

## Brian D. Litzsey

[REDACTED], Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]

Phone: (414) 447-1111 [REDACTED]  
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### PROFILE

Action-oriented professional with extensive experience in managing large-scale community, recreational, educational, and operational initiatives. Known for a proven ability to expand resources and drive impactful outcomes through data-driven decision-making. With a track record of leveraging data and insights to inform strategic decisions, coupled with strong leadership and communication capabilities, I excel in driving the success of community and organizational-focused initiatives and fostering sustainable growth.

### EXPERIENCES

#### Milwaukee Public Schools 2002-Present

*Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is Wisconsin's largest school district, serving more than 65,000 students across 154 schools. The district operates with a budget of \$1.5 billion and employs approximately 9,636 full-time equivalent staff members.*

#### Chief Family, Community, and Partnerships Officer - 2025-Present

- Coordinates district and community events as directed by the superintendent and the Milwaukee Board of School Directors.
- Oversees and directs the recruitment, retention and verification of student enrollment for the district.
- Develops partnerships for the district that include wrap-around services, violence prevention initiatives and other critical components of community education – fire and police departments and other community-based groups.
- Facilitates relationships between businesses, community groups and non-profit organizations to organize and implement initiatives to support student achievement.
- Maintains and reinforces existing relationships with financial supporters, service providers, educational partners, faith-based groups, parents and volunteers.
- Works with the Parent Coordinators in each school to ensure district-wide programs are expanded to the school level for optimum impact.
- Uses data to inform decisions and to identify, promote and monitor promising practices.
- Align department initiatives with the MPS Strategic Plan, actively contributing to district-wide goals related to student achievement, family engagement, and operational excellence.
- Manages personnel, to include work allocation, training, and problem resolution, evaluating performance and making recommendations for personnel actions according to the policies and procedures of MPS and direction provided by the Milwaukee Board of School Directors.

#### Senior Director, Department of Recreation and Community Services - 2025-2025

- Set the overall strategic vision for the Recreation Department, ensuring alignment with Milwaukee Public Schools' mission, values, and long-term objectives.
- Managed the development and administration of a \$37.5 million departmental budget, ensuring fiscal responsibility, resource alignment with strategic priorities, and compliance with district and state funding guidelines.
- Built and maintained strong community and organizational partnerships, leveraging collaborative efforts to expand access to programs, facilities, and funding resources.
- Provided executive leadership and operational guidance to a workforce of 106 full-time staff and supervise over 1,500 part-time and seasonal employees, creating a collaborative, mission-driven culture focused on service excellence and equity.

### Qualifications Summary

- Over 20 years of experience in building and maintaining partnerships with various governmental and community organizations to support and enhance community-based programs.
- Proficient in managing multi-million-dollar budgets, demonstrating a high comfort level in financial planning, resource allocation, and cost control to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of programs.
- Proven ability to handle multiple, complex projects simultaneously, showcasing a strong aptitude for strategic planning, problem-solving, and timely execution.
- Skilled in developing and implementing long-term strategic plans, aligning organizational goals with community needs and optimizing resources to drive program success and growth.
- Extensive experience in interacting with senior management, leading teams, and engaging with customers to drive initiatives and deliver exceptional service.

- Championed equity and inclusion across all recreation programs, ensuring that all residents, regardless of background or zip code, have access to high-quality recreational and enrichment opportunities.
- Monitored and supported the implementation of capital improvement projects, ensuring alignment with the Recreation Facility Master Plan and promoting safe, accessible, and modern spaces for programming across the district.
- Revised and implement policies and procedures to support efficient department operations, ensure compliance with legal and regulatory standards, and advance service delivery improvements.

#### **Manager of Operations-Assistant Director, Department of Recreation and Community Services - 2015-2025**

- Developed and manage an annual budget of \$34 million, ensuring effective allocation and utilization of resources across all departmental operations.
- Oversaw the operations of after-school programs, financial management, part-time human resources, recreation facilities, marketing, technology services, and compliance, ensuring seamless integration and high-quality service delivery.
- Supervised a team of 6 full-time staff, providing guidance, support, and performance evaluations to foster professional growth and ensure operational excellence.
- Provided clear policy and procedural guidelines to staff, ensuring compliance and consistency in departmental operations. Interpret policies to address specific operational needs and challenges.
- Authorized departmental purchases and managing contracts, ensuring that procurement processes align with budgetary constraints and operational requirements.
- Lead the implementation of the Recreation Department Strategic Plan, aligning initiatives with strategic goals and driving progress toward long-term objectives.

#### **After-School-Coordinator, Department of Recreation and Community Services - 2008-2015**

- Directed daily operations across 75+ 21st Century Community Learning Centers, school-based childcare camps, and Safe Place after-school programs, ensuring high-quality programming, safety, and compliance with regulations.
- Secured \$21 million dollars in Federal funds annually for over seven years for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center programs.
- Supervised 6 full-time staff and 300 part-time employees.
- Developed strategic goals and outcomes related to trends in after-school programs.
- Prepared and present after-school board items to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors.

#### **Recreation Supervisor, Department of Recreation and Community Services - 2007-2008**

- Assisted in the preparation of grant proposals to secure funding for after school programs from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for Community Learning Centers (CLCs).
- Maintained ongoing dialog with officials from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to make certain the District's after-school programs met all requirements.
- Facilitated ongoing review sessions with Principals, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and after school staff to discuss outcomes of their program, as well as offer suggestions to improve program quality.
- Assisted with the implementation of \$1 million Community Learning Center Wellness initiative (monitored contracts, processed payroll, order supplies, and approve site based program plans).

#### **Assistant Recreation Supervisor, Director, Department of Recreation and Community Services - 2002-2007**

- Reviewed CLC program plans to ensure after school activities and staffing levels coincided with contractual standards.
- Coordinated and facilitated staff development for after school staff and team building activities (e.g., CLC Site Coordinator meetings and cooperative learning/playground activity trainings).

#### **YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago 1999-2002**

*YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago is one of the largest non-profit organizations in the Chicago land area that provides holistic health and wellness related experiences to hundreds of thousands of individuals and families annually.*

**Physical Director, Rich Port YMCA 1999-2002**

- Provided leadership to comprehensive youth, teen and adult sports programs.
- Developed and administered program budget of \$1,000,000.
- Supervised 30 employees (3 full-time, 27 part-time) and 50+ volunteers.
- Developed marketing plan for comprehensive youth, teen and adult sports programs.
- Increased participation in youth, teen, and adult sports programs by 50%.
- Administered a \$500,000 Foundation Grant.

**EDUCATION****Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, WI**

- Master of Business Administration- Public Administration and Management, **Degree earned**

**Chicago State University, Chicago, IL**

- Master of Science - Physical Education, – **Degree earned**

**Illinois State University, Normal, IL**

- Bachelor of Science- Recreation/Park Administration- Program Management – **Degree earned**

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS****National Recreation and Park Association**

- Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) – 04/2022