

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Executive leader with more than 25 years of experience creating and scaling collaborative models that align business, philanthropy, government, and civil society to solve complex economic, social, and environmental challenges and accelerate lasting impact.

Founded and led transformative initiatives ranging from New York City's largest public-private infrastructure partnerships to global coalitions advancing more resilient communities and local economies. Recent leadership includes launching Yes/Cities—which mobilized more than \$100 million to support San Francisco's post-pandemic recovery and is now scaling globally—and building cross-sector platforms, including the Davos Baukultur Alliance, that mobilize investment, innovation and leadership to turn ambitious economic and sustainability goals into local impact.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Head of Urban Transformation; Member of Executive Committee, San Francisco, CA (2017-2026)

- Founded the [Centre for Urban Transformation](#), creating a platform that translates the global ambitions of major corporations, institutional investors, philanthropies, and governments into local action by mobilizing expertise, capital, and innovation to strengthen community resilience and unlock new growth opportunities.
- Led the creation of [Yes/Cities](#), a place-based partnership model that aligns public and private investment to build new engines of economic growth by accelerating solutions to critical challenges. The initiative mobilized more than \$100 million to grow San Francisco's green economy and advance climate goals, and is now scaling across a global network of cities representing more than 150 million people and \$8 trillion in economic output.
- Partnered with [global corporate leaders](#) to redefine how multinational companies engage locally, aligning business strategy with economic development and community priorities. In collaboration with Deloitte's global leadership, helped shape the firm's place-based strategy and launch efforts in Bengaluru, Boston, Delhi, Detroit and San Francisco, demonstrating how business can drive local impact while strengthening long-term competitiveness.
- Launched the [G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance](#), the world's largest initiative advancing responsible technology governance in cities, in partnership with the Government of Japan and a coalition representing more than 200,000 cities and local governments.
- Established the [Davos Baukultur Alliance](#) in partnership with the Government of Switzerland, bringing together governments, industry leaders, and civil society across 140+ countries to advance high-quality, resilient, and sustainable places. The Alliance builds on earlier work on [net-zero](#) and [nature-positive cities](#) to align public and private action around the future of the built environment.

- Shaped and launched a [global initiative with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#) to unlock the transformative potential of the experience economy, rallying leaders across industries behind a model that strengthens communities, culture, infrastructure, and natural environments while enabling more resilient and inclusive growth.
- Spearheaded an effort to [modernize small and medium-sized enterprises](#) in Brazil, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and other emerging markets, enabling tens of thousands of businesses to adopt digital technologies that boosted productivity, competitiveness, and local economic growth.

CITY OF NEW YORK

Director of Innovation, Office of the Mayor, New York, NY (2014-2017)

- Named New York City's [first Director of Innovation](#) and helped establish the Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation, developing and executing a [unified strategy](#) that aligned investment and priorities across economic development, infrastructure, education, and public services. New York was recognized as the world's top city for innovation in 2015 and Best Smart City in 2016.
- Helped advance the [historic rollout of universal pre-kindergarten](#) across the nation's largest school district, mobilizing the technology community to translate an ambitious policy commitment into enrollment of more than 53,000 children across 1,700+ new full-day programs within months. The effort required coordination across more than two dozen City agencies and became a national model for delivering social policy at scale.
- Pioneered a new model for public-private infrastructure investment, leveraging New York City's right-of-way and existing payphone franchise to unlock private capital for next-generation infrastructure and public services. [LinkNYC](#) transformed 7,500+ payphone sites into the world's largest and fastest municipal Wi-Fi network, delivering free connectivity and services at no cost to taxpayers.
- Created [New York City's Neighborhood Innovation Labs](#), bringing together government, industry, academia, and communities together to turn locally defined priorities into new solutions and economic opportunities. Launched with the White House as part of the first federal Smart Cities Initiative, the effort enabled real-world testing of solutions while creating pathways for entrepreneurship, workforce development, and improved public services.
- Established the [world's first comprehensive framework](#) for responsible smart-city technology, synthesizing best practices from 50+ cities and building consensus across government, industry, academia, and civil society around principles for privacy, security, equity, resilience, and sustainability. Launched with the White House, the framework was adopted by 40+ cities worldwide.
- Orchestrated the launch of [.nyc](#), creating a digital platform that helped residents identify and support neighborhood businesses while giving local enterprises a distinctive online identity and strengthening the city's economy. The initiative became a model for cities worldwide.

