CO *August 2021-August 2023*
Summit Guide (Part-time)

- Facilitate dynamic leadership development workshops and community service projects for high school students.

SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS (SVP) Denver, Denver, CO *July 2020-April 2021*
Director of Community Impact (Contract Role)

- Oversaw capacity building projects connecting pro bono consultants with nonprofits across Denver to engage in skills-based volunteer projects that amplify nonprofit impact on the community.

PERSONAL SABBATICAL, US Southern Tier, Lenox, MA, India, Myanmar, and El Paso, TX *July 2019 - February 2020*
Adventurer

- Biked 3,125 miles across the southern tier of the United States from San Diego, CA to St. Augustine, FL; fundraised over \$6,000 to raise awareness and support for multiple sclerosis with Bike the US for MS.
- Completed rigorous 200-hour yoga teacher training including comprehensive methodology for teaching yoga safely, yoga philosophy, and anatomy. Learned to foster student self-awareness and compassion.
- Traveled throughout India and Myanmar; practiced yoga at Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh.
- Organized activities in Spanish for migrants at Annunciation House, nonprofit on the border in El Paso, TX.

GAP INC. FOUNDATION, New York, NY *August 2016 - June 2019*
Manager, Global Community Partnerships
Program Manager *September 2015 - July 2016*
Operations Coordinator *May 2014 - May 2015*

- Oversaw career readiness and "first job" program for under-served youth in US, Canada, UK, Japan, and France. Program grew from 4 to over 73 cities and 139 to over 2,000 participants (1,338% increase) in 5 years.
- Streamlined new partnership identification process by developing Request for Proposal process; resulted in 12 new nonprofit partnerships across US and Canada.
- Coordinated planning and execution of annual 3-day in-person conference for 80 participants. Directed agenda development including dynamic workshops that enhanced partner capabilities. Result: 90% attendees rated as one of best or in top 25% of conferences ever attended.
- Created communities of practice for nonprofit and internal business leaders to share best practices on a monthly basis. Over time, shifted ownership to leaders themselves and took on advisory role.

- Partnered with Learning & Development team to create participatory in-person and virtual training for managers hosting youth in their stores. Led virtual training for over 50 leaders and shared training with others, which was facilitated for over 400 leaders across the US and Canada.
- Spearheaded development of This Way Ahead Playbook, a “DIY” version of program as strategy to increase program footprint to 40+ new cities in partnership with Boys and Girls Club of America.
- Managed partnership with LRNG (merged with SNHU in 2018) to create a series of virtual job training workshops (check out playlists [here](#); my team developed Conflict Resolution, Punctuality, + Teamwork).

FUTURES AND OPTIONS New York, NY

2012-2014

Program Coordinator

- Managed internship programs for over 125 high-school students annually; included recruiting, placing, and supervising interns. Cultivated relationships with schools, community-based organizations, and businesses.
- Developed and facilitated dynamic professional development, work-readiness, and college guidance workshops.

CITY HARVEST, New York, NY

Spring 2011

Interim Volunteer Manager

- Coordinated all aspects of volunteer program, ensuring corporate and individual volunteer participation at volunteer events in all five boroughs, special events, and in-office projects to support staff members.
- Planned and executed all logistics for “Volunteer Appreciation Night” for over 100 guests to recognize corporate and individual supporters and foster continuation of their support of City Harvest.

PEACE CORPS, La Palma, Costa Rica

2008-2010

Community Development Advisor

- Spearheaded youth-focused initiatives emphasizing girls’ empowerment, environmental awareness, and recreational activities in partnership with community members to increase youth development opportunities.
- Developed and implemented sustainable development projects (involved successful procurement of funding through grants) including road improvement (\$25,000) and building a playground (\$3,500).
- Created and wrote blog to document Peace Corps experience (www.lavidatica.blogspot.com).

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

CO IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COALITION, Denver, CO

2025-Present

Board Member

CONVIVIR COLORADO, Denver, CO

2020-2024

Board of Directors Co-Chair

GLOBAL GLIMPSE, New York, NY

2014- 2019

Leadership Council Member and Engagement Chair

OPPORTUNITY NETWORK, New York, NY

2016-2018

College Essay Coach and Mentor

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York, NY

Masters in Public Administration, Public and Nonprofit Management (GPA: 3.9)

2015

Education Pioneers Fellow, New Teacher Center

Co-Chair, Wagner Cares (Community Service Student Group)

Consultant, Teens for Food Justice (Capstone Project)

Teaching Assistant, Managing Public Service Organizations Course

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, New London, CT

Double Major: B.A., Psychology-based Human Relations and Hispanic Studies (GPA: 3.6)

2007

Honors: Graduated *cum laude* and with distinction in both majors, Dean’s Honors, Psi Chi Member

INTERESTS

Travel (visited 30+ countries) ♦ Rock Climbing ♦ Yoga ♦ Cycling ♦ Ceramics ♦ Drumming