

AMAL BARRE

• urban planner • housing advocate • partnership activator •

SUMMARY

Amal Barre is a researcher, urban planner, and housing advocate. Amal leads projects that advance access to safe, affordable and stable housing, and research that facilitates community collaboration in reimagining the present to create futures that are inclusive and equitable. Amal is passionate about affordable housing preservation, asset-based community development, and geographic equity.

CAREER

2021 - PRESENT

Oakridge
Neighborhood

VP - PLANNING & STRATEGY | DES MOINES, IA/REMOTE

- Lead the organization's strategic planning efforts and track plan implementation and progress, coordinate reporting to President and CEO, and Board of Directors.
- Facilitate the gathering, assimilation and analysis of internal data and external trends required to inform shifts in housing operations and human service programming.
- Assess opportunities for partnership and collaboration that expand organizational impact, address gaps in service and otherwise increase access to complementary programs and services for Oakridge clients.

2021 - PRESENT

unevictIA

FOUNDER & PROJECT DIRECTOR | REMOTE

- Lead product owner and director of research and campaign activities.
- Secure and manage grant funding and reporting.
- Cultivate a statewide coalition of eviction prevention and intervention advocates and platform users.
- Develop partnerships to limit organizational and regulatory access barriers to emergency housing support services and affordable housing.

2018 - 2021

CommonBond
Communities

SERVICES COORDINATOR | DES MOINES, IA

- Provided administration, coordination, management, outreach, and evaluation of Advantage Services programs for multi-family affordable housing communities. Focus on supporting education and advancement to build stable and vibrant communities.
- Partnered with residents to provide professional services, case management, crisis intervention, mental health support, community resource referrals, and advocacy to uphold their housing and income stability.
- Maintained site budgets, pursued grant funding opportunities, managed grant tracking and spending compliance.

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RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

DEC 2022 - MAY 2023

POLK COUNTY, IOWA

Funders: Mid-Iowa Health Foundation (MIHF) and Polk County Housing Trust Fund (PCHTF).

Local Higher Education Institutional Partner: Iowa State University

Grant Role: Housing Justice Fellow

Grant Output: White Paper and Mini 10-minute documentary.

JUL 2021 - FEB 2022

POLK COUNTY, IOWA

Funders: Mid-Iowa Health Foundation (MIHF), United Way of Central Iowa OpportUNITY, Polk County Housing Trust Fund (PCHTF), and Oakridge Neighborhood Services.

Grant Role: Project Director

Grant Output: MIND THE MAP - eviction mapping exhibit & Margins of Error documentary.

JUL 2020 - DEC 2021

CENTRAL IOWA

Funder: Mid-Iowa Health Foundation

Grant Title: Creating tools to improve access to safe, stable, and strong housing and support networks

Grant Role: HealthConnect Fellow

Grant Output: Over the course of my fellowship, I developed a campaign that eventually evolved into what is now *unevictIA*. The campaign objective was to use statewide (Iowa) dwelling unit eviction data as a catalyst to center housing issues in every day conversations that inform social services delivery model and the funding priorities of local grantmaking institutions and governments.

INVITED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION)

- Apr. 2023 Invited Speaker: "(Re)construction of landscapes of displacement as an act of justice and resistance against place erasure." Polk County Housing Trust Affordable Housing Week Annual Conference
- Nov. 2022 Invited Keynote Speaker: "Housing and Child Welfare - strategies for the effective delivery of services at the intersections of life (in)stabilities." Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) Fall Conference.
- Oct. 2022 Invited Speaker: "Lessons from the Ground - Methods in Inclusive Economic Development." APA Iowa Chapter Annual Conference.
- Sep. 2022 Invited Speaker: "Infrastructure: Child care and Housing." Envision Iowa Think Tank Speaker Series Organized by the Des Moines Business Record.
- May 2022 Invited Keynote Speaker: "Cycles of harm (re)production - understanding our built environment to create stable and safe homes for children." Prevent Child Abuse Iowa 2022 Annual Conference.
- Oct. 2021 Invited Keynote Speaker: "Public Data For Responsive Decision Making." Activating Community Voices Symposium, Ericson Public Library in Boone, Iowa.

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SKILLS

- Tableau | GIS & Mapping (ArcGIS/QGIS).
- Grant writing, management and reporting.
- Experience using outcomes-based CRM software.
- Strategy alignment and capacity building to drive organizational impact.
- Partnership development and network management to achieve collective goals.

AFFILIATIONS

- Dutch Black Scholars Network | Member
- American Planning Association | Member
- UGoveRN Network | Early Career Researcher
- Friends of Des Moines Parks | Board Member
- Nisaa African Family Services | Board Member
- Mid-Iowa Health Foundation | *HealthConnect* Fellow

EDUCATION

2022 - 2026

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM | AMSTERDAM, NL

- PhD. Urban Planning

2016 - 2017

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM | AMSTERDAM, NL

- MSc. Urban and Regional Planning

2010 - 2014

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY | OMAHA, NE

- BSc. Sociology (Research Methods) and Cultural Anthropology