

Graham Bishai

graham.bishai@gmail.com | 667-225-0427

[LinkedIn](#) | grahambishai.com

■ EDUCATION -----

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

expected May 2026 | **Chapel Hill, NC**

- Masters of City and Regional Planning student, specializing in transportation planning.
- Coursework in Transportation Planning, Demand Modeling, GIS, Land Use Policy/Law, Environmental Planning.
- VP of Internal Affairs, UNC-CH student chapter of Institute for Transportation Engineers (ITE); Social Committee.

HARVARD COLLEGE | *B.A. in Social Studies, cum laude*

2015 - 2019 | **Cambridge, MA**

- Minor in African American Studies. Focus field in urban development in post-colonial contexts.
- Coursework on identity, race, citizenship, migration, public space, housing and human welfare, and modern art.
- Senior Thesis: *"Urban Labor Migration among Tanzanian Maasai and its Impact on Modern Maasai Life."*

■ PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE -----

UNC DEPARTMENT OF CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING | *Research Assistant*

Sept - present | **Chapel Hill, NC**

- Collaborator on 18-mo. research study on siting process of logistics warehouses in NC. Led by Dr. Noreen McDonald.
- Conducting, coding and analyzing qualitative interviews with local planners and transportation officials.
 - *Forthcoming Publication*: *"Spatial Patterns in Logistic Warehouse Development in North Carolina and Virginia,"* analyzing planning processes and spatial trends in logistics facilities. Journal article submission and NCDOT report.

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY | *TrailLink Mapping and Web Intern*

Feb - Jun 2024 | **remote**

- Conducted spatial analysis of trails to craft and improve written and mapped content on [TrailLink](#), RTC's web and mobile platform of detailed map listings of 40,000+ miles of multi-use greenways and trails across the United States.
- Pursued a dedicated focus on improving the visibility of transit access to trails on the platform.

URBAN DESIGN FORUM | *Communications Manager*

Jan - Dec 2023 | **New York, NY**

- Led communications [showcasing](#) the Forum's work on equitable and sustainable practices in NYC's built environment.
- Oversaw the organization's weekly correspondence to 12,000 email subscribers, and grew [social media](#) audiences by 23% on Instagram and 25% on LinkedIn, netting a record-high 170,384 unique impressions on LinkedIn in 2023.
- Designed and managed [website](#) and social media, and oversaw launch of public programs, reports, and publications.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS | *Membership Associate*

2021 - 2023 | **remote**

- Grew legislative advocacy partnerships among 230+ partners in the nation's oldest and largest civil rights coalition by hosting large virtual briefings for top civil rights leaders, executing new contracts, and dispersing partnership grants.
- Vetted membership applications, revamped the application system, and onboarded 18 new member organizations.
- Produced, booked guests, and wrote scripts for [Pod for the Cause](#), org. podcast discussing civil rights current affairs.

COALITION FOR INCLUSIVE CAPITALISM | *Researcher & Program Assistant*

2021 | **New York, NY**

- Led research for a program to coalesce and deploy public business support for federal infrastructure investment.
- Tracked the political/business landscape of forthcoming infrastructure legislation. Developed and evolved our messaging strategy to garner support from C-suite level executives.

WARREN FOR PRESIDENT | *Field Organizer*

2019 - 2020 | **Little Rock, AR & Manchester, IA**

- Organized for Elizabeth Warren's presidential campaign in two rural northeastern Iowa counties and in Arkansas's 2nd congressional district. Hosted town halls, rallies, and conducted dedicated interpersonal and community outreach.
- Made 22,000+ phone calls to voters and knocked on 5,500+ doors. Recruited and trained 35 volunteer captains.

■ OTHER STUDY -----

MIGUEL ANGEL ASTURIAS SPANISH SCHOOL

Mar - Apr 2024 | **Quetzaltenango, Guatemala**

- Five weeks intensive immersive course in Spanish, with 25 hours a week of 1-1 instruction, plus local homestay, and personal exploration

■ VOLUNTEER WORK -----

RIDERS ALLIANCE | *Campaign Committee Member*

2023 - present | **New York, NY**

- Help set priorities for outreach and organizing for better public transit in New York City.
- Rally, speak-out, and volunteer on grassroots campaigns for more reliable and equitable buses, congestion pricing, etc.
- 2022 and 2023, frequently testified at NYC City Planning Commission, MTA Board meetings, and lobbied in Albany for better transit funding and service.

THE UMKHUMBANE SCHOOLS PROJECT | *Math Tutor*

2020 | **Durban, South Africa & remote**

- Taught a remote class of fifteen 11th grade math students who were left without instruction due to Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. Pilot program was featured in 2022 book, "Belonging and Changing in Educational Spaces."
- Remote tutoring built upon 2 previous internships held in 2015 and 2016 where I taught in-person math classes and managed a science fair.

■ SKILLS -----

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| • Intermediate Spanish | • Political Advocacy | • ArcGIS, QGIS, TransCAD |
| • Research/Writing/Editorial | • Policy Analysis | • Microsoft Office and Google Suites |
| • Transportation Modelling | • Public Speaking | • Adobe Creative Suite, including InDesign and Photoshop |
| • Mapping and Geospatial Analysis | • Project Management | • SquareSpace, Wordpress, GitLab |
| • Web Design/Management | • Administrative Support | • Salesforce, Asana, AirTable |
| • Photo, Video, Social Media | • Event Planning/Facilitation | |

■ BIO -----

Graham Bishai is a first-year Master of City and Regional Planning student at UNC Chapel Hill, specializing in transportation planning. His interests lie in public and active transportation systems that enhance people's quality of life, foster a sense of place, and catalyze organic and equitable urban development. Originally from Baltimore, subsequent homes in South Africa and New York City crystallized Graham's passion for the built environment's impact on culture, democracy, health, and wellbeing, leading him to a career in planning. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Harvard, and has 6+ years of work experience in political advocacy, community organizing, communications, urban design, mapping, and spatial analysis.