

OLIVA A. LOPEZ

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Results-driven professional with over 15 years of experience implementing global and domestic initiatives to promote social change. Successful track record leading teams and executing complex projects; designing communication and advocacy strategies; and building cross-sector partnerships and coalitions. Thrive in fast-paced environments and provides strategic counsel to achieve team goals. Communicate with ease in multicultural settings and with diverse stakeholders. Skilled manager known for mentoring and coaching staff in any team environment. Bilingual English/Spanish.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The Rockefeller Foundation

Managing Director, Partnerships & Policy New York, NY and Washington, D.C.

December 2018 - Present

- Member of senior management team reporting to the President and working alongside the Foundation's six Vice-Presidents guiding the foundation through a strategic realignment and informing the development of new flagship initiatives to promote economic recovery at home and abroad with an equity lens in response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- Led the development of a new initiative to promote Equity and Economic opportunity in the U.S. by combining and aligning resources from three different departments and secured approval from the Board of Directors to launch this new \$36 million effort.
- Responsible for executing a strategy for engaging new partners to achieve program objectives, launch new ventures, aggregate capital and scale-up successful interventions incubated at the Foundation. Advised on the negotiation strategy to secure a \$25 million commitment from a partner philanthropic organization to leverage Rockefeller's investments in Covid-19 response and scale-up Covid-19 testing in K-12 schools in the U.S.
- Responsible for maintaining and building relationships with partners from multi-lateral organizations including the United Nations, World Bank and partners from the private sector and non-profit sectors to advance the foundation's policy and partnership agenda. Successfully convened high-level representatives from the Office of the President of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and International Finance Corporation to develop a new multi-stakeholder collaboration effort to invest in distributed renewable energy projects in Africa and Asia and leverage a \$500 million investment from The Rockefeller Foundation.
- Worked with the Vice-President for the Power and Climate to negotiate the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation to leverage Rockefeller's \$50 million investment with a \$2 billion investment to collaborate to deliver sustainable electricity to 800 million people who lack electricity, and 2.8 billion more who have unreliable access to electricity
- Built a new unit at the Foundation to coordinate partnership execution across departments. Implemented a new model of partnership development and implementation that convened leads from across the foundation including initiative Vice Presidents, Technical Leads and Managing Directors, Policy Directors, and Communications and Advocacy Managers to achieve internal alignment on partnership goals and coordinate on execution.

Lead efforts to institutionalize partnership management tools, including Salesforce, to facilitate long-term partner engagement and evaluation of partnership activities. Managed a team of two direct reports.

Independent Consultant, Washington D.C. and New York, NY

June 2017 to November 2018

- Provided strategic planning services to non-profit organizations. Key projects included developing an implementation and evaluation plan for a new non-profit teaching coding skills to hundreds of women in the U.S.; planning press engagements resulting in national media attention (Forbes, FastCompany, New York Times).

Peace Corps, Office of External Affairs, Washington, D.C.

May 2015 - January 2017

Lead for Strategic Partnerships for the Let Girls Learn Initiative.

- Provided thought leadership and management support for the whole-of-government implementation of Let Girls Learn and worked across six agencies to develop the initiative's implementation guide.
- Led strategic partnership development and negotiation processes and helped secured over \$2 million of new financial commitments.
- Managed external relations for the initiative and led public engagement efforts to raise awareness about girls' education and encourage the American public to take action through storytelling and crowd-fundraising.
- Expanded the base of partners for the Peace Corps to include mass media and tech companies resulting in a doubling of donations to Peace Corps' volunteer-led education projects.

The White House, Office of the First Lady, Washington, D.C.

April 2014 - May 2015

Associate Policy Director

- Co-created the concept for the Let Girls Learn initiative, which aimed to remove barriers to global girls' education around the world.
- Co-led a process to develop and launch the initiative in less than a year by aligning strategic objectives across seven government agencies and planning the budget, developing a dozen partnerships to demonstrate support for the initiative at the time of the launch, and planning the First Lady's strategic engagements and international travel to promote the initiative.
- Managed the First Lady's Leadership and Mentorship initiative, which paired twenty female high-school students with female mentors who work in government.
- Implemented the First Lady's Reach Higher initiative to encourage American high-school students to complete higher education.

