



MIKE BRYANT

Mecklenburg County Manager



Mike Bryant currently serves as county manager for Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. In his role, he is the chief executive officer of the organization and is responsible for managing Mecklenburg County's \$2.6 billion annual budget, carrying out the established priorities of the Board of County Commissioners, and leading a team of over 6,500 employees in service to more than 1.2 million residents.

Mike has over 30 years of public service experience and joined Mecklenburg County in 2003. Prior to his current position, Mike served as deputy county manager for Mecklenburg County, overseeing the departments of finance, information technology services, and human resources, along with the offices of the County Assessor and Tax Collector.

In his first year as county manager, Mike has focused on leading through cross sector collaboration with the nonprofit, corporate and philanthropic communities. He has elevated the County's commitment to workforce development, affordable housing and community engagement.

Mike currently serves as the vice chair of the National Association of County Officers' (NACo) Community, Economic and Workforce Development Policy Council. Throughout his career Mike has served on various national boards and is an active member of the International City & County Management Association (ICMA); the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), and the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States & Canada (GFAO).

Locally Mike is a member of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, Blumenthal, United Way of the Carolinas, Charlotte Center City Partners, Leading on Opportunity, Charlotte Sports Foundation, and the Metropolitan Public Transit Authority.

Mike is a proud two-time graduate of North Carolina Central University and holds both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Public Administration degree from the institution.

Mike has been the recipient of numerous awards for his contributions and leadership, including the Community Building Initiative's "Leaders Under 40" award, North Carolina Central University's Crystal Eagle Award, the Growing the Dream Committee of Charlotte's Root Award, and the John "Jack" Vogt Lifetime Achievement Award.

JAKE BURNS

Chief Strategy and Development Officer



Jake Burns joined Tepper Sports & Entertainment in April 2021 and serves as the Chief Strategy and Development Officer. In his role, Burns focuses on forward-looking, high-level strategic initiatives, encompassing commercial endeavors of significant impact across the enterprise, while also leading the renovation and modernization efforts of Bank of America Stadium.

Burns came to TSE after five seasons with Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals, most recently as the team's Executive Vice President, Business Operations. In his role, he was responsible for all functions related to revenue generation, including corporate partnerships, licensing, ticket and suite sales, strategy and analytics, broadcasting, marketing, brand management, game entertainment, retail, food and beverage and non-baseball events at Nationals Park.

Burns has nearly ten years of professional sports experience. Prior to joining the Nationals, Burns spent 14 years in organizational and human capital strategy consulting, including time with Booz Allen Hamilton, a strategy and technology consulting firm based out of McLean, Virginia. While at Booz Allen Hamilton, Jake served as a Senior Associate in the firm's Defense and Intelligence Group, where he was responsible for business development, account leadership, client delivery and career management for a team of consultants who helped organizations envision, design and implement major transformations.

Burns is a member of the Johnson & Wales University Executive Advisory Council, the North Carolina Travel & Tourism Board and the World Affairs Council of Charlotte Board. He also serves as a volunteer youth baseball coach.

Burns holds a bachelor's degree in systems engineering from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the UVA Darden School of Business. Burns and his wife, Katherine, have two children, Jackson and Charlotte.



STEVE CAHILLANE

Director and Chief Executive Officer

Kraft*Heinz*

Mr. Cahillane brings to the Board deep consumer packaged goods and brand-building expertise, strong experience in global markets, and invaluable insight from leading the successful separation of Kellogg Company into two independent, publicly traded consumer goods companies, WK Kellogg Co and Kellanova.

Steve Cahillane has served on our Board and as our Chief Executive Officer since January 2026. Before joining Kraft Heinz, Mr. Cahillane served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Kellanova from October 2023 until its acquisition by Mars, Incorporated, in December 2025. During his time at the helm of Kellanova, he led the company through a period of transformative growth, overseeing the expansion of the company's iconic global snacking portfolio. From October 2017 to October 2023, Mr. Cahillane served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kellogg Company, leading it through the successful separation of its North American cereal business, WK Kellogg Co, and the launch of its global snacking business, Kellanova.

