

Heba Elhanafy CV

Deputy Chief of Staff & Researcher

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An urban researcher, her center of research interest lies in African human settlements, with a special interest in culture, urban sociology, new cities, and community development. She has worked on research and development projects in various African cities, including Zambia, Tanzania, Egypt, and Tunisia. Heba has over eight years of experience in planning, design, and research.

EDUCATION

2019 Msc in Urban Development, Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

2016 Bsc in Architecture and Urban Planning, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt.

CAREER SUMMARY

May 2024 – Current

Deputy Chief of Staff, Researcher

Zanzibar, Tanzania

- Lead and manage research projects, ensuring timely and high-quality outputs.
- Collaborate with researchers to design and implement innovative research methodologies.
- Assist the leadership team in developing strategic initiatives and research agendas.
- Monitor progress against strategic goals and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Oversee daily operations of the research lab, ensuring adherence to protocols and compliance with regulations.
- Coordinate meetings, events, and workshops to promote research initiatives and collaboration.
- Act as a liaison between researchers, external partners, and funding agencies.
- Facilitate communication and collaboration among team members to foster a positive work environment.
- Manage budgets, resources, and grant applications to support research projects.
- Prepare and maintain documentation, including research proposals, contracts, and progress reports.

May 2020 – May 2024

Urban Researcher, Charter Cities Institute,

Washington DC, United States of America - Lusaka, Zambia

- Formulating, researching, and drafting well-written research papers, policy briefs, reports, handbooks, and other written outputs focused on urban planning and urbanism more broadly.
- Leveraging my network in the broader urbanism and planning communities to engage in co-authored works and cross-promotional research activities with other relevant research teams/individuals.
- Representing CCI at various events, participate in speaking opportunities, and other ways to boost the brand and impact of CCI.
- Leading the on the ground African urban research and policy analysis, formulating the search question, and leading the projects of Lusaka Urban Lab.
- Leading urban planning, urban design and architecture technical assistance to new charter city projects.
- Work with the Head of Research, Head of Communications, and Executive Director to pinpoint optimal distribution channels for each research output in order to maximize dissemination, audience reach, and overall impact
- Focusing on implementing different methods to make the Research Team's output more accessible to wider, non-specialist audiences.
- Lead community development and community sanitization activities in Lusaka through the Lusaka Urban Lab continuous activities and research.

January 2020

Founder, The Waterfront Project,

Alexandria, Egypt

- Founding and registering the Waterfront Inc.
- Conducting holistic research on the development of the Alexandrian waterfront
- Lead a team of researchers in a pan-Mediterranean Waterfront research project
- Applying for various research opportunities.
- Conducted a waterfront improvement community-based workshop
- Presented the outcomes of the work in multiple international conferences.

March 2019 -March 2020

Middle East and North Africa Placemaking Network Coordinator, Stipo

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

- Identify points of intervention for public space project
- Coordinate between the different regional and nation-level committees
- Conduct continuous research on public spaces and placemaking needs in the region.
- Co-apply for funding opportunities to conduct regional city projects.
- Set up the work procedures between the Arab and Dutch partners.
- Conduct quarterly meetings between the network members.
- Work with the MPN leader to co-develop activities for members both in their states and in the Netherlands.
- Conduct placemaking training all over the member states.

March 2018 – September 2018

Researcher, Global 2030

Berlin, Germany

- Draft research papers and policy briefs on various topics
- Lead the institute's research on SDG Goal 11 tracks.
- Present the findings at various conferences and workshops
- Conduct interviews with leading UN personnel on SDG development
- Document the research progress in blog posts, online videos, and various media outputs.

March 2018- September 2018

Roving Reporter, MakeCity

Berlin, Germany

- Research and allocate innovative architecture and urbanism projects in Berlin.
- Conduct interviews with project leads and urban innovators.
- Choose which projects go into the final publication.
- Attend the Makecity festival and document the ongoing projects.
- Create a social media management plan to promote the MakeCity festival work.
- Contribute to the MakeCity final publication through blogs and opinion pieces.
- Coordinate festival site visits and site access.

September 2016- September 2017

Project Manager, Ecumene Studio,

Egypt/ Tunisia

- Lead day-to-day operations for both Y'ahl Elhahy and A Schoolyard for All operations.
- oversee the administration, financial, and strategic plan of the company projects and
- assure the compliance of the achieved aims with the main vision of the project with
- Assure accountability for achieving the defined objectives of the project within the allocated resources
- Assist the project lead in various project needs
- Assist the site engineer in the site duties.
- Supervise project delivery progress.
- Design public space and architectural interventions to meet the needs of the project.
- Design and execute the final project report.

March 2016- September 2016

Community Development Officer, Megawara for Built Environment

Cairo, Egypt

- Design a community engagement strategy for the institute's work.
- Design an outreach campaign for all the institute's projects.
- Design and conduct community sensitization activities.
- Work with the community in identifying architecture and planning needs
- Develop community participation techniques specific to the communities and projects led by the institute.
- Conduct a community-based need assessment for the various projects.
- Document and assess the institute's ongoing community engagement activities and strategies.

