



Denise Driehaus

*County Commissioner
Hamilton County Commission*

As Commissioner, Driehaus serves as the Chair of the Hamilton County Commission on Women & Girls and the following: the Executive Chair for HCARC; the Executive Board for REDI Cincinnati; Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District Policy Committee; Hamilton County Storm Water District Oversight Board; Hamilton County Land Reutilization Corporation; OKI Regional Council of Governments; and the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency. She also has encouraged economic development in both the smaller and larger jurisdictions and is focused on building strong partnerships with businesses and our communities.

Driehaus was inspired to enter public service by her late father, Don Driehaus, who was a civic leader and ran for Congress when she was a child.

Prior to her service as a Commissioner, Driehaus served four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives for the 31st Ohio House District. Before entering public service full-time, she owned and operated two small businesses. She understands many of the hurdles facing small businesses and economic development.

Driehaus earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Miami University (OH). She enjoys traveling, biking, and is a licensed beekeeper. The mother of two children, Sarah and Andrew, Driehaus resides in the Cincinnati neighborhood of CUF.



Julie Calvert

*President & CEO
Visit Cincy*

As President and CEO of Visit Cincy (formerly known as the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau), Calvert leads the region's destination marketing and management organization. Her strategic vision and collaborative approach help maximize the size and impact of Cincinnati's visitor economy and expand the region's travel, tourism, and convention industries.

Prior to her appointment as CEO, Calvert served as Executive Director of Source Cincinnati (Cincinnati Experience), where she led the charge to connect the region with national media and elevate the "Cincinnati Story" into the global spotlight. In that role, she created a coalition of like-minded, visionary funders. She built and engaged a board of directors and tapped our best regional resources and outside experts to establish Source as the region's only organization focused solely on global reputation management.

Calvert has spent her career developing and executing strategies that drive awareness, build reputation, mobilize resources, and spark economic vitality in the region. She started as a media reporter and editor, worked as a senior advisor at one of Cincinnati's top communications firms and served as Vice President of Communications and Strategic Development for the CVB from 2001-2016. While there, she was the driving force behind the CVB's national marketing, communications and reputation-building strategies and was instrumental in the Bureau's record-setting results in attracting and hosting some of the world's most high-profile conventions.

Calvert earned a bachelor's degree from Miami University and resides in Anderson Township with her husband Chris and two sons.



Anastasia Mileham

*Executive Director
Cincinnati Experience*

Mileham serves as Executive Director for Cincinnati Experience (CX) – the only area organization focused solely on raising the Cincinnati region’s reputation through earned media stories in national publications. Funded by a civic-corporate coalition, CX’s mandate is to tell the region’s story to prospective talent, business leaders, and visitors through stories pitched to national media outlets.

Mileham has been working with CX (formerly Source Cincinnati) since its founding in 2014, helping to craft and feed stories to national media publications about Cincinnati Center City Development Corp’s (3CDC) work and then the 1819 Innovation Hub, and assumed the executive director role in 2020.

Mileham has decades of senior leadership experience working in multiple industries to drive revenue, maximize operational efficiencies, build effective leadership teams, and create strong brand awareness. She also is president of Mileham Consulting, Inc., a consulting firm established in January 2017, specializing in business development strategy, change management, and strategic marketing and communications for both non-profit and for-profit clients.

Her career path led Mileham into urban revitalization in the late 1990s following volunteer positions with the Downtown Council and Cincinnati’s special improvement district, Downtown Cincinnati Incorporated (DCI).



Brendon Cull

President & CEO

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

Currently the President of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber (~\$16MM annual revenue), Cull leads teams that have overhauled public policy, government relations, talent, and marketing efforts. Cull developed the Chamber's transportation strategy, resulting in a successful \$2 million ballot initiative and coalition supporting increased transportation funding. Cull managed the fundraising and production team for BLINK, a \$5 million art and light event that was the largest public event in Cincinnati's history. He is an accomplished and sought-after speaker and ambassador for the organization and region.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Cull led government affairs for Kroger, served in a leadership role for the Mayor of Cincinnati, and has served in volunteer leadership roles for many local organizations.