Before joining Kellogg's, Mr. Cahillane was the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Nature's Bounty Co. from 2014 to 2017. Previously, he spent several years in senior leadership roles at The Coca-Cola Company, serving as President, Coca-Cola Americas – the global beverage maker's largest business with \$25 billion in sales – from 2013 to 2014. Mr. Cahillane also served as President & Chief Executive Officer, Coca-Cola Refreshments from 2010 to 2012, as President of Coca-Cola Enterprises, North America from 2008 to 2010, and as President, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Europe, from 2007 to 2008. Prior to Coca-Cola, he spent eight years with AB InBev in a range of senior executive roles from 1999 to 2007.

Mr. Cahillane serves on the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University, the Smithsonian National Board, and the Colgate-Palmolive Board of Directors. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Northwestern University as well as an MBA from Harvard University.



Jason Coleman is the Executive Director of the Incubator at mHUB, the nation's leading incubator for hardtech startups. In this role, he leads mHUB's efforts to support entrepreneurs and early-stage companies as they develop, commercialize, and scale new physical technologies. His work spans entrepreneurial programming, mentorship, corporate and university partnerships, and initiatives designed to connect founders with the technical resources, expertise, and networks needed to bring new products to market.

Prior to joining mHUB, Jason co-founded Project SYNCERE in 2008 and served as its Executive Director for 18 years. The Chicago-based nonprofit works to prepare students from underrepresented communities to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Under Jason's leadership, Project SYNCERE grew to serve more than 40,000 students, providing hands-on engineering experiences and creating pathways from middle school through college and into STEM careers.

Jason began his career as a mechanical engineer after earning his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Southern California. He spent three years at BAE Systems designing and developing flight control systems for military and commercial aircraft before joining Motorola Mobility, where he spent five years developing mechanical layouts for next-generation cellular devices. His experience as an engineer, entrepreneur, nonprofit leader, and now innovation ecosystem leader has shaped his commitment to expanding access to technology, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunity.

Jason's commitment to civic leadership is reflected in his recognition as a 2015 Civic Leadership Academy Fellow, a 2019 Eisenhower Fellow, a 2020 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, and a 2024 Obama Scholar. He earned his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 2025. He also remains actively engaged in Chicago's civic and nonprofit community, including serving on the Advisory Board for the Chicago Children's Museum.



Kinneil Coltman has nearly 25 years of health care experience, leading strategies that enhance community well-being, strengthen social impact and foster meaningful connections with consumers and stakeholders. Her areas of responsibility include Marketing, Brand, Consumer Experience, Government Affairs, Philanthropy, Reputation & External Communications, Community Engagement, Community Health, Access & Opportunity and Advocate's National Center for Clinical & Community Impact.

Kinneil spearheaded Advocate's historic \$1 billion investment that is transforming health care access on the South Side of Chicago by expanding primary care, specialty care and wellness services in the community.

Kinneil previously held health care leadership roles in Texas and South Carolina before joining the organization in 2016 and assuming the role of Chief Community & Social Impact Officer in 2019. She has previously chaired the board of the Urban League of Central Carolinas and currently serves on the board of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance.

JONATHON CORDELL

Managing Partner



Jon is a customer-centric commercial real estate veteran with 21 years of experience in multifamily, office and retail, along with Lab, Data Center and Senior Housing. He has developed, leased, acquired, structured, operated, and sold assets as both Broker and/or Principal in Chicagoland, as well as in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Milwaukee, and Dallas, completing 400+ transactions valued at \$5.5+ billion, encompassing 15 million square feet, generating \$1.2 billion of investment profit. Prior to founding WindWave, Jon was the Director of Development at Lendlease, leading the Central region's investment, development and operating teams, resulting in the delivery of over 2,300 residential units. Prior to Lendlease, Jon has held leadership positions at CBRE, Newmark, The John Buck Company, Tishman Speyer and Trizec Properties. He holds a MBA from Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Illinois. Jon is a Licensed Broker in the State of Illinois. He is an avid kiteboarder and lives in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago with his wife and 3 children.

A portrait of Tracy Finch Dodson, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a grey top with a colorful abstract pattern and a gold necklace. The background of the portrait is a dark, stylized city skyline at night.

