

SHARON D. ROBINSON

Approximately 25 years of senior level management experience in the government and non-profit arenas.

Proven track record of building effective strategic partnerships with government, business, philanthropic and community leaders.

Management style includes a team approach of employee engagement, collaboration and empowerment that results in an environment where honesty, trust, respect and integrity are norms.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI

8/04 - present

Director - Department of Administration (DOA): Oversee the department in City government responsible for most centralized functions. DOA's divisions include: Budget and Management, Purchasing, Community Development Grants Administration, Intergovernmental Relations, Information Technology Management and the offices of Environmental Collaboration and Small Business Development. 8/04 – present. Major achievements follow.

General Management/Government Reform

- **Strategic Planning:** Led strategic planning efforts in partnership with the Mayor to establish a City of Milwaukee vision statement, mission statement, community goals, measureable strategic objectives and action plans to help frame the work of the Barrett Administration.
- **Management Accountability:** Formed intradepartmental team to develop and implement the Mayor's Accountability in Management (AIM) program to monitor and track government and management performance.
- **Customer Service:** Launched Unified Call Center initiative to consolidate several existing call centers within the City government to improve service delivery, reduce costs and achieve operational efficiencies.

Educational/Racial Equity and Inclusion

- **Black Male Achievement /My Brother's Keeper:** Co-wrote grant application that led to Milwaukee being chosen by the National League of Cities and Open Society Foundations Campaign for Black Male Achievement as one of the first of eleven cities in America to receive technical assistance to promote black male achievement. A key outcome was the creation of the Milwaukee Black Male Achievement Advisory Council and My Brother's Keeper Action Plan.
- **Office of African American Affairs (OAAA):** Developed \$1.5 million financing package and oversee the designated OAAA location – a facility that will house multiple service organizations, including government agencies and nonprofits, in order to enable African American residents and other people of color to access quality of life services in one central location. The renovation work on the building is near completion.

- **Fund My Future Milwaukee:** Led efforts to provide over 1,000 K-5 kindergarteners with children's savings accounts (CSA) to jump-start savings for their higher education and connect their families to financial empowerment and asset building services. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide every K-5 kindergartener in the city with a CSA.
- **I Have A Dream Milwaukee:** Launched this program to empower children from low-income households to achieve a higher education. The program began with a cohort of 1st and 2nd graders from Clarke Street School, 40 Dreamers are now attending higher education institutions or are enrolled to start their education beyond high school this fall.
- **Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE):** Leading City's GARE efforts to promote race and equity through interdepartmental cooperation and leveraging the Equal Rights Commission (staffed by the Department of Administration). In the process of finalizing strategies that will be implemented to promote racial equity and inclusion.

Revenue Expansion/Grants Administration

- **Grants Administration Reform:** Broadened the mission of Community Development Grants Administration division and created a Grants Manager position responsible for winning over \$500 million in public and private competitive grants. Secured millions in investments separate through this effort to date for various educational initiatives.
- **CARES Act Stimulus Action Team:** Played a lead role in helping to coordinate the City's COVID-19 CARES Act efforts. Also, created and led the City's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Stimulus Action Team that worked to secure millions to support local transportation projects, alleviate the impacts of mortgage foreclosures, retrofit residential and commercial properties for energy efficiency, train youth and young adults in the construction industry and more.
- **U. S. Census:** Leading the 2020 Greater Milwaukee Complete Count Committee. Mobilizing hundreds of volunteers and nonprofits to spread the word about the importance of the census. Also, led 2010 Census outreach and orchestrated the City's 2007 successful challenge of the Census Bureau's population estimates for Milwaukee three years earlier. The later resulted in the City's federal formula aid being recalculated.
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Appeal:** Provided strategic direction to DOA's Intergovernmental Relations Division and Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (no longer in DOA) to develop and execute a strategy to reverse FEMA's decision to deny disaster assistance to residents impacted by the historic July 2010 floods. The appeal resulted in the city receiving \$58 million in disaster aid.