Cull served on the Southwest OH Regional Transit Authority and is a former President of the Mercantile Library. He's on the board of ArtsWave, Visit Cincy, and has worked with dozens of organizations in advisory and volunteer roles, including the Cincinnati Regional Business Comm., Crown Cincinnati, and Tender Mercies. He graduated from Xavier University, with a degree in organizational communication, and is a graduate of Leadership Cincinnati. He is an avid reader, runner, and live music aficionado. He's married and has two daughters.



Darrin M. Redus

*Chief Executive Officer
Minority Business Accelerator, LLC.*

A national thought leader for inclusive entrepreneurship and growing larger-scale diverse businesses, Redus is a seasoned business executive and successful entrepreneur. Redus previously served as President and CEO for MainStreet Inclusion Advisors, a national consulting firm developing diverse technology-based businesses and networks.

Redus founded MainStreet Inclusion Advisors, LLC. (MSIA), a national advisory and entrepreneurial development organization and was the organization's President and CEO. He also served as Chief Economic Inclusion Officer for JumpStart Inc., a nationally recognized non-profit entrepreneurial development organization and Founder and CEO of Redus Small Business Advisors, a strategic planning and management assistance firm.

Redus holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Baldwin-Wallace College, and over the past 25 years has led numerous national workshops, seminars and business forums on matters of economic development, entrepreneurship and inclusion. Additionally, he writes for Huffington Post, Living Cities and a host of other national and international media.



Kala Gibson

*Executive Vice President - Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer
5/3 Bank*

With more than 30 years in the financial services industry, Gibson has extensive experience in strategic planning, operations, regulatory compliance, product development and relationship management. Gibson also has been a powerful voice in matters of community responsibility and accountability, social justice and broad social equity. He joined Fifth Third in 2011 as a business banking executive in Eastern Michigan and was named head of business banking in 2013. He assumed oversight for community development and social responsibility in 2020.

Gibson serves as executive vice president, head of Business Banking and chief enterprise corporate responsibility officer. In Business Banking, he oversees strategic planning, operations, sales force, credit fulfillment and product development for Fifth Third clients with annual revenues up to \$20 million. In December 2020, he added oversight of the bank's community and economic development efforts, including Community Reinvestment Act lending and investment, and environmental, social and governance efforts. He also is chairman of the Bank's Executive Diversity Leadership Council.

Gibson also serves on the Executive and Finance committees of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. He's board chair of Mortar, a Cincinnati urban entrepreneurship organization, and a member of the ArtsWave board of trustees. Kala has received several awards for his civic and professional contributions, including the Michigan Chronicle's Men of Excellence and Crain's Detroit Business 40 Under 40.



Pete Metz

*Vice President, Civic & Regional Partnerships
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber*

Metz is responsible for connecting the Cincinnati Chamber and its members to the region's most pressing civic and regional initiatives. Pete leads the team working on existing chamber initiatives such as the Connected Region, work focused on embracing growth and housing, the Cincinnati Futures Commission, and the Center for Research & Data.

As part of this work, MetzPete led the business community's efforts to expand investments in transportation that connects people to jobs, education healthcare and all that the Cincinnati region has to offer. Metz has successfully advocated for local, state, and federal policies that have driven hundreds of millions of dollars into transportation projects across the Cincinnati region, including dedicated funding for Cincinnati Metro, the Brent Spence Bridge, Western Hills Viaduct, record state funding for public transit, investments in the CROWN trail network, and more.

In the community, Metz serves on the board of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), the Corporation for Findlay Market, OKI Regional Council of Governments and as the Board President for NEST, Northside's community development corporation. He lives in Clifton with his wife, Becca, and two daughters.



Brandon Rudd

*Director, Center for Research and Data
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber*

Rudd has more than a decade of planning and economic development experience in seven states and holds bachelor's degrees in urban planning and political science from Ohio University and a master's degree in urban affairs and public policy from the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware.

Prior to beginning his role as the director for the Center for Research & Data at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Rudd worked as a Senior Planner/Demographer at the OKI Regional Council of Governments and as a Senior Planner at the Montgomery County Planning Commission. With a background in demographic planning, land use research, and GIS analysis, Rudd brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Cincinnati community.



Cierra Clymer

*Director, International Business Development & Inclusion
REDI Cincinnati*

Clymer's role as Director, International Business Development & Inclusion at REDI Cincinnati focuses on increasing foreign direct investment in the Greater Cincinnati region through new attraction, expansion and retention efforts as well as driving the organization's diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy. In this role, Clymer is responsible for managing the international lead pipeline, building market-driven strategies, and ensuring the organization is centering DE&I across all organizational pillars. Clymer started at REDI Cincinnati as an intern and was hired after graduation from Miami University to support the project management and business development teams and lead REDI's site selection program.