TRACY DODSON

**Chief Operating Officer
& Head of Economic Development**



**CHARLOTTE
REGIONAL BUSINESS
ALLIANCE®**

Tracy Finch Dodson is the chief operating officer and head of economic development for the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. In her role, Tracy oversees economic development, research, marketing, communications, business development, and investor relations for the organization. Under Tracy's leadership, the organization continues to successfully leverage strong business relationships on the local, county, regional, and state levels.

Tracy previously served as assistant city manager and director of economic development for the City of Charlotte, where she had oversight of three departments: Charlotte Water, Charlotte Douglas International Airport, and Intergovernmental Relations. Tracy guided the City of Charlotte in developing a vibrant regional economic ecosystem. Her ability to foster strong partnerships on the local, county, regional, and state levels has been a driving force in advancing Charlotte's economic prosperity.

Tracy earned a bachelor's degree in architecture and psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She later attended Harvard University, where she earned a master in design studies degree in real estate and urban development.



**LISA
DZIEKAN**

VP, Economic Development

CLAYCO

Lisa is Vice President of Economic Development at Clayco, working across the built environment at the intersection of real estate, economic development, and partnerships. She is committed to driving impact and results, developing high performing teams, and building innovative collaborations. Formerly, as Senior Vice President of Business Development at World Business Chicago, she spearheaded the development and execution of comprehensive strategies to attract new investment, foster economic growth, and create job opportunities in Chicago and the seven county metro region.

Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Economics from the University of Michigan - Dearborn and a Masters Degree in Urban Planning and Public Affairs from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She serves on the Executive Advisory Committee of the Illinois Economic Development Corporation, Oversight Committee of the Chicagoland Opportunity Zones Consortium, the Evanston Economic Development Committee, Lake County Partners Board of Directors, Chicago Loop Alliance Board of Directors, and the Illinois Community College Board of Directors.



NATE ENGEL

Senior Vice President of Business Operations



Chicago Fire FC

Nate Engel is the Senior Vice President of Business Operations for Chicago Fire FC and the General Manager of McDonald's Park, the Club's new \$750M stadium set to open in 2028, a role which includes leading the planning and operational readiness for the venue. Previously, Nate served as the Fire's Chief of Staff and Vice President of Strategy, where he played a central role in the stadium's design and development from its early stages while helping lead enterprise-wide strategic initiatives across the Club. Prior to joining the Fire, Nate worked in management consulting, most recently at McKinsey & Company in Chicago.



MARILYNN GARDNER

President & CEO



Marilynn Gardner serves as President & CEO of Navy Pier, overseeing the operations, programming, and long-term vision of the Midwest's most visited destination, a civic landmark welcoming more than 8 million guests annually. A lifelong Chicagoan, Gardner has devoted over three decades to advancing Navy Pier through successive leadership roles before spearheading its transition to an independent, non-governmental nonprofit organization in 2011.

Under her leadership, the Pier has undergone a more than \$470 million transformation into a world-class civic space and enduring resource for the community. Central to that transformation is the Centennial Vision, a bold initiative that united philanthropic investment and capital development to deliver Polk Bros Park, a Chicago-centric Food Experience, the modernized Family Pavilion, expanded facilities for Chicago Children's Museum and Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and the iconic Centennial Ferris Wheel. Gardner further guided the development of the Sable Hotel, Offshore Rooftop, Flyover Chicago and the Navy Pier Marina, all while evolving the Pier's identity as a year-round destination through cultural programming and guest experiences that reflect the best of Chicago.

Recognizing Navy Pier's role as an economic catalyst, Gardner has cultivated a thriving on-site business ecosystem supporting more than 70 tenant businesses that collectively employ over 3,000 people. Her work emphasizes small business development, workforce opportunity, and the ongoing vitality of one of Chicago's most prominent public spaces. Under her leadership, Navy Pier has served as home to EXPO CHICAGO, the internationally acclaimed art exposition composed of the world's leading galleries, and has hosted marquee events including the America's Cup, media and delegate gatherings for the Democratic National Convention, major concerts, regional sporting tournaments, and the city's most prominent charitable and civic functions.

Gardner currently serves on the boards of the Chicago Chapter of the American Ireland Funds, City Club of Chicago, the Executive Committee of Chicago Sports Commission, the Magnificent Mile Association, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, and Wintrust Bank. She was recently appointed to the Advisory Council of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center. She is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and the Executives Club of Chicago. In addition, Gardner serves on the Mission & Academic Committee of the Board of St. Ignatius College Prep and on the College Leadership Council for the Diederich School of Communications at her alma mater, Marquette University.