Spring 2015

Writer and Editor,

Arch20 Magazine, Remote

- Conduct research on innovative architecture projects from all over the world.
- Write articles and blog posts on all the major architecture news.

- Conduct interviews with leading architects and designers.
- Design and lead the intern's research agenda.
- Lead the environmental design section

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother Tongue: Arabic

English C2

German B1

French B1

Kiswahili A2

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Excellent command of Office Suite

Excellent command of Adobe Graphics (Photoshop, InDesign, illustrator)

Excellent command of AutoCAD, Revit, 3D Max, Sketch Up

Excellent command of GIS and Q-Gis

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2017 GCED Youth leadership Grant

The Youth Leadership Workshop on GCED, organized by APCEIU, has been held annually since 2015 in collaboration with partners, including GCED Youth Network. The leadership grant and workshop provide a long year mentorship on how to develop leadership skills and execute ideas and bring them to reality.

2017 Global Landscape Forums youth travel grant

A travel grant that covered travel expenses to attend the Global Landscapes Forum and participate actively and present on climate change-related work at COP21. The grant also covered a one-month long program that brought young leaders from all over the world for an intensive program on landscapes and climate changes in Africa.

2019 Arab Council for Social Research small research grant (ACSS)

The ACSS Small Grants Program is a funding opportunity that aims to support scholars and professionals in the Arab region. It is funded by grants provided to ACSS by the Ford Foundation and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). A small grant of \$4,000 was won to conduct community-based research on the development of the waterfront in Alexandria, Egypt.

2017-2019 Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst masters scholarship

A full master's degree scholarship provided by the German government for research excellence. The scholarship covered tuition fees, accommodation fees and life expenses. The scholarship was for two years. An additional grant was also provided during the thesis writing period for conducting on-the-ground research.

2019 Samih Sawaris Excellence Research Grant

This research grant goes towards my outstanding master's and Ph.D. thesis in Egypt. The grant covered fees to cover a period where a researcher is expected to turn their thesis into a more impactful on-ground intervention.

2020 Atlas Corps Fellowship

The Atlas Corps grants provide leading individuals from developing countries with full-time, year-long placements at nonprofit, private sector, or government organizations. Through the Atlas Corps fellowship, I served a year at The Charter Cities Institute in DC. The fellowship also included an intensive professional development program led by non-profit leaders.

2021 BAN Sustainable Living Spaces Grant

A grant of 8000 USD that supports the development of a workshop, training, or research for members. The research covered a project, a competition, and research on food innovation techniques in urban areas. It also included an online workshop that brought Bouch Alumni Network members from all over the world and fostered knowledge exchange and networking of all urban food activists in the network.

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

Blogs

Heba Elhanafy, 2021, [Cairos Informal Highrise Market](#), Charter Cities Institute

Heba Elhanafy, 2020, [Building Africa: Lagos: The Tale of a City and an Empire](#), Charter Cities Institute.

Heba Elhanafy , 2020, [Building Africa: Kilwa Kisiwani, the Indian Ocean Trade, and the Rise of East African City-States](#), Charter Cities institute

Heba Elhanafy, 2020, [Building Africa: City-States as a Cornerstone for Pre-Colonial Urban Development](#), Charter Cities Institute

Reports

Heba Elhanafy, 2022, [Planning Guidelines](#), Charter Cities Institute

Heba Elhanafy, 2022, [Building the Future of Urban Infrastructure in the Global South](#), Bending the Linear Economy: On Urban Metabolism, Vol. 9, ISBN 9 782957 990597.

Heba Elhanafy, 2022 [Cairo Road: Architecture and Urbanism](#), Charter Cities Institute

Heba Elhanafy, 2023, [Bad Urban Laws](#), Charter Cities Institute

Heba Elhanafy, 2023, [Walking the Un-Walkable; Findings Report](#), Charter Cities Institute

Heba Elhanafy et Matthew McCartney, 2024, [Making Bad Urban Laws Better](#), Charter Cities Institute

Books

Heba Elhanafy et al, 2021 [Charter Cities Atlas](#), Charter Cities Institute Press

Journals and Conferences Proceedings

Elhanafy et Ravindra, 2018, OPTIMUM STREET LAYOUT OR CONFIGURATION FOR MINIMIZING ENERGY DEMAND IN BERLIN, International Journal of Engineering Applied Sciences and Technology, Volume 4.

Heba Elhanafy, 2022, [The State of Public Space in Lusaka](#), The Journal of Public Space, 7(1), pp. 343–354, UN-Habitat

Heba Elhanafy, 2023, [Guided Organic Growth: A paradigm shift in new city making](#) Volume 418, 2023 African Cities Conference (ACC 2023)

Other Consultancy Work

UNHCR, Egypt

Urban Design and project management consultant for “A Schoolyard for All” project. Focusing on co-designing and implementation of public spaces and schoolyards to provide a more welcoming environment for refugees in Cairo and Alexandria. The project covered 6 different school and took a participatory approaches in developing the design. The project was accompanied with a detailed research and publication on social inclusion and site specific approaches to design.