Prior to serving in her current capacity, Clymer served as a project manager with a specific focus on the organization's international pipeline. During her time at REDI Cincinnati, Clymer led the efforts to win first time foreign direct investments from Italian manufacturer – Modula – and Spanish manufacturer – Saica. Additionally, she has overseen the JobsOhio Small Business Grant that has been leveraged to support more than 80 small businesses in the region and built out the organization's first proactive diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy.

On behalf of REDI Cincinnati, Clymer serves on the Executive Committee for the Greater Cincinnati European American Chamber of Commerce and the Japan America Society. She is actively engaged with both organizations to bridge the relationships between the international community and economic development. Cierra is a graduate of the Cincinnati USA Regional young professional leadership program as well as a certified equity leader via YWCA's Rising Star program.



Brent Cooper

President & CEO

Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Cooper is President & CEO of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in Northern Kentucky, representing more than 1,700 businesses and 200,000 employees. A University of Kentucky graduate, Cooper has more than 25 years of experience as an entrepreneur and business owner.

Cooper is very active in the community (Leadership NKY 2005 & Leadership Cincinnati 2016) and currently serves on the Kentucky State Chamber Board and NKU Foundation Board.

A past chair of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce (2011-2012) and the Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (2007-2009), Cooper has received a number of awards over the years including the Covington Education Foundation's "Person of the Year" (2017), Kentucky Board of Education's Joseph Kelly Award (2016), Children Inc's "Charity in Action" Award (2015), 4C's Champion for Children Award (2014), the NKY Chamber's Unity Award (2014), the Boy Scouts Trailblazer Award (2013), the Kenton County Library Mary Ann Mongan Award (2012) and the Northern Kentucky Area Development District's Community Leadership Award (2005). In 2006 he was named one of Cincinnati's "40 under 40."



Jeanne Schroer

President & CEO

Catalytic Development Funding Corp. of Northern Kentucky

Schroer is the President/CEO of the Catalytic Development Funding Corp. of Northern Kentucky, a not-for-profit company that provides capital and development services to real estate developers and local governments undertaking projects in Northern Kentucky's urban neighborhoods. The Catalytic Fund has a \$16,000,000 real estate investment fund it uses to provide equity investments, secondary/mezzanine, bridge loans and other creative financing structures to assist quality residential and mixed-use projects.

Schroer has 35+ years of experience as a real estate professional. She began her real estate career as a financial analyst with Urban Investment and Development Company in Chicago, developer of large urban mixed-use projects such as Water Tower Place in Chicago and Copley Place in Boston. In 1984, she joined Corporex Companies and held positions of Financial Analyst, Manager – Capital Acquisition, Director – Mortgage & Equity Group, and Senior Vice President and Member of Corporex's Executive Management Board. Schroer also held the position of Vice President of Finance at Tipton Associates between 1989 and 1991. Prior to joining the Catalytic Fund, Schroer was the Interim Director of the University of Cincinnati Real Estate Center and Field Service Professor of Real Estate.

Schroer graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Urban Planning and a Certificate in Economics. She also received a Master of Business Administration in Finance and Real Estate from Indiana University. Schroer holds the professional designation Counselor of Real Estate (CRE), a credential awarded only to those individuals who are invited by their peers into the membership of The Counselors of Real Estate. The credential signifies professional achievement in the real estate counseling profession and demonstrates peer recognition of outstanding intelligence, integrity, and judgment in real estate.



Jason Barron

*Director
Cincinnati Parks*

As Director of Cincinnati Parks, Barron brings years of leadership experience in stakeholder relations/community affairs, fundraising/grant writing, strategic planning and priority development.

Prior to his role, Barron served as Executive Director of Red Bike, the shared bike system throughout Greater Cincinnati. Barron founded Red Bike in 2014, and, to date, Cincinnatians have taken over 725,000 bike rides on Red Bikes. Under his leadership, the non-profit raised over \$9 million for capital and operations and expanded the number of bike stations from 30 to 62.

