

AMANDA LEIGH LICHTENSTEIN, Ed.M.

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced editor, writer, and media professional with a strong background in editorial management, program development and cultural exchange. Demonstrated leadership with editorial teams, educational programs, and multicultural projects in the United States and East Africa. Skilled in fostering diverse, inclusive communities, and facilitating impactful, collaborative experiences.

Core Areas of Expertise:

- Editing, Writing & Research
- Arts & Cultural Management
- Public Media & Strategic Communications
- Program Management & Curriculum Design

Core Competencies:

- Editorial management and leadership
- Research, writing, and editing
- Digital content creation management
- Book and manuscript management
- Project and program management
- Social media management and production
- Grant writing and fundraising
- Professional training, mentoring, and volunteer management
- Human rights-based, trauma-informed training
- Inquiry-led dialogue and facilitation
- Civic engagement and cultural exchange
- Cross-cultural competencies and communication skills
- Strategic planning and partnerships
- Seasoned facilitator, coach, and adviser

RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, Chicago, IL

08/2024-present

Senior Managing Editor for “SAPIENS,” a digital anthropology magazine (UCP-Wenner Gren Foundation)

Lead the daily management of the magazine’s editorial content, processes, and staff, ensuring high-quality publishing standards. Serve as a liaison between the University of Chicago Press and Wenner Gren Foundation.

- Direct editorial operations across all stages of production, including editing, workflows, and content integration across newsletter and social media platforms. Organize analytics and style-guide reviews. Serve as a developmental editor for 20+ academic essays. Co-manage editorial infrastructure (Submittable, WordPress.)
- Supervise and mentor a team of three staff members and five contractors, fostering a collaborative, efficient, and creative work environment. Plan and lead weekly & monthly team meetings, guide performance growth, and steward a culture of editorial excellence. Manage contractor invoices and ensure transparent communication across organizational partners.
- Co-lead weeklong Immersive Creative Nonfiction Seminar at the School for Advanced Research (June 2025).

GBH / PUBLIC RADIO EXCHANGE, Boston, MA

10/2018 – 06/2024

Digital Editor and Reporter for “The World,” a global news radio show (GBH-PRX) (remote)

Edited daily features, interviews, and special series, managed freelance journalists, and led editorial projects. Produced podcast content, managed and edited newsletters, external communications, and editorial partnerships. Also produced original international reporting on religion, arts, culture, conflict, and migration.

- Edited and published a wide range of content types for radio broadcasts to web and social media channels. Editorial lead on series for Israel, Ukraine, and Ghana. Facilitated daily headline scrums and editorial meetings.
- Managed two-year, \$150K annual Carnegie Foundation global security grant to increase global security and nuclear policy content. Supervised and edited “Critical State,” a weekly global newsletter, via Inkstick Media.
- Supervised editorial partnerships with “Living on Earth” (climate and environment) and “Movement,” (music and migration) to convert radio scripts into digital content for broader audience engagement.
- Produced 10 multimedia stories, including reporting trips to Denmark and Italy.

GLOBAL VOICES, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**07/2017 – 04/2021****Regional Editor with Global Voices, a citizen journalism digital platform** (remote)

Managed and edited a team of African journalists and secured two grants to produce series on digital rights in Africa. Also edited stories from the Middle East, North Africa, and Caribbean regions.

- Managed and mentored a diverse roster of 30 African journalists from across the continent to publish original stories monthly.
- Wrote and managed two major grants from CiPESA and African Digital Rights Fund (2019 – 2021). Editorial lead on special series on digital rights and freedom of expression in 10 African countries. Coordinated social media coverage to amplify impact.
- Edited 20 to 30 stories monthly from the MENA and Caribbean regions, and stories focused on digital rights advocacy and freedom of expression. Ensured content quality, fact-checking, and contributor voice.
- Represented Global Voices at digital rights conferences in Ethiopia and Sri Lanka.

EUROPEAN UNION, Stone Town, Zanzibar**04/2017 – 06/2017****Consultant for the Zanzibar Non-State Actors Program**

Collaborated with Save the Children on a European Union-funded development grant to establish the first-ever Child Rights Center in Zanzibar. Led the charge on strategic planning and organization development for the new center. Also wrote, edited, and published a summary narrative report for ZNSAP's first-ever civil society conference in Zanzibar.

- Wrote and edited a concept note and full proposal for an award-winning European Union grant that led to the establishment of the first-ever Child Rights Center in Zanzibar. Led six strategic planning sessions with multiple stakeholders to draft an overall strategic and development plan.
- Wrote, edited, and published a 30-page summary narrative report and conference proceedings for a civil society conference that promoted dialogue and transparency in Zanzibar.

BUSARA PROMOTIONS, Stone Town, Zanzibar**01/2012 – 04/2017****Interim Managing Director & International Press Coordinator**

Over a five-year period, held a variety of roles with Busara Promotions that involved coordinating international and local press, managing social media campaigns, organizing professional events, writing reports, and overseeing a large music festival with significant logistical responsibilities.

- As the interim managing director, oversaw the successful execution of East Africa's largest annual music festival, coordinating with various stakeholders and managing a team of over 120 staff and volunteers.
- As the international press coordinator, managed the press accreditation and affiliations for over 75 press members. Wrote weekly press releases in Swahili and English leading up to the event. Organized and managed two dual-language press conferences. Coordinated social media campaigns on Facebook and Instagram. Managed a small team of six festival photographers.
- Designed and facilitated "Movers & Shakers," a three-day professional networking and workshop series that ran in conjunction with the festival for three years.
- Wrote and produced an extensive 30-page festival narrative and financial report for funders and donors.