August 2016- August 2017

Project Managed and lead for Ahl Elhay project. The project focused on providing health services facilities to vulnerable communities in informal Cairo. It targeted the upgrading of existing facilities and the design and implementation of new ones. The project focused on developing affordable innovative solutions for the building processes (architecture) and public spaces. The project included public space design with the various stakeholders and architecture drawing and execution of the added health facilities.

August 2016- August 2017.

UN-Habitat, Tunis

Project Manager for the “El Houma Kheir” project that focused on the activation and upgrading of Al-Madina's old quarters together with the local community. The project focused on reviving Al-Madina public spaces and turning them into inclusive economic-generating spaces for the local community. The project also had a research element focusing on documenting the development of the spaces, testing out participatory approaches, and studying case studies.

August- September 2017

Stipo, The Netherlands

Lead a team of professionals in co-designing and implementation of roof-top placemaking interventions in Rotterdam-Sud. Lead Placemaking trainings for Middle East and North Africa region. The projects focused on developing toolboxes for affordable and innovative placemaking designs and bridging the gap between the north and the south. It also documents public spaces strategies and approaches in various regions.

March 2019- September 2019.

Make City, Germany

Lead a team of journalists in highlining city-making projects and good practices all over Berlin to be published in Make City yearly book. The experience provided access to understanding the structures of urban development in Berlin and all over Germany. The book documented the various projects and techniques used to provide affordable housing, greenfield development and innovation in architecture in the country.

March 2018- September 2018.

City Council Berlin, Germany

Led a team of young professionals in developing a feasibility study and master plans for Wassmansdorf's new greenfield development. The feasibility studies contained legal, planning, financial, and social analysis. The study was done over one year and was delivered to the local authorities in a town hall. It was done in a participatory approach with the local community and all the stakeholders involved.

March 2018- September 2018

GIZ, Germany

Collaborated in the INTERSECTING publication, published through Global Solutions initiative in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The publication focused on building the future of urban Infrastructure In the global south with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa new cities. The work is built on CCI's leading publication, the Planning Guidelines, which outlines strategies and approaches for new developers.

May, 2022

PODCASTS & ONLINE TALKS

- [The History and Future of Charter Cities](#), Adrianople Group ,2020
- [On Building Sustainable Cities](#), Scale Up Africa Podcast, 2020
- [Talking Urban Future in Africa](#), 2021
- [Blue and Green Go Hand in Hand, Coastal Zone Management](#), Green MENA Network, Coastal Zone Management, 2021
- [Building the Cities We Deserve](#), CAMPNXT, 2021
- [Guided Organic Growth](#), RISE Africa Action Festival, 2022
- [Heba Elhanafy and the Charter Cities Institute](#), Smarter Cities Podcast, 2022
- [New Cities](#), Urban Resilience Dialogues, 2023
- [The "Right to the City": Just Urban Systems](#), Urban Uncovered, 2023
- [On Africa Bad Urban laws](#), Charter Cities Institute Podcast, 2023
- [How the charter cities institute promotes inclusive and adaptable planning for sustainable new cities](#), Urban Limitrophe, 2023
- [Uncovering the Secrets to Building Cities from Scratch](#), Untitled Planning, 2023
- [The good, the bad and the ugly of new towns in Africa](#), Rise Africa, 2024

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- Open city summer school, Politecnico di Milano, 2013, Piacenza, Italy
- COP22 and Global landscape forum, Marrakesh, 2016, Morocco
- 3rd youth leadership workshop on GCED, 2017, Jeju Island, South Korea
- 3rd research forum, Arab Council for Social Science, 2018, Amman, Jordan
- Global Solutions Summit, 2018, Berlin, Germany
- Urban resilience and Culture landscape project, 2019 Bauhaus Universitat, Weimar, Germany
- Data sharing workshop, ODUM Institute, 2019, Beirut, Lebanon
- Placemaking Summit, ChangemakerXchange, 2019, Armenia
- Practitioners Lab: Arts and Culture Under Pressure, 2019, Zagreb, Croatia
- From Grassroots to Policy-making, 2019, Robert Bosch Foundation, Berlin, Germany
- New African Renaissance Conference, 2020, online
- Good Urban Governance Conference, Technical University of Berlin, 2020, online
- 3rd Urban Economic Forum, Urban Economy Forum, 2021, online
- Zambia Institute of Architects International Conference, 2022, Livingstone, Zambia
- Rise Action Festival, ICELE Africa, 2022, online
- Urban Practitioners Network meeting, 2022, Bodrum, Turkey
- Placemaking Weeks, European Placemaking Network, 2022, Pontevedra, Spain
- Towards Sustainable Cities Conference, Technical University of Berlin, 2022, Berlin, Germany
- Rise Action Festival, ICELE Africa, 2023, online
- Zambia Institute of Planners Conference, 2023, Livingstone, Zambia

- NxtAfrica, 2023, Lagos, Nigeria
- European Conference on African Studies, 2023, Koln, Germany
- Eco City, 2023, London, UK
- Africa Youth Forum, 2023, Tunis, Tunisia
- Walk21, 2023, Kigali, Rwanda
- New Cities Conference, 2023, Kigali, Rwanda
- Urban Associations Conference, 2024, New York, USA