

Ricardo Zapata

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Education

University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign

M.A. Geography, GPA 4.00.

Urbana, IL

Specialization: Transportation Planning & Analysis

May 2022 (expected)

B.A. Economics, GPA 3.58.

May 2020

Minor : Urban Planning

Relevant Coursework:

Transportation Modeling (Spring 2022) | Geospatial Visualization & Analytics (Spring 2022) |

CyberGIS & Geospatial Data Science (Spring 2022) | Neighborhood Analysis |

Advanced Data Science for Urban Planners | Transportation & Land Use Policy |

GIS for Planners | Public Transportation Planning | Real Estate Development Fundamentals |

Urban Transportation Planning | Mobility Justice |

Planning Projects

Equiticity: Go Hub Mapping Project

Chicago, IL (Remote)

Volunteer Data Scientist

October 2021 - Present

- Visioning and creating maps telling the story of North Lawndale to create support and excitement for the the mobility justice hub set to open in the coming year.
- Collecting, cleaning, and visualizing publicly available data using R

2020 UIUC Black & Latinx Men's Summit

Urbana, IL

Committee Co-Chair

October 2019 - March 2020

- Selected for a leadership role following two years of committee experience.
- Coordinated, with feedback from professional staff at the Latinx and Black cultural centers at the University of Illinois, the logistics of a student-planned regional conference serving young men of color from the community and various universities .
- Guided weekly committee meetings, ensuring that different experiences of Black and brown men were being considered in the planning process as well as ensuring that deadlines and marketing goals were being met or adjusted.

Skills

Portfolio: rickyzapata.com | Transportation Analysis Examples

Analysis, Modeling, Visualization : Python, Cube, R, ArcGIS, SQL , Adobe Creative Suite, Tableau

Competencies: Transportation Modeling + Planning, GIS, Data Analytics & Visualization, Machine Learning

Languages: Native Spanish Speaker

Experience

Office of the 40th Ward: Alder Andre Vasquez

Deputy Aide

Chicago, IL (Remote)

September 2021 - December 2021

- Produced maps using public datasets for business owners to take advantage of the city's *People Spot* program and a database of CDOT Public Way permits in order to address constituent discontent with short notice of public works affecting the ability to park and perform essential tasks.
- Answered calls during 'virtual front desk' shifts where I gained an understanding of constituents' daily concerns and learned to interact with frustrated constituents in a sustainable manner.

La Casa Cultural Latina at the University of Illinois

Student Program Staff

Urbana, IL

August 2017 - May 2020

- Coordinated with fellow student staff and professional staff to plan a suite of programs serving marginalized university students.
- Coordinated with a network spread across the university's administrative and academic departments as well as other cultural centers and numerous student organizations.
- Events ranged in size from weekly lunchtime talks to regional conferences serving 200+ attendees.

University YMCA : New American Welcome Center

Immigrant Enterprise Intern

Urbana, IL

January 2019 - May 2019

- Collected and organized data related to local, immigrant-owned businesses in to build the capacity to design and host workshops tailored to existing and aspiring business owners.
- Researched and synthesized best practices across Immigrant Welcome Plans from various U.S. cities.
- Participated in meetings with multiple pseudo-governmental organizations, learning about their capacities and role within the community as well as their strategies for creating jobs and equipping business owners with pertinent information.

Publications

Cidell, J., Acosta-Cordova, J., Pimentel, A., Zapata, R. (2021). *Critical geographies of transport and mobility: studying power relations through practice, academia, and activism*. Geography Compass.

Awards

University of Illinois Graduate College

ASPIRE Fellowship

Urbana, IL

2020 - 2022

- Competitive PhD recruitment fellowship provides 3 years of waived tuition & fees as well as a stipend for 12 months to support the graduate research of promising students from underrepresented groups.

Certificates

Udemy

The Complete SQL Bootcamp 2022

Online

Certificate Earned: January 2022

Udemy

The Complete Web Developer Bootcamp 2022

Online

In Progress