ELEANOR ESSER GORSKI

President & CEO



Eleanor Esser Gorski, AIA, serves as the CEO & President of the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC), a premier organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting Chicago as a global hub of architectural innovation and education. Since 2022, she has been leading the organization with a passionate commitment to design's power in creating equitable communities.

With over 25 years of experience in architecture, historic preservation, and urban planning, Eleanor brings a wealth of knowledge to the CAC. As a licensed architect, Eleanor has made equity and community central to her career, aligning design, planning, and historic preservation for neighborhood benefit. At CAC, the world's largest organization of its kind, she leads the charge, attracting over 500,000 annual patrons and solidifying Chicago's identity as the "City of Architecture." Her academic background, program design expertise, and commitment to community engagement are catalysts for expanding CAC's educational programs which currently empower thousands of students and families through workshops, programs, competitions, and mentoring.

Eleanor's distinguished career includes leadership roles within the City of Chicago, where she served as Acting Commissioner at the Department of Planning and Development. Here, she spearheaded initiatives such as the Industrial Corridor Modernization Initiative and the Fulton Market Innovation District Plan, contributing significantly to the city's commercial growth. Notable projects under her guidance span from the five-year renovation of Wrigley Field to the planning for the iconic Obama Presidential Center. Eleanor's portfolio also includes the renovation of numerous early skyscrapers in the Loop and the preservation of the historic Carson Pirie Scott State Street store, now home to Target. Within the City of Chicago, Eleanor's contributions include the creation of a community review process for the Chicago Plan Commission and the development of crucial design guidelines for city landmark districts and neighborhoods. Her work in financial incentive legislation has been groundbreaking, providing vital assistance to small businesses in underserved communities through the Neighborhood Opportunity Fund and preserving landmarks with the Class L tax incentive.



DAVE KATZ

President and Chief Operating Officer



David (Dave) M. Katz currently serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc. Dave joined Coca-Cola Consolidated in 2013 as Assistant to the Chairman and CEO. He has also served in the areas of manufacturing, engineering, quality assurance, operations planning, human resources, culture, and stewardship. In January of 2018, Dave was named Chief Financial Officer where he served until transitioning to his current role on December 31, 2018. Dave began his career in the Coca-Cola system in 1993, when he joined Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. as a Logistics Consultant, progressing into varying roles with increasing degrees of responsibilities. In 2008, he was promoted to the President and CEO of Coca-Cola Bottlers' Sales and Services Company (CCBSS), where he was responsible for the procurement of nearly \$5.1 billion in direct materials and \$2.9 billion in indirect spending. In 2010, Dave served as Vice President, Sales Operations, for CCE's East Business Unit, before being named Senior Vice President, Midwest Region within the newly created Coca-Cola Refreshments in 2011.

Dave is a Board member of Coke Consolidated, and also currently serves as President of the Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association. Additionally, he serves on the System Leadership Governance Board of the U.S. Coke System where he was co-Chair from 2022-2024. Dave served as Chairman of Western Container Corporation from mid-2012 through mid-2020. From 2016 through 2018, he also served as Chair of the National Product Supply Group. He was a founding member and former Chairman of The Coca-Cola Environmental Council, an international group of Coca-Cola bottlers focused on system environmental issues, and served as Chairman of Coca-Cola's Cross Enterprise Procurement Group. Additionally, Dave served on the Board of the Next Generation Mentoring Foundation and is currently an Executive Board member of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance where he will serve as Chair in 2026. In 2024, Dave joined the Board of Snak King.

Dave holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and completed a portion of his Ph.D. program also at Georgia Tech. Dave is married to Daphne, and they have two daughters, Shana and Rachel. He enjoys numerous physical activities, cooking, playing the guitar, and has developed a passion for mentoring the next generation.



Jenna Kelly serves as Head of Consumer & Retail Corporate Banking at Truist, where she leads a team delivering industry-focused expertise and tailored solutions to large corporate clients nationwide. With more than 30 years of banking experience, Jenna has built a career helping companies of all sizes and industries solve complex challenges, unlock growth opportunities, and enhance long-term enterprise value.

