

Clara Lynch

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📍 Grand Rapids, MI 49503

SUMMARY

Dynamic leader with 6 years of experience in merchandising and operations management, dedicated to optimizing inventory control and enhancing financial performance. Proven success in developing strategic business initiatives while maintaining strong vendor relationships and overseeing contract negotiations. Passionate about fostering talent development and driving cross-functional collaboration for projects that align operational success with company goals. Possesses strong analytical skills for interpreting business trends and leveraging insights to inform planning and resource allocation. Eager to contribute innovative solutions that deliver exceptional customer experiences.

EXPERIENCE

Merchandising Operations Manager

March 2021 - Present

Retail Solutions LLC

Detroit, MI

Responsible for managing the development and execution of business strategies related to merchandising operations. Focused on improving inventory management while enhancing financial results by collaborating with various teams.

- Spearheaded inventory management strategies, achieving significant reduction in excess stock levels.
- Negotiated contracts with multiple third-party vendors, ensuring compliance and boosting operational efficiency.
- Analyzed sales data to shape merchandising approaches, resulting in impressive growth in quarterly sales.
- Integrated training initiatives to enhance team capabilities in merchandising best practices and operational excellence.
- Built a culture of accountability within teams, promoting integrity in business interactions.
- Oversaw performance metrics, enabling insightful decision-making for effective operational improvements.

Senior Merchandising Analyst

January 2018 - February 2021

Market Dynamics Inc.

Cleveland, OH

Led detailed analysis and forecasting for a diverse retail product portfolio. Emphasized project management principles to streamline merchandising initiatives across departments.

- Managed financial forecasts and profit statements, driving actionable plans that improved product turnover rates.
- Formulated and executed inventory markdown strategies based on extensive market analyses.
- Oversaw vendor contract reviews to modify terms, ultimately enhancing profit margins.
- Applied project management methodologies to coordinate multiple merchandising programs effectively.
- Conducted workshops that improved collaboration among departmental teams and enhanced overall efficiency.
- Mentored junior analysts, supporting their professional development and retention.

Merchandising Coordinator

July 2016 - December 2017

Retail Ventures Group

Indianapolis, IN

Supported the implementation of merchandising strategies designed to align with corporate targets while facilitating smooth operations through comprehensive inventory oversight.

- Executed merchandising programs aligned with corporate objectives, significantly contributing to sales increases.
- Assist with inventory processes, guaranteeing efficient stock management and orderly markdown procedures.
- Collaborated with marketing divisions to develop promotional content that drove product visibility.
- Performed market research for consumer behavior insights to inform strategy adjustments.
- Engaged in effective vendor management to ensure punctual delivery and adherence to quality benchmarks.
- Participated actively in team meetings to sync merchandising initiatives with overarching business aims.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Employee of the Month at Retail Solutions LLC for outstanding contributions to sales increase in Q3 2022.
- Recognized as a top performer at Market Dynamics Inc., contributing innovative strategies that led group success.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration

2016

University of Michigan GPA: 3.8

Ann Arbor, MI

Coursework: Financial Management, Marketing Strategies, Operations Management, Consumer Behavior

CERTIFICATIONS

- Project Management Professional (PMP) 📅 2021

- Six Sigma Green Belt 📅 2020

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Project Management Tools:** Trello, Asana, JIRA
- **Analysis Software:** Excel, Tableau, SPSS
- **Communication Tools:** Slack, Microsoft Teams, Zoom
- **Inventory Management Systems:** Oracle, SAP, Manhattan Associates
- **Financial Forecasting Tools:** NetSuite, QuickBooks, Hyperion
- **CRM Software:** Salesforce, HubSpot, Zoho CRM
- **Data Visualization Tools:** Tableau, Power BI, Google Data Studio
- **Vendor Management Platforms:** Ariba, Coupa, SynerTrade
- **POS Systems:** Square, Shopify, Lightspeed
- **Marketing Automation Tools:** Mailchimp, Marketo, Hootsuite

SKILLS

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Merchandising Strategies | • Financial Analysis | • Data-driven Decision Making | • Performance Metrics |
| • Inventory Management | • Team Development | • Operational Efficiency | • Sales Forecasting |
| • Vendor Relations | • Contract Negotiations | • Trend Analysis | • Customer Experience |
| • Project Management | • Cross-functional Leadership | • Talent Development | • Ethical Compliance |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member of the National Retail Federation, exchanging industry insights and innovations.
- Volunteer at local non-profit, focusing on community enrichment through educational initiatives.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Proficient)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST