

Alexandra Cenatus

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EDUCATION

PhD in Progress: Language, Literature, and Culture, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD

2029

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

- Named one of the [Maryland Daily Record's 2025 Leading Women Under 40](#)
- 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 first 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](#)
- Served as Assistant Producer for [Liberty in a Soup](#), a documentary exploring the cultural significance of *Soup Joumou*, a pumpkin-based soup prepared and shared during Haitian Independence Day celebrations—a cultural practice added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2021

WORK HISTORY

Director of Programming

2022 to Present

Maryland Humanities (MH) – Baltimore, MD

- **Strategic Vision and Innovation:** Lead all six Maryland Humanities programs and special initiatives through applying community-centered strategies and developing relationships with partners to enhance program effectiveness, ensuring alignment with MHs' mission and strategic plan
- **Leadership and Talent Development:** Foster organizational culture of continuous learning through staff coaching, retreats, workshops, and asset-mapping techniques to develop processes, assess capacity, and enhance professional development, aligning staff growth with evolving organizational needs and goals
- **Fiscal Management:** Manage a \$1 million budget through effective resource allocation, reaching more than 100,000 residents annually across all Maryland counties while ensuring adherence to internal processes
- **Advancement and Grantmaking:** Partner with the Advancement team to craft grant proposals and submit reports, successfully securing vital funding for initiatives, such as [United We Stand](#), from federal agencies like the [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#), foundations, and corporate partners, guiding the evolution of Maryland Humanities' programs and expanding its impact and reach across Maryland
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Processes:** Implemented comprehensive data strategy combining qualitative methods (listening sessions, graphic recordings, and 1:1 interviews) and quantitative surveys to evaluate Maryland Humanities' impact, resulting in expanded community engagement and multiple pathways for stakeholder input
- **Relationship Building and Partnerships:** Represent MH at community events or conferences by facilitating partnerships and resource sharing, shifting humanities norms in programming and community engagement

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:** Managed a \$30k budget and conducted 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

Curator

2019 to 2020

University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries – Gainesville, FL

- **Research and Project Management:** Developed the [Haitian American Dream Timeline](#), a digital humanities project documenting Haitian immigrant journeys through multilingual sources in French, English, and Haitian Creole. The historical chronology was featured by *L'Union Suite*, the premier Haitian digital media platform, for its cultural and historical significance.

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 ethnographic research project from start to finish in Jacmel, Haiti, including drafting research protocols, conducting in-depth interviews, and publishing reports

SNAPSHOT OF ADVISORY/CONSULTING EXPERIENCES

- **Board member** of the [Haitian Studies Association \(HSA\)](#), an organization that provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge in order to inform pedagogy and policy about Haiti in a global context, 2024-Present
- **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 that advocates for workers' rights and protections for farm workers across the United States and provides educational outreach, 2022-2023
- **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 DESIGNING PUBLIC FACING ACTIVITIES

- **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 topics, such as leadership, collaboration, and program implementation), strengthening Maryland nonprofit infrastructures, 2022-2023
- **Conference:** Served in the [Center for African Studies Achebe/Baldwin Organizing Committee Conference](#), which commemorated the 40th anniversary of the first and only meeting between Chinua Achebe and James Baldwin at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, in 1980, 2018-2019

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 AND PERSONAL VALUES

- **Data Collection and Program Evaluation:** Focus groups, participant observation, case studies, and surveys
- **Interpersonal:** Strategic problem-solver experienced in remote/hybrid team leadership
- **Languages:** Haitian Creole (Native Fluency), French (Advanced Fluency), and Spanish (Beginner Fluency)
- **Personal Values:** Integrity, service, collaboration, and lifelong learning
- **Technology and Systems:** Microsoft and Google Suite, Zoom, Slack, Canva, Teams, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Calendly, MURAL, and open to master new software