Prior to her current role, Jenna held several senior leadership positions across Truist's footprint. She most recently served as Regional President for Truist's headquarters region in North Carolina, overseeing teams dedicated to advising privately held companies and non-profits while driving business integration and community engagement throughout Charlotte, the Piedmont Triad, and western North Carolina. She also served as Group Regional President, leading half of the company's regions across Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Washington D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and previously as Georgia Regional President, where she guided the region through the historic SunTrust and BB&T integration to form Truist. Jenna began her career with Truist's corporate banking training program in Atlanta in 1993. Since then, she has advanced through a variety of client leadership roles in Atlanta and Charlotte, including positions in corporate banking, syndicated & leveraged finance, middle market banking and region president roles.

Deeply committed to service, Jenna contributes her leadership to numerous community organizations. She currently serves on the boards of the Charlotte Sports Foundation and Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. She has also held board roles with the Atlanta Committee for Progress, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Classroom Central, Camp Twin Lakes, Georgia Corporation for Economic Development, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Woodruff Arts Center. Jenna earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She and her husband, Graham, live in Charlotte and are the proud parents of two sons.

Truist Financial Corporation is a purpose-driven financial services company committed to inspiring and building better lives and communities. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Truist has leading market share in many of the high-growth markets in the U.S. and offers a wide range of products and services through wholesale and consumer businesses, including consumer and small business banking, commercial and corporate banking, investment banking and capital markets, wealth management, payments, and specialized lending businesses. Truist is a top-10 commercial bank with total assets of \$544 billion as of September 30, 2025. Truist Bank, Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. Learn more at [Truist.com](https://www.truist.com).



Mary Ludgin is a Senior Advisor to Heitman and an equity owner of the firm. She is a member of the firm's Global Investment Committee. She serves as editor of the series on climate risk that Heitman authors in collaboration with the Urban Land Institute (ULI). The sixth report in that series will be released this fall. Prior to transitioning into her role as an advisor, Mary was Senior Managing Director and Heitman's Head of Global Investment Research, a position she held for over 25 years.

Mary served as a Global Governing Trustee of ULI and as chair of ULI's Chicago District Council. She was a member of the board of ULI's Randall Lewis Center for Sustainability in Real Estate and was its chair. She also presided as Chair of the Pension Real Estate Association, President of the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries, and President of the Real Estate Research Institute.

Mary is the recipient of several industry awards, including the 2019 PREA James A. Graaskamp award, which recognizes researchers whose work contributes to the common body of knowledge regarding real estate investment, and the 2023 Goldie Initiative Shero Award for her career achievements in commercial real estate and commitment to helping other women succeed in the industry.

Mary holds an AB from Vassar College and an MA and Ph.D. from Northwestern University.



Dave Lundy is founder and CEO of O'Hare Flyer. He has decades of experience as CEO of his public affairs strategy firm advising primarily the C-Suite on strategy, positioning and communications. Working at the intersection of business and politics, Dave has supported development groups, energy companies and nonprofits.

As CEO and Founder of the Flyer, Dave has spent the last three years developing his team and world-class partners to create a platform through which the Flyer can execute on its strategy and deliver this vital project that will benefit the entire Chicago region. Chicago has a chance to make a bold leap forward with a project that will tie one of the busiest airports in the world with one of the great downtowns in the world. It's a once in a generation opportunity that will be a game changer for Chicago's economic future.

An attorney by training, Dave also serves as a statehouse lobbyist for both for-profit and not-for-profit clients and has been CEO of Aileron Communications, one of the nation's leading clean energy public affairs consulting firms. He currently serves on the board of the nonpartisan Civic Federation. Dave earned a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, a J.D. from DePaul University School of Law and completed graduate work in communications at Northwestern University.



VAL MARCHEVSKY

Chief Technology Officer

Uber
Freight

Val Marchevsky is Chief Technology Officer at Uber Freight, a market-leading enterprise technology company powering intelligent logistics. He is responsible for the company's technology strategy and execution, overseeing the software, platforms, infrastructure, data science, and AI capabilities that power intelligent logistics for customers around the world. Previously, Val served as Head of Engineering at Uber Freight, where he led the evolution of the company's engineering organization and platform capabilities, advancing investments in platform modernization, AI, and product innovation. Before joining Uber Freight, Val held technology leadership roles at Motorola, Google, Verifone, and NAB. Val holds 17 U.S. patents and has more than 25 years of experience building high-performing engineering teams and bringing innovative technologies to market.

