

Manny Tamargo

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Personal Statement

Technical operator focused on enhancing the local economy, by providing technical assistance and a quantitative lens for small farmers, non-profits and business owners.

Experience

Staff, Director of Program Development, Urban Oasis – Miami, FL 2025 – Present

- Designed an AI-powered pipeline for grant discovery and matching
- Authored grant proposals totaling over \$600K in requested funds to Florida Institutional Organizations
- Launched a new farmers' market site in South Miami; ran set-up, produce logistics, and SNAP beneficiary services
- Secured \$1K in donations via direct outreach to Publix, Winn-Dixie, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, and Costco
- Built geospatial analyses mapping program coverage across South Florida counties to inform proposals

Analyst, Independent Technical Assistance – Miami, FL May 2026 – Present

- Authored four grant proposals totaling over \$100K in requested funds to the USDA and the American Farmland Trust for South Florida farms and non-profits
- Advised small farms and non-profits on project design, structuring growth around minimal-capital pilots that scale as funding is secured

CTO & Founder, Edge Bio – New York, NY Jan 2022 – April 2024

- Secured \$580K in startup funding; directed budget, hiring, and partnerships for alternative protein commercialization
- Co-founded and set strategic direction, assembling a 4-person team spanning research, food industry, cell science, and engineering
- Participated in The Engine's Blueprint program developing techno-economic models for technology scaling and commercial viability assessment

Analyst, Helikon Consulting – New York, NY Aug 2021 – Nov 2022

- Authored technical memos distilling complex data into written recommendations; analytical work influenced \$50M+ in funding and acquisition decisions.

PhD Candidate, Columbia University – New York, NY Aug 2017 – Oct 2021

- Authored a funded proposal securing a \$125K award for a myocarditis detection AI tool
- Authored a \$250K American Heart Association award (19TPA34910217) and executed proposed research leading to follow-up funding and a publication
- Coordinated research across five institutions: sample collection, data sharing, protocol standardization, quality control
- Led technical writing for publications with 15+ co-authors, driving agenda-setting, action tracking, and consensus
- Analyzed measurement data and reported results: statistical modeling (LASSO regression, 87.5% accuracy) and screening across 2,185 compounds

Education

Columbia University, PhD in Tissue Engineering Sept 2016 – October 2021

Columbia University, BS in Biomedical Engineering Sept 2012 – May 2016

Awards & Recognition

American Heart Association 2019

- American Heart Association Research Award (\$250K for autoimmune myocarditis research)

Columbia University 2017 – 2023

- Venture Competition First Place (\$15K award for Edge Bio)
- Myocarditis Detection AI Tool (\$125K entrepreneurship award)
- 11 peer-reviewed publications and 4 patents in cardiac therapeutics and tissue engineering

Skills

Executive Leadership: strategic planning, budget formulation, team supervision, change management

Program & Financial Administration: grants administration, federal funding compliance, financial modeling

Stakeholder Engagement: multi-institutional coordination, community outreach, technical-to-executive communication

Analytical Tools: R, Python, geospatial analysis, statistical modeling, Microsoft Office