

Blaise Merand

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Paris, France - seeking relocation to NYC

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

After serving as deputy chief of staff to the mayor of the 14th district of Paris, I want to bring over five years of experience in sustainable planning, housing, zoning and city administration to work for New York City at a time when Mayor-elect Mamdani's affordability, equity and sustainability agenda offers a chance to shape local and international progressive policies.

JOB EXPERIENCE

Office of the mayor, 14th district of Paris, France - Deputy Chief of staff (June 2022 - Present)

- Borough-level governmental district of Paris. 1 mayor, 12 deputies and 30 councilmembers.
- Deputy CoS and technical advisor for planning and affordable housing.
- Led the comprehensive, climate-ready overhaul of Paris' zoning and land-use regulations for the district, coordinating community engagement and public review process.
- Acting as the district mayor's liaison with Paris' elected councilmembers, the Paris' mayor and deputy mayors' offices, city department and agencies.
- Negotiating development approvals, community benefits and participatory planning agreements with public and private developers (50+ projects over 3 years).
- Coordinating cross-agency operations on tenants protection.
- Drafting policy and position memos for the district mayor.
- Managing 15 staff and €450k budget for mayor's office operations.

AREP, Paris, France - Research Assistant (2019 - 2021)

- France's largest urban planning and architecture firm.
- Elaborated the neighborhood revitalization plan for the Majicavo-Koropa district of Koungou (Mayotte, France): public RFP, technical & financial deliverables (€130M CAPEX over 10 years). Client: City of Koungou.

Embassy of France in Canada, Ottawa - Communication intern (July - December 2015)

- Intern at the Embassy's cultural department.
- Organized the annual convention of the French cultural action in Canada (30 attendees: Foreign Ministry, Embassy, Consulates).

EDUCATION

Sciences Po, Paris, France — Master in Urban planning (2021 - 2023)

- Urban planning, policies and strategies, planning and housing law, housing policies, mobility and public and private development.

ESSEC Business School, Cergy, France & Singapore — Master in Management (2021 - 2023)

- Urban economics, urban marketing, local and democratic governance, city policies, utilities.

SKILLS

- Languages: French (fluent), English (fluent), German (fluent).
- Technical: QGIS, Adobe Illustrator & InDesign.
- Soft: policy analysis, written & verbal communication, cross-cultural communication, prioritization.