BRENT TOLLISON

Chief People Officer and Public Affairs Officer



Brent Tollison is a North Carolina native and a proud alumnus of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – earning undergraduate degrees in both Chemistry and Industrial Relations. Brent attended UNC as a Pogue Scholar and was selected as a North Carolina Leadership Fellow. He currently serves as Chief People & Public Affairs Officer at Coca-Cola Consolidated, the nation's largest Coca-Cola bottler, based in Charlotte, NC.

Brent began his career at Coca-Cola Consolidated, later moving to Coca-Cola Enterprises and then Coca-Cola Refreshments in roles of increasing responsibility. Brent is an accomplished sales, marketing and operations executive who has held several roles including Director of Sales, Vice President of Convenience Retail and Market Unit Vice President, Region Sales, for New York and Virginia. Brent also served as Vice President, Sales Operations Northeast, where he focused on developing, engaging and empowering four operating markets. In 2014, Brent moved from the Coca-Cola System to Grainger Industrial Supply, as the Vice President of Commercial Sales, managing a \$1.5 billion portfolio. He returned to the Coca-Cola System in 2021 as Senior Vice President at Coca-Cola Consolidated. In 2026, he was named Chief People & Public Affairs Officer.

Brent is a highly engaged community leader, with a passion for developing the next generation of civic leaders. Starting in Atlanta, he served on the Workforce Development Board for Fulton County. While in the New York area, he served on the Boards of the Harlem YMCA and the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club. In Chicago, Brent served on the Board for the One Million Degrees organization, which helps community college students pursue career pathways to greater economic mobility. Additionally, Brent has served on the board of the National Sales Network. He currently serves as a Board Member for the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance as well as on the Board of Advisors for UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. Brent is also an active brother of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Brent is most proud of his title as husband to Swanda for 25 years, and father to daughter Jordan and son Ian.



ROBERT MCCUTCHEON

President & CEO



Robert McCutcheon brings an impressive depth of leadership experience spanning over 35 years in executive roles across diverse industries, ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to mid- and small sized enterprises. His career is marked by a proven ability to drive growth, enhance brand value, and foster innovation through strategic initiatives and a keen understanding of market dynamics.

As the President and CEO of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, McCutcheon is passionate about leveraging his extensive background in general management, brand marketing, and finance to propel the organization forward. He has a strong track record of building successful brands and businesses through organic growth, innovative product development, and strategic mergers and acquisitions. Throughout his career, he has executed numerous significant M&A transactions and led corporate integrations that have strengthened organizational capabilities and market positioning.

Prior to his current role, McCutcheon served as President and CEO of Husqvarna North America in Charlotte, where he transformed the company's leadership position in residential and commercial outdoor power equipment by championing a radical capability enhancement and an aggressive innovation agenda that drove record profits. Formerly, he held the position of President and Managing Director for Britax Child Safety in Fort Mill, leading the Americas division.

Before relocating to Charlotte in 2018, McCutcheon amassed over two decades of experience in the consumer packaged goods sector. As President at Conagra Brands, he oversaw a portfolio worth over \$3 billion and managed well-known brands such as Marie Callender's, Healthy Choice, Hunt's, Bertolli, PF Changs, and Reddi Wip, and led his businesses to significant growth in sales and profits. His diverse experience also includes leadership roles at Walmart, The Gillette Company, and Conoco, Inc.

McCutcheon holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and a BS in Business from Arizona State University. He lives in Charlotte, NC with his wife Patricia and has four children.

In his role at the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, McCutcheon is eager to build the capabilities and impact of the alliance through collaboration with local businesses and stakeholders to foster economic growth and sustainable development in the vibrant Charlotte Region.



GRACE NYSTRUM

Market Executive

BANK OF AMERICA 

Grace L. Nystrum serves as the Market Executive for Bank of America's Corporate Headquarters in Charlotte, where she helps lead the bank's local strategy to drive responsible growth. In this role, Grace connects businesses, families, and individuals to the full breadth of banking and investment solutions that help improve their financial wellbeing.