Barron also previously worked for the City of Cincinnati as the Director of Public Affairs and Communications Director for Mayor Mark Mallory. Barron is a graduate of Leadership Cincinnati and was selected as a 40 Under 40 by the Business Courier and has served on several community and civic boards including the Downtown Cincinnati Inc. Board of Directors, Tri-State Trails Board of Directors, BCycle Operators Advisory Group, Duke Energy of Ohio & Kentucky Advisory Council and others.



Phil Beck, AIA, LEED AP

*The Banks Project Executive
Hamilton County and City of Cincinnati*

Beck joined Hamilton County Administration in 2013 as The Banks Project Executive, a joint Hamilton County and City of Cincinnati position. During this time, Beck has been responsible for implementing Board and Council policy on The Banks, and reports directly to the County Administrator, the City Manager and the Joint Banks Steering Committee.

A \$2.7 billion public/private transit-oriented urban redevelopment project, The Banks is the largest economic development project in Hamilton County and Greater Cincinnati.

Prior to his current public sector position, Beck worked for 25 years in the private sector extensively as a program manager and construction manager consultant on large, complex public infrastructure projects including The Banks, Great American Ball Park, Smale Riverfront Park Carousel, Government Square, Metropolitan Sewer District Wet Weather Improvement Program, San Francisco International Airport, Bay Area Rapid Transit and Baltimore Metro.

Beck holds an M.S. from the University of California at Berkeley and a B.S. in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati. He is a licensed architect in Ohio and California and is certified as a LEED accredited professional by the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Beck is a retired reserve officer (Lieutenant Commander) with 20 years in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineering Corps (Seabees) including deployments to Ramadi, Iraq and Kandahar, Afghanistan.



Randy Poe, Ed.D.

*Executive Director
Northern Kentucky Education Council*

Dr. Poe serves as a Founding Partner of National Center for Translational Leadership Strategies (NCTLS) and serves as an Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Education Council. He also is the former superintendent of Boone County Schools in Kentucky.

As part of NCTLS, Dr. Poe serves as an Executive Consultant of Innovation for the National Center of Education Research and Technology (NCERT) and a Senior Fellow of the Schlechty Center. As Superintendent, his focus revolved around academic rigor, real world relevance and focused partnerships with students, parents and the community. Dr. Poe has been recognized at both the state and national levels for his accomplishments. He was honored to be named as the 2015 F.L. Dupree Outstanding Superintendent Award, 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award by Northern Kentucky Education Council, the 2013 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators and AASA, the 2012 Outstanding NKU Alumnus of the College of Education and Human Services.

Dr. Poe was recognized as the 2017 Kentucky Parent –Teacher Association Honorary Life Recognition and the 2016 Celebrate Advocacy for Public Education Award by the Kentucky School Boards Association. Dr. Poe serves on the Northern Kentucky University Alumni Board of Directors and is Past-President for the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents. Dr. Poe is married to Melinda and has four children.



C. Ed Massey, J.D

Managing Partner

National Center for Transformational Leadership Strategies

Education has been a passion of Massey for more than 30 years. His goal is to provide opportunities for every child to be college, career and life ready.

Massey served as a member of the Boone County Board of Education for over 22 years. Additionally, he served as President of the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) and the National School Boards Association (NSBA). Massey previously represented the 66th District in the Kentucky House of Representatives where he sat on the Education Committee, Judiciary Committee (Chair), Veterans Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee and Licensing and Occupations Committee.

A native of Northern Kentucky, Massey lives in Boone County with his wife of 30+ years, Anita. Massey is a graduate of Lloyd High School, Eastern Kentucky University and Chase College of Law.

Massey is a practicing partner in the law firm of Blankenship Massey and Associates. The firm has two offices, one in Grant County, Kentucky and the other in Kenton County, Kentucky. He is member of the Kentucky Bar Association, Ohio Bar Association, and Indiana Bar Association.



Carri Chandler

Vice President

St. Elizabeth Healthcare

Chandler is a woman on a mission. Not the scorched-earth kind of mission – there is definitely no “me-on-board” here – but more the Johnny Appleseed kind of mission, quietly sowing goodwill, positive results, and trademark good cheer wherever she goes.

We often describe competent career women with children as “juggling” the various pieces of their lives. But, no, Chandler does not “juggle.” She has created a seamless, purposeful life that melds all its vital and important components into one complete piece, using all the strength and values she grew up with in a loving home in Elkhart, Indiana.

