

Greta Byrum

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Work Experience

Principal Owner, Present Moment Enterprises: May 2025-present

Founder of small business consulting enterprise. At Present Moment Enterprises, we offer strategic and practical services to shape the futures we want and need, by being fully present right now.

Community-Led Audits Advisor, Eticas Foundation: January-April 2025

Strategic advising and advisor on methods and approaches to community-led investigations into the impact of high-impact AI systems for groundbreaking enterprise conducting audits of artificial intelligence systems. Strategic consulting and thought leadership with growing network of grassroots, coalition, and practitioner groups as well as researchers, developers, and scholars of emerging tech dedicated to understanding and addressing the real-world impact of emergent technology systems.

Principal, HR&A Advisors: 2022-2025

Strategic advising and project leadership across a portfolio of public sector and nonprofit clients. Developed a strategic framework and toolkit for district-led governance of AI in Education on behalf of the Schott Foundation, NAACP, National Black Child Development Institute, Ford, Gates, and Hewlett Foundations, Kapor Center, and more. Supported municipal leadership of 7 major US cities to develop AI governance. Led state digital equity research and policy planning for Bipartisan Infrastructure Act broadband development in NY, TX, MA, ME, RI, and CA. Led development of digital products for [North Carolina](#) and [Texas](#). Managed and mentored teams of analysts, built client relationships, and created data analysis and evaluation methods and frameworks.

Program Director, [Just Tech](#), Social Science Research Council: 2021- 2022

Designed and built \$13m fellowship program and platform dedicated to radically imagining just, equitable, and brilliant futures by developing long-term, sustainable leadership in the field. Following program design guidance from Public Interest Technology leaders on behalf of the Ford, MacArthur, and Surdna Foundations as well as the Democracy Fund, developed generous, holistic fellowship program providing support for nontraditional technologists, researchers, journalists, artists, and practitioners. Designed rigorous multi-step selection process including peer jury and selection council of field leaders. Provided mentorship and support for fellows and built staff capacity for project management, evaluation, and program administration.

Part-Time Faculty, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs: *2021*

Led “Fighting Digital Redlining,” a capstone seminar and practicum creating a framework for impact evaluation of New York City’s Internet Master Plan.

Founder and Executive Director, Community Tech NY: *2019-2021*

Founded and directed grassroots non-profit with a mission to build and support healthy, resilient, consentful digital ecosystems rooted in community needs. Led development, policy research and advocacy, program design, and partnership development for community-designed, owned, and governed fiber/PtP/PtMP/mesh hybrid broadband networks. [CTNY](#) connects partners with [Digital Stewardship](#) popular education teaching tools, direct project support, and community technology principles, applying codesign methods and supporting collective self-determination through community choice and governance of technology. Tripled program funding and scale over two years to bring organization to a \$1.5m annual budget representing a diverse portfolio of philanthropy and client partners.

Executive Director, Digital Equity Laboratory, The New School: *2018-2020*

With Maya Wiley, led development of New School applied research center dedicated to developing, supporting, and convening multi-sector stakeholders to create strategies, policies, partnerships, and alliances for universal, affordable broadband with meaningful privacy and safety protections. Hired and supervised research assistants and fellows. Built and piloted train-the-trainers program for online decennial census preparation, used by libraries statewide; initiated community broadband projects in rural Tennessee and the Hudson Valley. Raised \$1.5m in grant funding.

Part-Time Faculty, Parsons School of Design and Eugene Lang College, The New School: *2020*

Co-taught graduate design studio on co-design of healthy digital ecosystems; created and co-taught undergraduate course “The Anthropology of Networks”; supervise research fellows and advise graduate students from Parsons, Media Studies, and Milano School of Public Policy.

Program Director, Resilient Communities Program at New America: *2015-2017*

Led program design, outreach, launch and implementation of \$4.2m 5-neighborhood multi-stakeholder community wireless project in partnership with HUD and the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Sub-granted to local CBOs in disaster-vulnerable neighborhoods to build wireless networks and train residents for collaborative design, maintenance, expansion, and emergency preparedness uses. Led team to develop the Portable Network Kit, a DIY network-in-a-suitcase kit and trained community members in storm-vulnerable neighborhoods via [Digital Stewardship](#) approach to maintain and govern networks. Supervised multi-site Community Coordinators and supported neighborhood partners to develop technology project portfolios.

Interim Director of Field Operations; Senior Analyst, Open Technology Institute, New America. *Washington DC & New York: 2011-2015*

Fundraising and partner relationships; staff management and mentorship for team of technologists, planners, and media and communication scholars; responsible for development and management of four grant-funded projects totalling \$1.5 million as well as organizational development and leadership. Created and implemented Digital Stewardship popular education learning tools with communities in Detroit and Red Hook, Brooklyn; evaluated \$13 million in federal and public-private digital inclusion initiatives.

