

Venessa Marion Benans

+ 27 64 610 9885 | vanessa.benans@gmail.com | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vanessa-marion-benans-3008a080/>

Action orientated , strategic problem solver

SUMMARY

An analytical and result-driven professional with 8 years experience in project and programme management experience within the governmental sector and a demonstrated record of accomplishments leading the development and execution of projects for process enhancement utilizing suitable strategies to meet objectives. Venessa has a sound knowledge of local government legislative processes, systems, and procedures and an exceptional understanding of international relations, law, business administration, and economic development. She is a strong leader who is passionate about Economic development, its potential, and ability to empower local communities, and aims to maximize expertise by utilizing experience and education to add value within a reputable organization coordinating services to deliver various programmes and projects

EXPERIENCE

City of Cape Town, Cape Town | 2016 - Present

Professional officer | 2016 - Present

- Led and managed cross-sector Area Economic Partnerships with private and public partners including service providers and agencies within Greater Tygerberg, Cape Town, Hout Bay, and the Philippi Economic Development Initiative for the Economic Development, CSIR, and the Central City Improvement District
- Conceptualized, planned and managed execution of new projects
- Managed and executed contract management activities to ensure projects within the City of Cape Town are executed within budget, on time and at a high quality
- Collaborated with and accelerated transfer payments to the Philippi Economic Development to support urban agriculture programme
- Collaborated with multiple stakeholders, councillors and CEO's to ensure economic development projects are accomplished across regions of Cape Town
- Drafted memorandum agreements (MoA's), service level agreements (SLA's), letters, notices and legal request memo's in conjunction with the Legal Services Department
- Designed advisory notes to evaluate annual service delivery performance of partnerships, agencies and service providers
- Drafted and compiled various quarterly and annual green reports and others to the Portfolio Section 79 Committee, Council and the Executive Mayor
- Drafted memorandums of payments and accelerated payments to agencies, service providers and Area Economic Partnerships
- Coordinated implementation of programs and projects with external partners
- Monitored budget allocations through confirmation of fund availability prior to preparing and submitting requisitions for approval
- Implementation of supply chain management processes with regards to sourcing of service providers, including preparation of tender documents and specifications to assist in facilitation of economic development programs and projects
- Developed full scale project plans for LED programmes including partnerships, business precincts and adhoc Local Economic Development projects for the Atlantis area
- Developed and maintaining protocols for stakeholder engagement processes throughout area
- Implemented council resolutions in line with by-laws and applicable legislation around specific priorities
- Liaised directly with formal and informal business and other role players jointly and severally on operational matters relating to promoting and a well-managed business environment with assigned area
- Added value to the informal trading sector and tourism sector through facilitation and implementation of various projects e.g. Green point Market project, Cape Town Summer market project, Greenmarket Square and St George's mall precinct project, Roll-out of Uniform trading structures in Cape Town CBD project and Hout Bay Partnership tourism initiatives aided through a transfer payment programme
- Accelerated the Mayoral Committee Member's Urban agriculture vision to utilize food gardens as a food security initiative through conducting needs analysis assessment with urban farmers and executing information sessions on project roll-out
- Conducted site visits with various Sub Council managers to assess food gardens in remote locations.
- Conceptualized and implemented the Cape Town Online Market, provided an e-commerce platform for 118 informal traders. The objectives of market were to promote brand of the City as a 'Caring and Opportunity city' and to create an enabling environment for informal traders and small businesses
- Collaborated and facilitated Hout Bay harbour redevelopments alongside the Hout Bay Partnership with regards to creation of a co-working space in area and to drive inclusivity
- Facilitated tourism sector support initiatives namely the Hout Bay Tourism Connect website enable different tourism establishments to showcase businesses on the website as well as on social media platforms of Hout Bay Partnership. Various tourism businesses reported increased bookings as a result of the initiative. The Hout Bay Tourism connect website also serves to promote the Hout Bay area as a must-visit tourism destination
- Implemented skills development initiatives to support local enterprises during the Covid pandemic

Overstrand Municipality, Hermanus | 2013 - 2015

Local Economic Development Officer | 2013 - 2015

- Local Economic Development Officer: Local Economic Development Office

- Facilitated engagements government departments for examples Department of Trade and Industry, Productivity SA and Cassidra in order to share grant funding information with emerging farmers in the Overstrand, Greater Hermanus area
- Rolled-out training programmes with emerging farmers on establishment of farming cooperatives in collaboration with Productivity SA and Department of Agriculture
- Negotiated long term lease agreement with private land owners to lease land on a longer term basis, exceeding 5 years to emerging famers to enable to receive grant funding for farming operations and equipment from the DTI
- Solicited input from stakeholders and targeted beneficiaries with regard to assigned projects
- Conducted mediation and conflict management for emerging farmer cooperatives to mitigate group conflicts

EDUCATION

AGSM @ UNSW Business School, Cape Town

MBAX Technology, 2021

NQF 9

Business Administration | University of the Western Cape, Cape Town

Post Graduate Diploma NQF 8, 2018 - 2020

- Accounting and Finance for Managers 762
- Employee Management 755
- Economics for Management 749
- Operations and Information Management 761
- Marketing Organisation and Management 754
- Research and Communication for Business 711
- Strategic Management 769
- Principles of Management and Leadership 763

Professional Programme for LED Practitioners | University of the Western Cape, Cape Town

Certificate of Competence NQF 7, 2014 - 2016

- Strategic Planning for LED
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Entrepreneurship for LED
- Investment promotion for LED
- Industrial Policy for LED
- Project management for LED

University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch

Bachelor of Arts International Relations, 2005 - 2007

Degree

SKILLS

- Programme Management
- Project management
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Contract Management
- Financial Management
- Business Partnering
- Economic development
- Monitoring and Reporting Progress
- Team Leadership
- Strategic Influencing
- Working with Vendors
- Leadership
- Quality Control
- Community development
- Urban agriculture
- Skills development

REFERENCES

1

Mxolisi Miller

Manager: Area Economic Development (Area South)

Email: Mxolisi.Miller@capetown.gov.za

Contact number: 078 545 9205

2

Mr. Thembinkosi Siganda

Manager: Enterprise and Investment

Email: Thembinkosi.Siganda@capetown.gov.za Contact number: 082 412 8019

3

Solomzi Madikane

Director: Economic, Social & Tourism Development
Email: smadikane@overstrand.gov.za
Contact number: 083 594 9230

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Member of the Membership number: 0421/104
Economic Development
Association of Southern
Africa