She keeps herself physically fit – reformer pilates, running, a trainer – because good health matters. She is fully engaged as a mom of two active teens. She volunteers for a slew of community organizations she cares about. And she is leading St. Elizabeth Foundation to record successful year. For 18 years, Northern Kentucky knew Chandler as the face of Toyota in the community, active in every major community organization and passing out generous grants to good causes. In 2016, with Toyota having withdrawn to Texas, CEO Garren Colvin tapped Chandler to lead the St. Elizabeth Foundation, putting her on the other end of the funding continuum.



Jerry Gels

*Principal
Ignite Institute*

Gels has served as the Principal of the Ignite Institute since its inception in 2019. In 2014, while acting as Director of Innovative Programs, he began his work on Ignite alongside Dr. Randy Poe and Dr. Karen Cheser.

Named Administrator of the Year in 2017, Gels has written and received over \$12 million in grants for Boone County Schools. Prior to his work in administration, he worked as a special education teacher and later as a biology teacher, where he was named a Top Educator Under 40 by the Northern Kentucky Chamber.

Gels is married to a teacher and has three precocious red-haired children. In 2010, Gels started a company called American Legacy Tours. With over 40 employees, the organization leads 25,000 people on tours of Cincinnati annually. The tours have been featured in National Geographic, Southern Living, and numerous other national publications.



Eric Kearney

President/CEO

The African American Chamber of Commerce: Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky

Kearney has had a career in law, business, and politics. As a state senator, Kearney served as Ohio Senate Minority Leader and has championed a number of causes including adoption, children's health, small business development, and pension reform.

On a national level, Kearney was a member of President Barack Obama's national finance committee when he ran for U.S. Senate and President. He has been a leader in Ohio's legal community and is a managing partner of Kearney & Kearney, LPA.

In addition to politics and law, Eric has been a leader in the business community. He founded and built one of the largest African American-owned publishing companies, Sesh Communications, which publishes The Cincinnati Herald, The Northern Kentucky Herald, The Dayton Defender, and other publications.

Kearney graduated from St. Xavier High School, and earned a B.A. in English from Dartmouth College. He is married to Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney Esq. who is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School. They have two children, Celeste (a student at Dartmouth College) and Asher.



Moira Weir

President/CEO

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Weir brings years of experience in the social services and consumer sectors for a unique perspective on healthcare and the needs of our region's families.

She became the first ever female President and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati in March 2020 where she advocates for new voices and new solutions to decades-old community challenges, focusing on three key areas: educational success, financial empowerment and housing security.

Prior to her role at the United Way, Weir had been director of Hamilton County Job and Family Services since 2007.

As director of Hamilton County Job and Family Services, Weir led a department with 800 employees that served 500,000 Hamilton County residents each year. She was responsible for an agency with a \$2.4 billion annual budget charged with local child protection, elder protection, publicly-funded child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement, and Medicaid disbursement.

Weir worked her way up from being Children's Services line worker, a position she accepted upon joining the agency in 1993. She held leadership positions in the areas of child welfare, public assistance, child support and other areas before being named director. Under her leadership, the agency became a state leader in efficiency, accuracy and creativity, winning 16 different awards for innovation from the National Association of Counties during her tenure, more than any other government agency in Ohio. One initiative, the Trucking Partnership, was named one of the National Association of Counties' 100 Brilliant Ideas at Work in 2018.



Tony Almaguer

*Chief of Staff, Office of Innovation
University of Cincinnati*

Almaguer is the Chief of Staff at the Office of Innovation at the University of Cincinnati. He plays a key role in supporting the university's innovation initiatives and strategic planning efforts. Almaguer also oversees community and industry alliances, technology transfer and commercialization, and the Ground Floor makerspace.

Almaguer's team is strategically located near the triangle of trauma-1 hospitals, UC's uptown campus, College of Medicine and the Digital Futures Complex, the 1819 Innovation Hub is the home for innovative programming and events that connect students, researchers and businesspeople together to develop inspired solutions to current and future problems. Hosting academic classes in the 1819 building focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, cross-disciplinary problem-solving and engagement with industry.



Geoffrey Pinski

*Assistant Vice President for Technology Transfer, Office of Innovation
University of Cincinnati*

In his role as the Assistant Vice President for Technology Transfer at the University of Cincinnati's Office of Innovation, Pinski leads a team that manages the university's intellectual property portfolio, supporting faculty and staff in filing for patent protection and negotiating licensing agreements.

