

Parnian • Anaa

Designer, Advocate, and Collaborator

My mission is to use design and creativity to serve my communities, as well as further growing within this creative journey...

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EXPERIENCE

3M National Student Fellowship – Research Project

June 2025 – current

- Ten students across Canada who have shown exceptional leadership in higher education are working together to develop a research project to be delivered within a year. We are looking at the importance of *interdisciplinarity* in practices in higher education across Canadian intuitions.

Emily Carr Library – Accessibility Research Assistant

Sept 2024 – March 2025

- In collaboration with the library, I am leading an accessibility research to enhance the library's resources and services for students.
- Using different design research methods such as survey development, I have engaged with students to collect feedback, and have created a short and long term plan for accessibility improvement.
- Hosting sensory friendly study nights
- Writing creative access descriptions for the print collection
- Bringing students together to curate a collective access/ disability exhibition to hold space for connection and conversation

Emily Carr Health and Design Lab – Research Assistant for Dementia-Friendly Communities Project

January – June 2024

- Researched and co-designed five virtual workshops in collaboration with researchers from University of Victoria, to create a dementia friendly community action plan for people with dementia who live independently across BC.
- The project involved kit making, hosting, data analysis, and writing a final report.
- The results are being used to apply for further funding to develop further projects with the growing number of people with dementia who live independently (alone).

Personal Trainer & Group Fitness Instructor – Fitness World, North Vancouver Recreational Centers

April 2019 – Present

- Developing and teaching a variety of class plans for a wide range of audience. Class types include: Yoga/Stretch/ Resistance Training/ HITT
- I also specialize in youth and accessibility focused training

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

BA Industrial Design, Minor of Social Practices and Community Engagement, Emily Carr University (May 2025, GPA 3.961)

Research Ethics, TCPS 2: Core (2023)

Mueller Pattern Making/ Fashion Design Certificate, City & Guilds (2022)

Certified Personal Training, NASM (since 2021)

Non-violent Communication (2020)

200 Hour Teacher Training, Yoga Alliance | Trauma Informed Yoga, Yoga Outreach (since 2019)

AWARDS

Lieutenant Governor Award for Inclusion, Democracy, and Reconciliation, 2025

Emily Carr Valedictorian Class of 2025

3M Student National Fellowship, 2025

DESIS Radical Sustainability Award, 2025

Emily Carr Alumni Association Graduation Award for Community Engagement, 2025

INDD Micro Grant, 2023/ 2024

Design For Complex Societies, Italy, 2024

Simon Chang Award, 2024

DESIS Scholarship, 2024

3M EDI Summit Winner, 2023

Stephen A. Corcoran Memorial Award (2021)

SKILLS

Research (Material, Field, Archival)
Community Engagement/ Events
Collaboration & Co-design
Critical Problem Solving
Policy and Advocacy Work
Creative and Academic Writing
Publication/ Editorial
Strong Communication
Prototyping/ Manufacturing
Processes

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Emily Carr Board of Governance — Student Board Representative

August 2023 - Present

- Advocating for affordable education
- Engaging in annual matters of the board such as budget approval
- Served on Presidential Review Committee and Presidential Search Committee

LANGUAGES

English, Persian

Emily Carr's Students' Union — Racialized Community Coordinator, Grounded Engagement, and Internal Affairs

July 2020 - Present

- Researching through design as a way to advocate for student needs. Examples are collective active exhibitions, design for belonging, enhancing student voices and collecting feedback through Crafting Utopias workshop series, and events
- Emily Carr University Anti-racist work (EDI)
- Modeling best practices on consultation and engagement
- Training and onboarding new board members

Publication

Foundation Anthropology (2020)
The Current, Student Journal (2019)

EXHIBITIONS AND CURATORIAL PRACTICE

“Who Are We? An exhibition on access and disability” — The Library at Emily Carr University

March 2025 — Curator

“Entanglement: a series of material exploration and research with fiber” — The MOEC Gallery at Emily Carr University

January 2025 — Curator

“Missingspaces” — The MOEC Gallery at Emily Carr University

March 2024 — Co-curator

“tender. tend. Tending” — The Library at Emily Carr University

Dec 2023 — Co-curator

“A Sense Making Archive of Imagining Utopias, Remembering Dystopias, and Crafting Zebras ” — The MOEC Gallery at Emily Carr University

November 2023 — Curator

Lab Here// Too// For — Fashion Fictions at Vancouver Art Gallery

May-July 2023 — Student Researcher

“Peace & Chaos: of Woman, Life, Freedom” — The MOEC Gallery at Emily Carr University

June 2023 — Curator