U.S. Department of State

Secretary's Office of Global Food Security, Washington, D.C.

September 2012 - April 2014

External Engagement Advisor

- Led the Department's public diplomacy activities to promote U.S. Government efforts to end global hunger and promote the Feed the Future food security initiative launched by President Obama. Planned the Secretary's engagements on the issue and worked across bureaus to advance policy goals and craft deliverables to promote food security. Wrote speeches, congressional testimony and blogs for the Secretary of State and the Special Representative for Global Food Security.
- Led efforts to promote Feed the Future with civil society stakeholders and the private sector. Helped secure \$1 billion of investments pledged by non-profit partners and helped launch 660 public-private partnerships in the first 2 years of the initiative.
- Developed a unified communications strategy for the Feed the Future initiative in collaboration with nine U.S. Government agencies. Planned outreach events, strategic communications and contributed to progress reports that resulted in increased public awareness of the initiative and unprecedented collaboration with the private sector.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington D.C.

April 2010 – September 2012

Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau

- Served as chief of staff managing priorities for the Assistant Administrator, ensuring effective cross-office communication, monitoring responses to sensitive matters, serving as liaison to other agency partners and managing congressional relations.
- Served on the working group to develop the agency's new Youth in Development Policy to strengthen USAID's youth programs; served as liaison to the working group on Women Peace and Security and worked with the Agency's Gender Coordinator to promote gender mainstreaming across all programs.
- Launched new evidence-based initiatives to improve citizen security in Central America by strengthening communities and promoting positive youth development. Promoted partnerships with Central American private sector organizations and championed new partnership models to scale promising new projects and bring new partners to the table.

Democracies USA, Washington, D.C.

July 2009 - March 2010

Director of Leadership Development

- Member of the Executive team of national civic organization working to promote Latinx participation in the electoral process.
- Responsible for training and coaching field staff of twelve and developing field operations in six states.
- Managed the expansion of programs to train bilingual community activists. Developed curriculum, delivered trainings and expanded strategic partnerships with advocacy groups and donors to leverage resources, doubling the number of people served in one year.

Obama for America, Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Oregon, Florida

August 2007 - November 2008

Deputy Field Director, South Florida.

- Directed field operations in Miami-Dade, Collier, Lee and Monroe counties during the general election and was accountable for achieving vote goals. Supervised a staff of over 40 field organizers. Oversaw voter registration drives resulting in 20,000 new voter registrations. Managed relationships with local elected officials and community leaders.
- Supervised field operations in the primary states of Nevada, Arizona, Texas and Oregon. In addition to managing field organizers and interns, supervised Spanish language communications, outreach and getting out the vote strategies in Hispanic communities and worked to secure endorsements from prominent members of the Latino community.

Management Systems International (MSI), Washington, D.C.

May 2006 - August 2007

Project Manager

- Managed proposal development and project implementation for USAID efforts to promote Citizen Security in Latin America and foster Economic Empowerment globally.
- Managed contracts to support the implementation of U.S. Department of Labor efforts to end Child Labor in Africa and Asia.

- Worked as part of the monitoring and evaluation team to support performance improvement projects and was responsible for managing a \$10 million-dollar multi-year contract to provide business consulting services to U.S. Government agencies.

U.S. Department of Defence, Office of the Secretary, Defence Manpower Data Center, Seaside, CA November 2002 - August 2004

- Information Technology Specialist (computer programmer).

EDUCATION

M.SC. COMPARATIVE POLITICS, London School of Economics and Political Science 2005

B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE, University of California, Berkeley 2002

CERTIFICATE, LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS, Columbia University School of Business, 2015

CERTIFICATE, DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND INNOVATION, Monterey Institute of International Studies, 2006

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- Volunteer teacher at ECHO100 Plus, a Greek non-profit providing humanitarian relief and educational opportunities to refugees, including unaccompanied minors, arriving in Greece (January – March 2018)
- Co-founder of Latinos44, an alumni organization of Latinos who served in the Obama administration (June 2016 – Present)