Pinski has been with the University of Cincinnati since 2007 and has held various positions related to technology transfer. Upon successfully graduating from law school in May 2006, he moved from Extern to Licensing Associate, responsible for managing material transfer agreements and non-disclosure agreements. Within a year, he became responsible for UC's physical sciences portfolio. In January 2010, he became Director and was recently promoted to Assistant Vice President. During his time as Director and Assistant Vice President, UC has spun out over 30 companies, which have raised over \$75 million dollars in investment. He was named Assistant Vice President in 2020. His team is based at the 1819 Innovation Hub, which is part of the Cincinnati Innovation District.



Laura N. Brunner

President & CEO

The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority

Brunner is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority (The Port), an economic development agency based in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more than a decade, Brunner has led The Port with her impassioned efforts to fix broken real estate in order to reduce wealth disparities, increase homeownership and grow manufacturing jobs.

Throughout her career, Brunner has consistently challenged the status quo and leaned into risk. When at developer Al. Neyer, the opportunity arose to transform the Vernon Manor into offices. Brunner saw an opportunity for minority investors to own a majority interest in the project. She was successful in making that a reality, and now over 700 employees of Cincinnati Children's Hospital work in the redeveloped hotel.

Brunner gained national recognition in 2022 when she led the unprecedented effort to acquire 194 single-family homes from an out-of-town investor to keep the American dream of home ownership alive for many Cincinnatians. She also blazed new trails in sustainable investing when The Port issued \$11 million in social impact bonds for the creation of advanced manufacturing jobs.



Dan Schimberg

President

Uptown Rental Properties

Schimberg founded Uptown Rentals in 1985 to fill a niche in off-campus student housing at the University of Cincinnati. Starting with the rehab of one house, Uptown has grown to own and manage over 4,000 multi-family units and 200,000 SF of commercial space in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Under Schimberg's leadership, Uptown Rental Properties has renovated hundreds of structures and developed 2,600+ multi-family units from the ground-up in Cincinnati and Florida.

Uptown Rental Properties is committed to providing a wide variety of housing choices catering to professionals, off-campus student housing as well as work force housing.

Schimberg continues his volunteer service as a board member for the Cincinnati Art Museum, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful and Talbert House. A dedicated philanthropist, Schimberg has focused his efforts on health care, medical research and the underserved population of Cincinnati.



Kevin Chambers

*Managing Director
JobsOhio*

As the Managing Director for Logistics, Distribution, and Supply Chain at JobsOhio, Chambers is dedicated to leveraging his knowledge and experience to drive opportunities for organizations in all industries to leverage Ohio's Supply Chain related strengths. Additionally, Chambers serves JobsOhio as the Program Manager for the Innovation Districts initiative.

The Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati Innovation Districts are expected to inspire more than 47,500 new STEM graduates, fuel an estimated 60,000 new jobs, and generate up to \$9 billion in annual economic impact for the state over ten years. Prior to JobsOhio, Chambers retired from a 22-year career as a partner with Deloitte Consulting, having led the state and local government supply chain management practice as well as the sourcing and procurement solution portfolio for the federal government practice.

A retired Air Force officer, Chambers spent 26 years serving in a variety of active duty and reserve leadership roles.



Ryan Hays

*Executive Vice President & Chief Innovation & Strategy Officer
University of Cincinnati*

Hays leads the Office of Innovation, including the 1819 Innovation Hub and the Cincinnati Innovation District. He oversees the University's Department of Marketing + Communications, in addition to serving as Senior Advisor to the President and the Board of Trustees.

From 2012 to 2022, Hays served as the President's Chief of Staff, overseeing the Office of the President and the Office of the Board of Trustees. Hays was the primary architect for the University's strategic direction Next Lives Here, in addition to the past strategic plan Creating Our Third Century. In 2019, he served as Interim Director of Athletics. In 2020, he co-led the University's enterprise-wide response to the pandemic.

Hays served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the University of Cincinnati Research Institute (UCRI), the precursor to the Office of Innovation, from 2014 to 2022. In 2016, he secured a \$40 million investment to create the 1819 Innovation Hub. In 2017, he hired the University's first Chief Innovation Officer. In 2020, he helped establish the Cincinnati Innovation District.

