

SIHLE NGESI-MAGUBANE

255 Cedar Road, Chartwell, Johannesburg | +270631734448 | sihle.magubane@outlook.com

Program Design & Management | Strategy | Storytelling | Stakeholder Engagement

Fueled by a passion for tackling humanity's toughest challenges, I am an entrepreneurial change-maker with 8+ years of experience igniting strategic growth, crafting innovative learning journeys, and weaving collaborative networks. Thriving in complex environments, I leverage technology and creativity to foster inclusive, innovative ecosystems towards tangible impact.

EXPERIENCE

July 2023 -Current | **Various | Freelancer**

| Since the end of my last employment period, I have been engaged in several freelance projects in marketing, strategy, and design- after the initial recuperation period from illness.

- Developing a marketing strategy for a financial services SME in Johannesburg.
- Program design and market entry for an entrepreneurial fellowship program to launch in 2025.
- Organizing events – from designing invitations and briefs to event execution (including catering).
- Assisting school leavers with identifying post-matriculation opportunities and applying to said opportunities.
- Engaging in various coursework for continuing professional development via nonprofit ready.org

March 2023 – July 2023 | **DG Murray Trust | Learning Manager**

| Managed the end-to-end aspects of the learning program on the [Amplify | Mobilize | Change](#) program, including program design, learning facilitation, session planning and execution, liaising with program participants, and managing the learning management system for the online learning program. (contract ended due to incapacity due to illness)

- Developing and delivering coursework for non-profit professionals on digital communications – including program design, execution, and performance management.
- Structuring the learning and outcomes process liaising with coursework delivery partners and participants
- Planning, coordination, and execution of the 7-month structured program, along with ad hoc technical workshops and learning sessions (virtual and in person) and reporting on impact in each learning phase.

January 2021 – October 2021 | **Jakes Gerwel Fellowship** | **Chief of Staff**

| Led the organization's strategic direction, acting as the "force multiplier" through leveraging senior executives and all staff in the organization to transform individual ability into organizational capability- key departments managed are strategy (office of the CEO), Marketing, and Operations.

- 360-degree management of strategic processes and outputs; led special projects; oversaw all thought leadership and communications; drove partnerships and relationship management and championed organizational and staff professional development objectives.
- Specific responsibilities included overseeing the marketing and advocacy function across platforms, co-ordinating strategic processes and operational objectives liaising with senior executives, leading and managing processes for retaining professional services from third parties, ensuring operational efficiency, compiling board reports, budgeting and reporting for the advocacy function, giving regular workshops and presentations with staff and board to ensure alignment with organizational priorities.
- Curating Fellowship events such as Summit 2021 – from managing the design and production to facilitating sessions – e.g. public sessions on [The best performing Schooling Systems](#) with McKinsey and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

October 2020 – October 2021 | **T4 Education** | **Country Ambassador (South Africa)**

| South African representative for the global education community aiming to empower teachers and schools through toolkits, thought leadership, flagship prizes, and storytelling- this was a volunteer role I was selected to perform alongside my role at Jakes Gerwel Fellowship.

- Serving as a country ambassador for the T4 Education movement through contributing to marketing, thought leadership, and advocacy work on various global and national platforms, encouraging and creating a community of practice for educators who share a passion for delivering tangible impact in education.

January 2020 – January 2021 | **Jakes Gerwel Fellowship** | **Programme Officer**

| As Program Officer, Sihle supported Fellows in their academic, personal leadership, and entrepreneurial development, as well as their growth as aspirant teachers, by building one-on-one relationships with the Candidate Fellows, planning and delivering elements of the Fellowship program, and building strategic relationships with academic institutions, supported by the program team.

- Coaching, mentorship, and developmental responsibilities for 15 candidate fellows (students) based at the University of Cape Town, compiling reports on their academic, social and psychological well-being and referring them to resources for support.
- Managed a range of service providers to ensure quality output including public relations, digital marketing, web, and creative agencies (5 in total). Producing the first "[explainer](#)" video for the fellowship.
- Led the development and production of the Inaugural Jakes Gerwel Fellowship [online summit 2020](#). Public sessions (2) were attended by over 2600 participants from around the globe.
- Developed marketing collateral and conducted training with the Jakes Gerwel Fellowship team on best practices in social impact marketing. Moving collateral production in-house secured over ZAR 120K in savings for the 2020 financial year.
- Proactively led the end-to-end development of organizational strategy in a post-pandemic climate with an emphasis on "advocacy". Secured over ZAR 3,5 mil. In additional funding from the endowment to drive this agenda.