Senior Advisor, Office of the Public Advocate, New York, NY (2011-2013)

- Helped transform New York City's second-highest elected office into a platform for government reform, corporate accountability, and civic innovation, leading initiatives that mobilized government, business, philanthropy, and communities around major public

priorities. Recognized by *City & State* as a “New York City Rising Star: 40 Under 40.”

- Created a new model for housing accountability using public data to empower tenants and hold property owners accountable for unsafe conditions. The [Landlord Watchlist](#) was integrated with Craigslist to reach prospective renters, spurred new private-sector solutions, and was replicated in other cities, including Vancouver, where it contributed to a 75% reduction in rental building violations.
- Mobilized major financial institutions around a national gun divestment campaign following the Newtown tragedy, resulting in eight leading hedge funds divesting \$157 million and 14 additional firms selling 7.4 million shares in gun stocks.
- Built and directed the Coalition for Accountability in Political Spending, a bipartisan national alliance of public officials representing more than 90 million constituents and \$1 trillion in pension assets, mobilizing public-sector investors to advance corporate accountability following the Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision.

GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE, INC.

Founder and President, New York, NY (2005-2010)

- Founded a [pioneering organization](#) that challenged traditional barriers to political leadership, creating a nonprofit model that provided first-time candidates and historically underrepresented communities access to the tools, expertise, and infrastructure needed to run for office. Grew Grassroots Initiative into New York City’s largest election firm by number and diversity of candidates served.
- Organized the [first entirely online public election](#) in U.S. history in partnership with the New York City Department of Education, reducing costs by 60% while significantly increasing public participation.
- Helped reshape New York’s political landscape by opening new pathways to leadership for communities historically excluded from local politics, including efforts that helped elect the city’s [first Sikh public officials](#) and expand participation in traditionally inaccessible party positions.
- Scaled the organization to support more than 600 campaigns from 2008-2010, providing professional assistance across party lines and for offices ranging from local party positions to Congress.
- Led statewide voter-engagement campaigns with the New York Immigration Coalition, coordinating grants to immigrant-serving organizations, joint media, training, and voter outreach to expand political participation across New York.

CENTER FOR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Executive Director, Metuchen, NJ (2003-2005)

- Transformed and scaled a civic-engagement organization, doubling its operating budget and tripling staff in the first year while expanding major-donor support and securing new foundation funding.
- Led advocacy efforts that resulted in the adoption of new statewide and local pay-to-play reform legislation, translating civic organizing into tangible policy change.
- Expanded civic-engagement and education programs to reach more than 2,000 adults and

young people in the first year, creating new organizing strategies, trainings, and educational resources to deepen community participation.

CATALYST INTERNATIONAL

Founder and Lead Consultant, New York, NY (2002-2010)

- Worked with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria to help develop "Partnership for Life," a framework to strengthen public-private collaboration and corporate engagement in the fight against AIDS.
- Supported global business leaders in advancing corporate engagement on pressing societal challenges, including convening leading CEOs with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to identify opportunities for business to contribute to global public health priorities.
- Conducted research and evaluation of U.S.-funded democracy and post-conflict stabilization efforts in the Balkans and East Timor, including work with Columbia University and USAID/OTI; co-authored *Transacting Transition: The Micropolitics of Democracy Promotion in the Former Yugoslavia* (Kumarian Press, 2006).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Political and Economic Fellow; Zagreb, Croatia; Skopje, Macedonia; Tirana, Albania (1998-2001)

- Supported U.S. diplomatic and democratization efforts during periods of political transition and armed conflict in the Balkans, working across Croatia, Macedonia, and Albania on democratic participation, political analysis, crisis response, and election integrity.
- Served as one of three officers covering political, economic, and peacekeeping issues during Macedonia's 2001 armed conflict, producing situational assessments used to brief senior U.S. officials and support crisis management ahead of Embassy evacuations.
- Led an international election-monitoring mission across four rounds of Albania's 2001 parliamentary elections, coordinating training, resources, and logistics for more than 100 observers and interpreters; earlier developed strategies to strengthen political participation in Croatia ahead of the country's democratic transition.

EDUCATION

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs. New York, NY

Master of International Affairs, Economic and Political Development

- Selected by the University Provost following the September 11 attacks to establish and lead a university-wide effort coordinating community assistance and developing new mechanisms for future emergency and humanitarian response.

University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science and Arts. Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; William Jennings Bryan Prize in Political Science

Charles University. Prague, Czech Republic

National Security Education Program Scholar, U.S. Department of Defense