Prior to UC, Hays was Assistant Dean of the Faculty at Princeton University. At Princeton, his duties spanned all four academic divisions of the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and engineering. He co-managed a \$600 million faculty budget. He facilitated the appointment of approximately 500 lecturers and visiting professors.



Gary Lindgren

President

Cincinnati Business Committee & Cincinnati Regional Business Committee

Lindgren has been serving as the President of the Cincinnati Business Committee (CBC) since August 2007. The CBC is a private organization composed of the region's top CEOs, with a mission to improve economic development and education.

During his tenure, Lindgren has been instrumental in launching several initiatives, including the Cincinnati Regional Business Committee (CRBC) and Cintrifuse, which aims to scale the innovation ecosystem in Cincinnati region. He has also led major school reform initiatives and worked on improving transportation infrastructure and government efficiency.

Before joining the CBC, Lindgren served as the chief of staff for U.S. Representative Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) and held a similar role for the House Small Business Committee. He is a graduate of Indiana University and Sycamore High School in Cincinnati.



Wendy Lea

*Former CEO of Cintrifuse and Founder, StartUpCincy
CEO of Energize Colorado*

Lea is a leading expert in digital innovation strategy and entrepreneurial ecosystem development. As an experienced CEO, board director, and strategist, she advises government, public-private partnerships, and global enterprises on growth through innovation.

As CEO of Energize Colorado, Lea collaborates with partners across Colorado's small business ecosystem to co-create new solutions and scale ideas, including advocating for structural changes necessary for long-term resilience. Leading a team of seasoned volunteers and changemakers – company builders, community leaders, and industry experts – Wendy supports small businesses to not only survive but thrive.

Recognized for work across industries and regions, Lea is a maximalist who is well-versed in cultivating innovation ecosystems that brings together universities, federal labs, technical assistance organizations, and big business. Lea recognizes the power of diversity to inspire innovations that catalyze economic stability and growth.

Lea also serves university programs, including Miami University's John W. Altman Institute for Entrepreneurship and the University of Colorado Boulder's Engineering and Applied Science Advisory Board.

Lea was named a "Woman of Influence" in Silicon Valley and San Francisco and was honored with the Signal Excellence Award in 2018 by Procter & Gamble.



J.B. Kropp

*Chief Executive Officer, Cintrifuse
Managing Director, Cintrifuse Capital*

Kropp is a prominent figure in the Cincinnati startup ecosystem. He currently serves as the CEO of Cintrifuse and continues his role as Managing Director of Cintrifuse Capital. Kropp has been instrumental in leading the strategy and deployment of Fund III, which supports promising startups in the Cincinnati area.

Known as one of the pioneers of the Cincinnati startup ecosystem, Kropp has served in impact-building roles since 2010, including the Co-Founder/Board member of the Brandery, a nationally-ranked accelerator leveraging the Cincinnati region's branding and marketing expertise; Co-Manager of Vine St. Ventures, a regional early-stage investment fund; and Co-Founder/Board member of Main Street Ventures, a Cincinnati non-profit empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs. He has also served in strategic and operational leadership roles at Gorilla Glue, Scripps, and Twitter. J.B. is recognized as a leader in early-stage investing, corporate development, strategic partnerships and entrepreneurship. His background spans across investing, consumer product development, business operations and strategic leadership.



Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer

*President & Chief Executive Officer
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC*

Reeder Kleymeyer took over as president and CEO of Southern Colorado's largest chamber and economic development organization in 2022. Prior to that, she managed her own consulting firm. Her previous roles include president and CEO of Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Cincinnati, leadership positions at Duke Energy, Citi, United Way-Cincinnati, OH, and Obion County Chamber of Commerce and Jackson Downtown Development Corporation-Tennessee. She's a proud graduate of the University of Memphis (BA – Communications), Thomas More University (Master of Business Administration), and the Oklahoma University Economic Development University (OUEDI). In addition, she completed her certificate in economic development through the International Economic Development Council.

A champion of the communities where she lives, she serves on several boards and committees. In her down time, she enjoys exploring new trails, restaurants, and shops with her husband, Kurt, and spoiling their beloved French Bulldog, Nutmeg.