July 2017– December 2018 | **African Leadership Academy** | **Ecosystem Engagement Manager & Editor**

| Led the development of the Academy's continent-wide ecosystem engagement strategy for the development of the continent's young entrepreneurs. Edited the monthly newsletters, co-authored thought leadership and content, and served as the primary "evangelist" of the entrepreneurial programs at ALA – speaking at over 20 events across the continent.

- Managed the end-to-end content development process- the blog platform, the monthly newsletter, and all contributors- growing the subscriber base from 1800 to 3200 in the first

year. Developed a framework and streamlined stakeholder engagement resulting in 30 focused partnerships with measurable outputs (down from over 80).

- Built and led various communities of education and entrepreneurship practitioners across the continent. Including investors and incubators.
- Co-authored and oversaw the production and distribution of research and print publications- including the annual Anzisha Effect magazine, and a book for parents of young entrepreneurs “[Parenting the Boss](#)”.
- Built tools for entrepreneurs such as the [Africa start-up idea matrix](#), which is an iteration of Eric Stromberg’s [start-up idea matrix](#) as part of the open curriculum at the Anzisha Prize.

January 2017– June 2017 | **African Leadership University** | **Fellow**

| Participated in the inaugural class of the ALU Fellowship- designed to attract high-impact young professionals into the entrepreneurship and education development space. The Fellowship included completing ALU’s flagship design thinking-centred coursework as well as completing projects aligned to expertise and interest.

- Led an in-house study benchmarking university entrepreneurship incubators around the world; contributed to curriculum design and facilitated lessons to first year entrepreneurial leadership students
- Led a team of fellows to conduct a risk analysis into the university’s expansion into Rwanda.

March 2016– February 2017 | **The Africa Collaboration Project** | **Director, Senior Executive Associate**

| Retained by previous employer, the Africa Strategy Group, to help build a think-tank focused on African Affairs. Focused on building the research and innovation practice within the organization as well as recruiting for and managing a consortium of 15 emerging African leaders making an impact in their industries..

- Supported regulatory risk projects for private equity and other investors into South Africa; Led a feasibility study for the creation of digital addresses for informal settlements in SA- liaised with city officials across South Africa.

July 2015– February 2016 | **PwC** | **Associate: Strategy& Operations**

| Management consultant serving a wide range of industries including oil and gas, financial services, telecommunications, and scale-up companies, responsible for research and analysis, client engagement and some business development. I skipped the graduate programme and was hired for as part of the consulting team.

- *Intrapreneurship*: Proposed and led the development of a digital customer experience transformation solution in the oil&gas (retail fuels) industry. Pitched solution to major oil and gas retailers.
- Project experience included a disruption strategy and entry level market product innovation for two listed financial services companies, revenue assurance and turnaround for a SADC region-based telecoms company, creating a funding pipeline and model for a tech start-up incubator. Co-Authored the [2015 Africa Oil & Gas Review](#).

November 2013– June 2015 | **Africa Strategy Group** | **Associate**

| Strategy consultant from 2nd year of undergraduate degree. Responsible for research, compilation of briefs and presentations, client engagement and particularly with clients who speak Mandarin.

- *Intrapreneurship*: Proposed and led research on the potential of big data on public sector impact in South Africa.
- Project experience included an electoral strategy for a major political party, market entry for Chinese telecoms, economic diplomacy strategy for two telecommunications companies, and a banking conglomerate.

EDUCATION

2014 | **Rhodes University** | **Bachelor of Social Sciences [Economics & Chinese Studies]**

Student leader with a liberal arts background- completed coursework in various disciplines such as politics and international relations, industrial sociology, languages (Chinese), and others. Also, a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Fellow, and Co-Founder of the Rhodes Model United Nations. Published a paper on international Chinese Aid in Africa Post-2015 as part of the United Nations University – Maastricht “Inside the Black Box” Project.

2021 | **Emeritus** | **Postgraduate Diploma in Design Thinking**

Other education

2021 | Strengths Institute | Associate Strengths Coach & Executive Coaching essentials

2020 | Complexity University | Complexity Leadership Summer School

2017 | African Leadership University | Leadership Core

2014 | University of Stellenbosch Business School | MBA Foundation

SKILLS

- Strategic leadership
- Program development and management
- Learning design and facilitation
- Project management
- Stakeholder engagement
- Marketing and communications management
- Coaching and mentorship
- Content creation- writing, design, thought leadership and editing (click to access [portfolio here](#))
- Partnership development and service provider management
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Tools: MS Suite(Excel,Word,PPT,Projects), Google Suite, Trello, Asana, WordPress, MailChimp,Airtable, Meta,Google Analytics,Salesforce,Slack, Zoom, Teams,Canva, Adobe Illustrator etc.

References available upon request