826CHI, Chicago, IL**09/2014 – 04/2016****Education Director**

As the education director for this creative writing nonprofit, directed five core programs for children and youth, supervised staff, interns, and volunteers, and led multiple educational and publication projects.

- Directed five core educational programs focused on literacy development for K-12 students. Supervised five staff, 10 interns, and over 450 volunteers to create a welcoming space to explore creative writing projects and workshops.
- Managed and edited three major youth writing anthologies that were professionally published and made available in stores and libraries. Coordinated with relevant stakeholders to ensure editorial process and publishing goals were met.

- Led staff-wide collaborative processes to develop and publish pedagogies reflective of the organization's core values. Designed systems and documents to manage and enhance partnerships across the wider 826 national network.
- Designed and conducted teacher training on social-emotional learning, trauma-informed curricula, and youth-centered pedagogies. Led initiatives on equity, diversity, and inclusion and created online staff resources.

DANISH CENTER FOR CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT (CKU), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

04/2014

Consultant for the Danish Embassy in Tanzania

Conducted a comprehensive analysis of Tanzania's arts and culture sector focusing on its role in poverty reduction and human rights. This involved researching policies, engaging with key stakeholders, and providing recommendations to the Danish government for funding arts and culture programs.

- Identified key stakeholders in the arts and cultural sectors in Tanzania and conducted over 50 interviews with key voices in both Swahili and English to inform the analysis.
- Researched relevant policies and laws in Tanzania regarding arts, culture, poverty reduction, and human rights to add depth to the analysis.
- Analyzed and synthesized information to write a comprehensive country analysis on arts and culture in Tanzania, applying a human-rights based approach to this analysis.
- Produced a final report of 70 pages within 15 days that included detailed funding recommendations and grant priorities to the Danish government.

FREELANCE

2010 – 2021

Journalist (print and digital), Writer, and Reporter

Over two decades of experience as a writer and reporter with a background in comprehensive research, fact-checking, interviewing, and publishing for various publications on topics including women and gender, development, arts, culture, food, human rights, and education.

- International reporting experience in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Denmark, and Italy.
- Highly skilled at pitching, interviewing, conducting in-depth research, and writing for assigned topics on deadline.
- Experience writing long-form reported essays, creative nonfiction, and features for radio and digital.
- Contribute articles to high-profile publications such as Psyche (Aeon), Al Jazeera English, National Public Radio, CNN-Parts Unknown, Pass Blue, Public Radio International, Global Voices, and others.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL, Chicago, IL

Professional Development Consultant

Designed and co-led professional development seminar for Chicago Humanities Festival's EdLab. Led creative writing activities, curriculum building, and rubric development for CPS educators. Provided ongoing online coaching for 22 teachers and returned for a similar program the following year.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Stone Town, Zanzibar

Senior Program Coordinator, Office of Study Abroad Program in Zanzibar

Managed health and safety, cultural orientation, mentorship, home stay monitoring, and academic and personal counseling for the 2013 and 2014 cohorts.

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, Stone Town, Zanzibar

Resident Director of a Swahili Language and Culture Center in Zanzibar

Established an office, hired and managed staff, developed academic and cultural programs, established and supervised program operations, led orientations, professional development, and internships, coordinated with local organizations, handled budgets, and ensured program sustainability.

BREAK ARTS: INTERNATIONAL ARTS & EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE, International

Cofounder and Director

Co-founded and led a series of artist-led, community-based arts and education initiatives in Mexico, Zanzibar, Honduras, and Ethiopia in collaboration with local artists and cultural workers. Wrote several award-winning grants to organize and facilitate public poetry readings and literary publications. Oversaw editorial project management for two poetry books written by Ethiopian girls and women.

SELECT BOOK EDITING PROJECTS

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, “Around that Age, I Liked to Play with Fire,” 826CHI, 2015

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, “Love Rules,” and “Girl Manifesto,” Break Arts, 2015

CO-EDITOR, “AIMPrint: New Relationships in the Arts & Learning,” Columbia College Chicago, 2008

LANGUAGES

Swahili – Advanced reader, writer, and speaker

GRANTS & AWARDS

Grantee, ILLINOIS HUMANITIES COUNCIL, Chicago, IL

Grantee, PRINCE CLAUS FUND FOR ARTS & CULTURE, Ethiopia

Grantee, POLLINATION FUND, Ethiopia

Grantee, MACARTHUR FOUNDATION CULTURAL CONNECTIONS GRANT, Tanzania

Grantee, COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO TEACHING ARTIST EXCHANGE, USA and Scotland

Grantee, ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL GOVERNOR'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS, Portugal and Mexico

Grantee, VERMONT STUDIO CENTER, Johnson, VT

PUBLIC SERVICE

Library Board Trustee, SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY (10/2023 – present)

EDUCATION

Master's in Education (Ed.M.), HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, Cambridge, MA

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, English Literature, KALAMAZOO COLLEGE, Kalamazoo, MI
Member, Phi Beta Kappa

Study Abroad, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, Nairobi, Kenya

CONTINUING STUDIES

Course: Working with Authors, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO UPROFESSIONAL, remote (2025)

Course: Mindfulness Meditation, BROWN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR MINDFULNESS STUDIES, remote (2022)

Course: Advanced Swahili, STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR, Stone Town, Zanzibar (2010)

Course: Letterpress I & II, CENTER FOR BOOK AND PAPER ARTS, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL (2007)