Steve Leeper

Chief Executive Officer

Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC)

Leeper was appointed President & CEO of Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) in April 2004. He leads 3CDC's efforts to revitalize Cincinnati's Center City including the financing, development and management of real estate within Downtown Cincinnati and Over-the-Rhine (OTR). Leeper's responsibilities also include the management of \$250 million in local, corporately funded, revolving loan funds. Since 2004, Leeper has managed 3CDC's investment of \$1.6 billion in Downtown and OTR.

Prior to joining 3CDC, Leeper served as executive director of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) from September 1998 - April 2004, responsible for the development and financing of PNC Park, Heinz Field, David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the North Shore Riverfront Park, public parking facilities and related road infrastructure. These developments represent over \$1.1 billion in private and public funding and have resulted in new mixed-use development for the city of Pittsburgh. Leeper has also served as director of development for the City of Pittsburgh and director of the Department of Housing for Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Leeper is a native of Pittsburgh. He received his bachelor's degree from Ohio University and a master's degree from Ohio State University.



Brian Hodgett

*Vice President of State Government Relations & Ohio Community Relations
Procter & Gamble (P&G)*

Hodgett is the Director of Ohio Government and Community Relations at Procter & Gamble (P&G). He plays a key role in representing P&G's interests and engaging with the community in Ohio. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC).

Hodgett currently serves as vice president of state and government relations and Ohio community relations for Procter & Gamble (P&G), parent company of Procter & Gamble Professional (P&G PRO). He has served on the UWGC board since 2020 and succeeds Barbara Turner. Hodgett is a Wm T. (Bill) Robinson, III Upward & Onward! Award recipient.



Charlie Luken

*Former Mayor
City of Cincinnati*

Luken is Senior Counsel at Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP, a full-service corporate law firm with an office in Cincinnati. He joined Calfee's Government Relations and Legislation group in 2006, after holding the mayoral office of the City of Cincinnati twice – from 1983 to 1991 and then again from 1999 to December 2005. In addition to his experience as Mayor, he also served as a congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives for one term and practiced law in the private sector for 24 years.

His father, Tom Luken, was also a mayor of Cincinnati and served in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his second term. Luken's career reflects his commitment to public service and his ability to navigate complex political and social challenges.

Before his political career, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from the University of Cincinnati. After his time in Congress, he worked as a news anchor at WLWT-TV in Cincinnati. Currently, Luken is a senior counsel with the law firm Calfee Solutions.



Josh Hueser

Founder, Agar

Owner, Ghost Baby

As Founder of AGAR, Hueser not only sets the overall vision for the brand, but is a strategic leader, developing innovative business strategies to drive growth. As owner and operator of various restaurant and hospitality venues, he maintains a unique experiential and placemaking perspective, creating experiences while garnering valuable insights that enable him to deliver a cutting-edge guest experience. An entrepreneur always looking to evolve, Hueser and AGAR have helped change the face of Cincinnati, one endeavor and project at a time, including BLINK, the nation's largest immersive art festival.

As co-creator, Hueser was critical to the success of the 2022 festival, which drove \$126 million dollars of economic impact to the Cincinnati region. Hueser's multifaceted approach encompasses financial acumen, strategic vision, and a dedication to the development of the greater community to which he calls home.



Alecia Kintner

*President and Chief Executive Officer
ArtsWave*

Kintner leads Greater Cincinnati's local arts agency and the country's first and largest united arts fund, which looks forward to its 100th anniversary in 2027. Since the start of the pandemic alone, ArtsWave aggregated over \$40 million in private and public funds for sustaining the region's cultural assets and rebuilding for an even stronger future. ArtsWave's accomplishments under Kintner's tenure include creation of a multi-faceted diversity, equity, inclusion and access plan ("Lifting as We Learn"), launch of an African American performing arts series ("Flow"), development of a 10-year community impact strategy for 100 arts organizations ("Blueprint for Collective Action in the Arts Sector"); first-time cultural tourism marketing campaigns; and \$100 million raised and invested in arts activities that build a more vibrant and connected Cincinnati.

Kintner is an impact-oriented leader in advancing the arts as a key driver in healthy communities, skilled at interfacing with C-level business executives, inspiring donors and motivating volunteers. She is acknowledged nationally for local arts agency leadership and united arts fundraising. A native of Los Angeles, she has international experience from living and working in Honduras and Moscow. Kintner's management style encourages a high standard of excellence, mission-driven impact, teamwork, and personal responsibility for outcomes.