

# ABHISHEK KHAN

Design researcher · Social innovation strategist · Systems thinker

+1 (912) 777-0452 · shekk21299@gmail.com · [abhishekkhan.com](http://abhishekkhan.com) · [linkedin.com/in/abhishek-khan](https://linkedin.com/in/abhishek-khan)

## PROFILE

---

Design researcher and social innovation strategist with an MFA in Design for Sustainability from SCAD. Creator of *Living Trails*, an internationally recognized participatory framework that integrates Indigenous knowledge, place-based context, and institutional systems to co-create climate-resilient policy. Presented at leading forums including the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), Super South, and the Transition Design Conference. Brings experience across government, nonprofit, and community contexts, translating complex systems into actionable research, policy tools, and facilitated processes for stakeholders ranging from local communities to federal agencies. Interested in roles at the intersection of policy, culture, and sustainability where research can shift power, amplify diverse voices, and drive long-term, systemic impact.

## FLAGSHIP WORK

---

Living Trails — Participatory Design Framework for Climate-Resilient Policy

A co-design framework bridging Indigenous ecological knowledge, community context, and institutional decision-making to shape more safe, just and climate-adaptive policies. Recognized with the Beatrice Medicine Award (SfAA), International Design Award Silver (Eco/Sustainable Design), and iF Design Awards. Featured at three national and international conferences.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

Design Strategist | Thinkering Collective | Remote, New York, NY Jan 2026 – Present

- Develop structured frameworks and problem models for systems thinking, sustainability, and AI integration across consultancy and SaaS training platforms.
- Design and evaluate complex problem scenarios for learning environments; translate interdisciplinary research into actionable tools.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams to refine analytical approaches and client-facing outputs.

Teaching Assistant | Savannah College of Art & Design | Savannah, GA Aug – Dec 2025

- Supported classroom facilitation, mentorship, and curriculum delivery in the Design for Sustainability program.
- Led lectures and discussions on systems thinking, behavior change, and contextual research; guided student teams through human-centered and systems-based design projects.
- Contributed to lesson plan design, assessments, and learning outcome alignment.

Project Manager & Research Lead | Deloitte Government & Public Services | Remote Sept 2024 – Mar 2025

- Led multi-stakeholder research and strategy projects with federal and state agencies (SNAP, DOT, NPS, Election Commission) to improve public service delivery and policy communication systems.
- Designed data-driven frameworks and tools to enhance accessibility, track outcomes, and support decision-making across agencies.
- Synthesized qualitative and quantitative insights into policy-facing reports, briefs, and stakeholder materials; coordinated cross-functional teams to deliver timelines and client-facing tools.

Project Manager & Service Strategist | International Rescue Committee | Atlanta, GA Jan – Mar 2025

- Led interdisciplinary team designing an inclusive food access service for resettled refugee families, integrating community interviews and participatory prototyping to ensure cultural responsiveness.
- Delivered a replicable program model combining social innovation, design facilitation, and community-driven impact.

SCADstory Docent | Savannah College of Art & Design | Savannah, GA Dec 2023 – Dec 2025

- Developed administrative tools and training materials to strengthen docent onboarding consistency and confidence in museum interpretation.
- Contributed to visitor experience strategy — translating curatorial narratives into accessible, engaging storytelling for diverse audiences.

Project Lead & Behavior Strategist | Perpetual x SCAD Serve | Savannah, GA Sept – Nov 2023

- Co-led a community-driven project exploring open-loop reuse systems within Savannah's food ecosystem; facilitated field research, behavioral mapping, and systems workshops with local business representatives.
- Developed research briefs, reports, and visual frameworks for policy and sustainability initiatives.

Founder & Design Consultant | TĀSYA Designs | Mumbai, India May 2020 – May 2024

- Established and scaled cradle-to-cradle design systems, supply chains, and product lines; developed nonprofit collaboration channels and a capability-building operations model.
- Consulted nonprofit stakeholders on relationship management, volunteer coordination, budget tracking, program evaluation, and operational coordination.

## EDUCATION

---

MFA Design for Sustainability (Concentration: Design Management) · STEM-designated 2026  
Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) · Outstanding Student Achievement Award, 2026

B.Des in Product Design 2020  
Unitedworld Institute of Design, India

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

---

- Beatrice Medicine Award — Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), 2026
- Outstanding Student Achievement Award — SCAD, 2026
- Super South Summit Capstone Challenge Award, 2026
- International Design Award — Silver, Eco/Sustainable Design: Living Trails
- International Design Award — Honorable Mention: The Tutoring Path, Bloom Beyond Borders
- 9 Indigo Awards, Social Change Category: The Tutoring Path, Bloom Beyond Borders
- European Product Design Award: Bloom Beyond Borders
- Outstanding Innovation Award: Red Bull Consumer Collective
- Design for Sustainability Department Endowed Scholarship — SCAD

## CERTIFICATIONS

---

Design Research & Insight Translation — Lextant  
Supply Chain Decarbonization — Terra.do  
Communication & Presentation — SCADamp

## SKILLS & METHODS

---

Research & Strategy: Systems Thinking, Contextual Research, Participatory Design, Service Design, Sustainability Strategy, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Transformative Scenario Planning, Policy Analysis  
Facilitation & Education: Workshop Design, Studio Instruction, Curriculum Design, Project-Based Learning, Design Thinking Pedagogy, Instructional Design, Mentorship  
Tools: Adobe Creative Cloud, Figma, Miro/Mural, Autodesk Fusion 360, Sustainable Minds, Asana, Airtable, Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Canva, Slack  
AI & Tech: Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini — used for research synthesis, capability building, and workflow design

## LEADERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

---

Member, Choose Reuse Coalition – Chatham County · Admin Coordinator, Joulebug Challenge, SCAD · Events Coordinator & Founding Member, Net Impact SCAD Chapter · Production Designer, Ahmedabad Design Week, India Design Confluence

Portfolio: [abhishekkhan.com](http://abhishekkhan.com) · Open to relocation & remote · F1 STEM OPT — H1B/O1 eligible