

Sharon Adams
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Sharon is a change agent. When she and her husband Larry found an old Milwaukee neighborhood unsightly, they did not move away, they moved to make the changes.

In fifteen years, she and Larry have been the stimulus behind the changes witnessed in the Walnut Street, North Avenue, Fond du Lave Avenue corridors. Housing revitalization resulted in \$26 million invested for over 200 new home constructions and restored vintage houses.

Walnut Way Conservation Corp. continued to grow since those early 1998-1999 days. Sharon fostered initiatives to engaged neighbors; document the oral traditions of elders; reduce crime; expand rain gardens to manage storm water; to demonstrate healthy food production, to offer educational and recreational opportunities for the youth.

Leading efforts for environmental health, over the years with the help of children, neighbors, gardens produce enough food to take to two local markets. Under the husband and wife leadership, Walnut Way has grown into a neighborhood campus where neighbors, school children and growers interested in nutrition come to learn and share. In 2008, the Zilber Family Foundation selected Walnut Way to convene a comprehensive quality of life plan, resulting in a comprehensive and collective incorporating environmental stewardship. Commercial revitalization is a major focus with service on the BID#32 Board and co-chair of the Lindsay Heights Commercial Corridors.

The Adams own a commercial property at 1836 W Fond du Lac Ave.

Adams helped launch and now facilitates the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance, involving 20 medical, academic, and resident partners. She is leading a campaign to build an Innovation and Wellness Commons on 16th and North Avenue. The 18,000 sq. ft. Commons will be a gathering place for education and training and businesses providing integrative health services.

On June 25, 2014, she presented on Community Stabilization at the June 25, 2014 Promise Neighborhood National Conference in Pentagon City.

She retired from Walnut Way Conservation Corp. in 2015. She is owner of Foster Development Group, LLC.; providing consultations to transforming communities.

Adams is a graduate of UWM (BA) and Wayne State University (MSW). She is a Revson Fellow at Columbia University, NY. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Alverno College. She is the recipient of several awards including Frank Kirkpatrick Award, Greater Milwaukee Foundation and Purpose Prize Fellowship. She and her husband Larry live, work, shop, worship and play in central city Milwaukee neighborhoods. 2014 Panelist for

The Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit "Can Urban Agriculture Save Our Neighborhoods?" 2016, she was a panelist for Healthy Communities at the A Home for Everyone Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin

