Alexandra Cenatus

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Pronouns: She/Her/Ella/Elle/Li

EDUCATION
Master of Arts: Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Florida - Gainesville, FL **2018**
Bachelor of Arts: Political Science and Government, University of Florida - Gainesville, FL **2015**

HONORS, AWARDS, & ACHIEVEMENTS
- Nominated by Maryland Governor Wes Moore to serve on the 250 Maryland Commission whose objective is to coordinate and plan activities with local commissions and private and public partners
- Selected to join the prestigious 30-member cohort of Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program
- Wrote and conceived a toolkit for WeaveTales to provide organizations or companies with a path to create a sense of belonging for and with immigrants and refugees
- Recognized by peers for advocating for civic engagement both within and outside the University of Florida (UF) by receiving the 2022 David & Wanda Brown Presidential Service Award

WORK HISTORY
Director of Programming **2022 to Present**
Maryland Humanities (MH) – Baltimore, MD
- **Strategic Vision and Innovation:** Spearhead Maryland Humanities' seven programs by crafting strategies (long-term or short-term) through understanding needs and trends and assessing organizational capacity, and evaluating programs, making the humanities accessible to institutions and communities
- **Leadership and Talent Development:** Cultivate an organizational culture centered on continuous learning and curiosity by facilitating brainstorming sessions, conducting staff retreat and one-on-ones, supporting staff's professional growth, and utilizing asset-mapping techniques
- **Fiscal Management:** Manage a $1.3 million budget to address community needs efficiently and to shape how our initiatives are delivered to Maryland audiences by allocating and prioritizing resources strategically
- **Advancement and Grantmaking:** Collaborate with the Development team to develop fundraising strategies and draft grant proposals to secure funding from donors like the National Endowment for the Humanities and BGE, expanding the reach of Maryland Humanities
- **Organizational Culture:** Establish and foster an exceptional employee experience by implementing and evaluating robust HR policies and guiding the organization through transformations and innovations
- **Relationship Building and Partnerships:** Lead MH's special initiatives, including the *When We Are All Engaged: Media Literacy & Mental Health* summit, which brought together activists, scholars, and mental practitioners to explore how social media influences our mental health

Assistant Director for Programming and Public Engagement **2019 to 2022**
University of Florida (UF) Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere – Gainesville, FL
- **Strategic Vision and Innovation:** Designed and implemented *Conversations in the Neighborhood: Let's Talk about Food*, a public humanities series, with over 15 partners, including the City of Gainesville Office of Equity and Inclusion, which engaged Gainesville residents with UF and reached 16,000 people
- **Leadership and Talent Development:** Curated a space for humanities students by advocating for underrepresented student groups, matching students with mentors, and organizing monthly events, which has increased the *Humanities Engagement Scholars (HES) program*'s enrollment by 70%
- **Fiscal and Project Management:** Manage a $30k budget and conduct training and workshop requests, delivering results under constraints and priorities
- **Grantee Support and Grantmaking:** Coordinated the *Humanities Center's Programs in the Public Humanities Grants* by providing one-on-one coaching for faculty, students, and community members on their grant applications, which led to an increase in applications and impact in communities

Researcher and Storyteller **2019 to 2020**
University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries – Gainesville, FL
- **Research and Project Management:** Created a historical timeline of Haitian immigrants' stories, called *The Haitian American Dream Timeline*, by translating and analyzing multilingual content (archives,

reports, videos, songs, articles, and books) in French/English/Haitian Creole. This digital humanities project was featured on *L'Union Suite*, the #1 Haitian platform, due to its complex storytelling

Teacher, 4th Grade   **2018 to 2019**
Marjorie K. Rawlings Elementary School – Gainesville, FL
- **Teaching and Technologies:** Designed and delivered interactive lesson plans and small group instruction for 25 students, tailoring teaching approaches to match their strengths and needs
- **Organizational Culture and Relationship Building:** Interacted with internal and external stakeholders through emails, notes, and phone calls to discuss students' progress and develop intervention plans for those requiring additional support, enhancing students' academic success.

Graduate Teaching Assistant   **2016 to 2018**
University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies – Gainesville, FL
- **Teaching and Technologies:** Adapted college-level curriculum and training modules based on findings from surveys, increasing enrollment and improving the experience of 80+ students
- **Research and Relationship Building:** Managed an international ethnographic research project from start to finish in Jacmel, Haiti, including drafting research protocols, recruiting hard-to-find participants, conducting in-depth interviews, and publishing reports

SNAPSHOT OF ADVISORY/CONSULTING EXPERIENCES
- **Board member** of [WeaveTales](), an organization that aims to correct misconceptions about immigration through education and empowering immigrants to tell their own stories, 2023-Present
- **Language Access Consultant** for the [UFW Foundation](), a nonprofit organization (501c3) that advocates for workers' rights and protections for farm workers across the United States and provides educational outreach and critical services, 2022-2023
- **Co-Convener** of the UF Digital Humanities Working Group, an initiative that curates monthly conversations for audiences interested in digital humanities, open access, and technology, 2020-2022
- **Consultant** for the [UF Intersections Leadership Team](), a $400,000 Mellon-funded project by providing strategies to support students' learning and civic engagement with communities, 2020-2022

SNAPSHOT OF STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS
- **Exhibit:** Created the *Black Creativity: Expressions and its Gifts* with the A. Quinn Jones Museum, an exhibit that focused on the portrayal of love in Black literature, February 2022
- **Symposium:** Co-organizer of *I am, Yo Soy, Mwen se, Eu sou Poderosx: Resisting violence against Womxn*, an international symposium that looked at gender violence in Latin America, 2020-2021
- **Virtual Series:** Led the Maryland Humanities *Designing Culturally Inclusive Programming* series, educating the general public on timely topics (inclusive leadership, collaboration, and program implementation), strengthening Maryland nonprofit infrastructures, 2022-2023

SNAPSHOT OF PUBLIC SPEAKING
- **Cenatus, A.**, Lindley, R., and Sawyer, A. (2024, Jun.). Intersectionality at Work. **Panel**. Associated Black Charities. Webinar Series. Zoom
- **Cenatus, A**. (2024, Jun.). The *Weave Well to Lead Well: Attracting, Retaining, and Leveraging Refugee and Immigrant Talent for Your Business*. **Training**. WeaveTales, Online, Zoom
- **Cenatus, A**. and Gonzales. L. (2022, Mar.). *Approaches to Community Engagement and Inclusion at and Beyond Academic Institutions*. **Keynote speaker**. Illinois State University, Online, Zoom

SKILLS
- **Data Collection and Program Evaluation:** One-on-one interviews, focus groups, observation, case studies, translation, and surveys (online and offline)
- **Interpersonal:** Adaptable, resourceful, humble leader, problem-solver, convener, changemaker, planner, committed to equity, and familiar with remote and hybrid work schedules
- **Languages:** Haitian Creole (Native Fluency), French (Advanced Fluency), and Spanish (Beginner Fluency)
- **Technology and Systems***:* Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, Zoom, Slack, Canva, Teams, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Calendly, MURAL, and open to master new software