Working closely with the Charlotte Market President and the broader leadership team, Grace delivers across three key pillars:

- Client engagement across Bank of America's eight lines of business
- Employee engagement for 19,500 Charlotte-based teammates
- Community impact through philanthropic investments, nonprofit partnerships, and highvisibility sponsorships

Grace oversees initiatives that promote market growth, deepen community relationships, and strengthen the economic and social fabric of the Charlotte region.

A respected enterprise leader, Grace brings deep institutional knowledge and a consistent record of impact. She has championed several enterprise priorities—including advancing HispanicLatino engagement, elevating Arts & Culture initiatives, and driving strategic programs at the intersection of business and community. She continues to steward and expand these efforts in her current role.

Prior to becoming Market Executive, Grace served as an executive on loan to a Charlotte-based nonprofit, where she acted as Executive Director. During her tenure, she led a strategic transformation that enhanced operations, expanded fundraising capacity, and positioned the organization for longterm sustainability. Earlier in her career, she held senior leadership roles in strategic marketing across Consumer Banking, Small Business, and Global Commercial Banking, including Business Banking, Dealer Financial Services, and Middle Market segments.

Grace is a member of Bank of America's Charlotte Executive Advisory Council and is deeply engaged in the Charlotte community. She serves on the boards of Advocate Health Foundation, United Way of Greater Charlotte, Charlotte Bilingual Preschool, and the Charlotte Regional Alliance Small Business Committee. She also serves as an advisor to the Latin American Chamber of Commerce. Grace and her family have proudly called Charlotte home since 2005.



Nat Pieper is Chief Commercial Officer at American Airlines. In this role, he leads the airline's commercial strategy, planning and performance across alliances and partnerships, cargo, co-branded credit card program, loyalty, network planning, revenue management, and sales and distribution. He also co-leads the Customer Experience team alongside Chief Operating Officer David Seymour. Nat most recently served as CEO of the oneworld alliance, where he integrated two new member airlines, launched sustainability and customer experience initiatives, and redefined the alliance's mission and strategy to focus on premium experience, digital integration, and long-term structural success.

Prior to oneworld, Nat held senior commercial and finance leadership roles at Alaska Air Group, Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines. At Alaska, he led the airline's entry into oneworld, built a commercial partnership with American Airlines, executed major aircraft transactions, and secured ample liquidity during the pandemic. At Delta, he served as Senior Vice President for Europe, Middle East, Africa and India, with responsibility for all commercial activities, and as Vice President of Fleet Strategy and Transactions, overseeing multi-billion-dollar aircraft campaigns and a global fleet overhaul. Nat began his airline career at Northwest Airlines in finance, strategy, and alliances and joined Delta's leadership team following its merger with Northwest in 2008.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Duke University and a Master of Business Administration in strategy, finance and transportation management from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Shahid “Sha” Rana has spent nearly 20 years helping cities grow through business development, entrepreneurship and community investment, and is helping shape the next chapter of economic growth for the nation’s fastest-growing city.

Rana became economic development director for the City of Charlotte in June 2025 after serving from 2020-25 in Mecklenburg County’s Office of Economic Development, most recently as the deputy economic development director. In this key leadership role, Rana and his team work closely with other city departments and partners to further key city priorities and help ensure that all communities benefit from Charlotte’s growth. His team leads efforts focused on investing in local talent; business attraction, retention and expansion; public-private partnerships and corridor revitalization; and small business and innovation.

Under Rana’s leadership in FY2026, Charlotte recorded its best business recruitment year this decade, with the city and Mecklenburg County partnering to deliver 12 project announcements, delivering more than 5,800 new jobs across the city.

He also co-leads Skilled to Build, a citywide initiative connecting small businesses, employers and workers to opportunities created by the region’s historic transportation and transit investments.

During his career, he has led successful business attractions and expansion efforts. In Charlotte, they include Scout Motors’ global headquarters, SMBC Group’s second U.S. headquarters and Siemens Energy’s first U.S. large power transformer manufacturing facility. He has also demonstrated success in supporting small and under-utilized businesses, including funding and capital coordination.