Executive Director – Election Commission: Directed, managed and oversaw the department in City government responsible for administering election activities in accordance with applicable provisions of City, County, State and federal law. Served in this capacity while simultaneously serving as the City's Director of Administration. 2/05 -7/05. Major achievements follow.

- **Election Reform:** Formed and chaired the City's Election Task Force in the wake of a 2004 presidential election that revealed significant problems with City's election system. Worked to implement key task force recommendations including changes in state law.
- **Transformational Leadership:** Led recruitment efforts to hire a new Executive Director and Deputy Director to implement task force recommendations and restore integrity and trust in the system.

NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

William Davidson Institute, Washington, D.C.

10/01 – 8/04

Executive Director – Washington, D.C. Office: Managed the start-up of the William Davidson Institute's Washington, D.C. office (headquartered at the University of Michigan, School of Business). Worked closely with WDI Distinguished Scholar, **former U. S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright**, to raise the Institute's visibility nationally and globally. WDI's mission is to develop knowledge and capacity that helps to improve the effectiveness of firms and social welfare in emerging democracies. Major achievements follow.

- **Global Collaborative Reform:** Created and executed a plan to build relationships with Institute faculty/scholars and high level officials from the U. S. State Department, U. S. Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C. think tanks and Congressional foreign policy leaders. Led to successful collaboration on projects and initiatives to promote social and economic growth in emerging democracies with special focus on higher education capacity building and business growth.
- **Conferences/Special Events:** Planned and executed several major conferences on Capitol Hill (chaired by Secretary Albright) attended by national and international business, government and academic scholars. These events led to the formation of many successful collaborative partnerships.
- **Grants Cultivation:** Secured hundreds of thousands of federal grant dollars to support projects in WDI's niche areas of business development, executive education and higher education reform.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

8/83– 10/01

Chief of Staff and Legislative Director - U. S. Congressman Tom Barrett: Directed, managed and oversaw the Congressman's Washington, D.C. and district offices. Planned legislative initiatives and strategies; supervised legislative staff. 11/93-10/01. Major achievements follow.

- **Special Appropriations Projects:** Assisted Congressman in leading collaborative efforts to advance quality of life policies, programs and projects including: waivers to create Badger Care, a new Milwaukee Job Corps, Amtrak Intermodal station improvements and Milwaukee Public Market.
- **Conferences/Special Events:** Orchestrated several forums featuring the former U. S. Attorney General Janet Reno, former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, former U. S. Surgeon General David Satcher and former Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Arthur Levitt to influence federal policies, grants and programs.

Appropriations Associate and Senior Legislative Assistant - U. S. Congressman Bob Carr (D-MI): Handled House Appropriations Committee work including tasks related to the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, Education and Labor, Foreign Relations and Transportation subcommittees. Mentored junior staff and monitored legislative developments in assigned issue areas. 8/83-11/93. Major achievements follow.

- **Management/Leadership:** Assisted Congressman in his role as a member of the distinguished College of Cardinals (comprised of all of the House Appropriations Committee Chairs). Drafted bills and amendments for subcommittee and floor action and set funding priorities.
- **Special Appropriations Projects:** Successfully secured millions of dollars for local and state projects ranging from Great Lakes Water research initiatives to Focus Hope's Center for Advanced Technologies to interstate highway improvement projects.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS / DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

Member, I Have a Dream Milwaukee Board of Directors (11/11 - present)
Member, Enderis Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors (11/14 – 11/18)
Member, United Way Combined Giving Campaign Cabinet (5/11 – 12/14)
Member, Milwaukee Job Corps Community Relations Board (3/11 – 3/14)
Member, National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Milwaukee Chapter (4/08 – 4/14)
Member/Alumni Member, Milwaukee Forum (11/06 – present)
Member, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority (3/06 – 12/09)
Recipient, U.S. Postal Service Women Putting their Stamp on Milwaukee Award (3/10)
Mayoral/Council Recognition, Honored with official Mayoral and Common Council proclamations for being an outstanding public servant (3/10)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Degree, Communications Arts and Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Graduated 8/83)