Loeb Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Design. *Cambridge: August 2016-June 2017*

Mid-career social impact practitioner fellow. Developed network of practitioners and scholars engaged in flexible telecommunications design and digital justice; designed planning curriculum integrating technology planning; advised students engaged with technology, risk & resilience.

Education

MS Urban Planning 2011, Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

MFA Poetry 2004, Iowa Writers' Workshop

MA Germanistik & Humanities 2000, The Johns Hopkins University

BA Comparative Literature 1995, Brown University

Fellowships and Volunteer Positions

Advisory Board, Eticas.ai (2024-present)

Marjorie and Charles Benton Opportunity Fund Fellow, Benton Institute for Broadband and Society (2023-2024)

Advisory Board, Digital Equity Research Center of the Metropolitan New York Library Council (2022-2023)

Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, New York State Department of Education (2021-present)

Board Member, Board of Trustees, Metropolitan New York Library Council (2017-2023)

Advisory Board, Southern Connected Communities Project, Tennessee (2019-present)

2017: Co-organizer, Electric Dreams Track, Allied Media Conference

2017: Winner (for Resilient Networks NYC), American Planning Association Tech Division Smart City Planning Award

2016-17 Loeb Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Design

1999 Fulbright Fellow, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität-Jena & Bauhaus-Hochschule-Weimar, Germany

Scholarly Publications and Policy Papers

Author, Benton Institute for Broadband and Society Policy Report, “Building Safety into Digital Inclusion Efforts” (2024)

Co-Author, Quello Center at Michigan State University, “Digital Opportunities Compass: Metrics to Monitor, Evaluate, and Guide Broadband and Digital Equity Policy” (2023)

Author, “Opening the Broadband Access Paradox,” In Focus Dossier, Journal of Cinema and Media Studies (2023)

Co-Author with Ruha Benjamin, Stanford Social Innovation Review, “Disrupting the Gospel of Tech Solutionism to Build Tech Justice” (2022)

Contributor, Digital Urbanisms, Columbia Books on Architecture and the City, “Against Cybernetic Planning” (2020)

Author, Fordham University Urban Law Journal, “Addressing the Social Cost of Digital Transition: A New Decennial Census for 2020” (April 2020)

Author, policy paper commissioned for the Ford Foundation Cities & States Program: “Field Survey: Building Digital Equity in New York State,” March 2020

Contributor, New York City Internet Master Plan. “Building Meaningful Adoption Models for Underconnected NYC Residents: An Analysis of Broadband Needs, Valuation, and Ability to Pay,” plan released January 2020

Editor, Co-Author, Digital Equity Laboratory: Preparing For the Digital Decennial Census: A Manual for Libraries, CBOs, and Community Advocates, November 2019

Co-Author, Global Information Society Watch, US Country Report: Building Resilience with Community Technology, November 2018

Co-Author, Digital Equity Laboratory: TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT: How NYC Residents Are Forced to Sacrifice Online Privacy for Internet Service, May 2018

Features & Press

Featured Guest, 99% Invisible Podcast, “The Final Mile,” March 2022

Author, The Hill, “To Build Lasting Digital Equity, Look to Communities,” March 2021

Co-Author, MIT Global Media Technologies and Cultures Lab/Network Sovereignty, “Community Networking for Healing and Power in Central Appalachia,” October 2019

Author, Urban Omnibus, “Building the People’s Internet,” October 2019

Author, Politico, “What’s the Greatest Risk Cities Face? Broadband Deserts,” July 2017

Author, Meeting of the Minds, “Building Toward Resilience with Healthy Digital Ecosystems,” May 2017

Author, The Atlantic: “It Takes a Village: The Rise of Community-Driven Infrastructure,” January 2016

Featured, FastCompany: “How New York’s Businesses are Preparing for the Next Sandy-Sized Storm,” October 2016

Featured, NextCity: “Yesterday’s Internet Isn’t Good Enough for Tomorrow’s Cities,” October 2016

Author, Pacific Standard Magazine: “The time to build our social infrastructure? Right now.” October 2016

Author, New America: “OTI and EveryoneOn: Working together to evaluate the impact of broadband adoption efforts,” February 2016

Author, New America: “Every Community Is Resilient: Learning from the Everyday to Plan for Emergency Communications,” October 2015

Author, New America: “OTI and EveryoneOn Release Adoption Metrics Rubric and Instruments,” October 2015