MY INTERNSHIP AT SOUTHWEST DECISION RESOURCES

Anya Kincannon
Projects:

- Plan Tucson
- Southwest Adaptation Forum
- Southwest New Mexico Collaborative
- Various other meetings that I helped facilitate or note-take for:
  - Wildlife and Fire Workshop, Environmental Flows, Lower Gila River Collaborative
Plan Tucson

- As part of the Southwest Decision Resources team, my role was to help support the stakeholder engagement process as the City of Tucson is updating the General City Plan.

- I worked directly with the City of Tucson planning team, Gordley Group, and Southwest Decision Resources.

- I was able to work in multiple modalities (virtual, hybrid, in-person) and with different groups of people in the Tucson community.

- Conducted qualitative data analysis with the outputs from our working group meetings and community forums.
Plan Tucson

- As a member of the SDR team, I saw the importance of preparation for these meetings
  - Ensure that all facilitators and notetakers have a preparation session to be comfortable using the various tools and methods for engagement
  - The agenda design and engagement activities play a huge role in the success of a meeting

- I felt the difference in how stakeholders engaged in the process as modalities changed
  - People in person were able to open up and connect with each other more compared to virtual meetings
  - However, virtual meetings generally yielded a larger turnout due to their convenience

- I had the opportunity to see what an urban planning process looks like and the importance of community and stakeholder engagement
Southwest Adaptation Forum 2024

- I supported the **planning process** for the 2024 Southwest Adaptation Forum located at Desert Diamond Conference Center
  - We had over **150 participants** during the **3-day conference**
- Some of the topics discussed during the forum included: food sovereignty, drought, fire, water, and adaptation financing
Southwest Adaptation Forum

- I helped document outputs from the Forum for dissemination to all participants.
- I was able to meet and learn from a variety of inspiring leaders in climate adaptation.
- I learned about the agenda-building process and everything that goes into organizing speakers, activities, dinners, field trips, etc.
Southwest New Mexico Collaborative

- The Southwest New Mexico Collaborative is a regional effort to ensure greater and more efficient coordination and alignment among local government, land management agencies, and community-based organizations to elevate the work on issues relevant to local communities in the region.

- Partners are working collaboratively on four main shared priorities: Restoration; Economic Development Youth Engagement; Education and Stewardship; Outdoor Recreation.

- These 4 priorities have 4 separate working groups lead by members of the Leadership Council.
Southwest New Mexico Collaborative

As a member of the Southwest New Mexico Collaborative, I learned a lot about multi-stakeholder engagement and the project prioritization process.

I recently attended the leadership council meeting in Silver City, NM where we had updates from the 4 working groups and the rest of the leadership council.
  - We discussed priorities for the upcoming year and next steps.

I took notes for our meeting and helped create action items for the coming months.
Facilitation Training

• As part of my internship at Southwest Decision Resources, I attended a **Facilitation Training** in January 2024.

• I learned incredible facilitation and notetaking skills along with **engagement methods, project prioritization techniques, process diagrams, and how to manage different behaviors** in meetings and workshops.

• These skills helped in all aspects of my internship and will continue to help me in any future positions, (and my life!)

• I also gave a mini facilitation training to my fellow Earth Grant cohort members in February 2024 with the skills I learned from the training and my time as an intern thus far.