Rana was named to Business North Carolina’s 2026 Power List, and in 2024 was named one of The Charlotte Business Journal’s 40 under 40.

Rana earned a bachelor’s degree from Morgan State University, a master’s degree from the University of Maryland and graduate certificates from the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. He is also a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) through the International Economic Development Council.



MICHAEL W. RESCHKE

Founder, Chairman & CEO

 THE PRIME GROUP, INC.

Michael founded The Prime Group in 1982, overseeing the development and acquisition of over \$14.0 billion in institutional-quality real estate projects across the U.S. He continues to manage Prime's private real estate development and investment activities. In the 1990s, Prime was the founding shareholder of four publicly traded real estate companies, including Prime Retail, Inc. and Ambassador Apartment, Inc. In 1997, Prime organized Brookdale Living Communities, Inc. and Prime Group Realty Trust. Ambassador Apartments, Inc. and Brookdale Living Communities, Inc. were later acquired by AIMCO and Fortress Real Estate Investments, respectively.

Mr. Reschke served on the board of World Business Chicago from 2000 to 2003. Currently, he is a member of the Real Estate Roundtable, Urban Land Institute, Economic Club of Chicago, and the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. He graduated summa cum laude from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 1977 and received a summa cum laude Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1980. Mr. Reschke is a licensed attorney in the State of Illinois.

A portrait of Marianne Rotole, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. The background is a dark, stylized cityscape with skyscrapers.

MARIANNE ROTOLE

Chief Growth Officer



THE 1901
PROJECT

UNITED
CENTER



Marianne Rotole serves as Chief Growth Officer for the United Center and its affiliated development The 1901 Project. Responsible for business growth and development of the enterprises, Marianne focuses on capitalizing on existing and new means of revenue generation most prominently through the advancement into a new entertainment venue, retail, residential, hotel and commercial office ventures.

In her 25+ years of sports marketing, public relations and client service experience, Marianne has served as an advisor, consultant, strategist and execution leader for leading brands including Bank of America, GEICO, Kaiser Permanente, Taco Bell and General Mills, among others. Prior to joining the United Center, she most recently served as Chief Growth Officer at Octagon Sports Marketing where she led all new business efforts for the IPG/Omnicom agency's North American practice.

Rotole has been recognized in the industry as a 2019 Cynopsis Top Woman in Media and a 2018 Sports Business Journal Game Changer.



TONY SCACCO

President

RIVERSIDE

INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT

With 25 years of development and major project experience, Tony has helped lead developments totaling nearly 20 million square feet of office, multifamily, hospitality, and mixed-use projects in multiple markets on two continents. As President for Riverside, Tony oversees all business lines while working with the executive team to develop and implement the company's strategic plans.

Tony received his BS and MS in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University, and an MBA from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management.



KYLE SCHULZ

Deputy of Strategic Advancement



Kyle Schulz is the Deputy of Strategic Advancement for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) - the comprehensive planning organization for the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois. Schulz works to build and manage relationships with external entities and partners directly contributing to achieving the agency goals by building partnerships, beneficial collaborations that achieve the region's comprehensive planning goals.

Prior to joining CMAP, Schulz served as Chief Growth Officer for World Business Chicago - the City of Chicago and broader region's economic development agency - where Schulz's work contributed to 775 + Pro-Chicago Decisions that created over 62,500 jobs for the region including the signature wins of PsiQuantum's \$5 billion investment into Chicago - the largest economic development project in Chicago's history, Discover Financials 1,000 person call center, Mars Wrigley's global R&D center, and Google's acquisition of the Thompson Center.

Schulz's 15 years of experience includes driving impact with the Schaumburg Business Association in Illinois, the Greater Austin (TX) Chamber of Commerce, the Round Rock (TX) Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity where Schulz work was recognized with numerous recognitions and honors.

Schulz lives in Chicago's North Park neighborhood with his wife, JJ, his daughter, Rhynder, his son, Behrendt and his heterochromia husky Bran.

MICHAEL SMITH

President and CEO



Michael Smith serves as the President and CEO of Charlotte Center City Partners (CCCP), a 45-year-old Economic and Community Development organization that envisions and implements strategies and actions to assure that Center City Charlotte is a welcoming, safe and equitable, economically vibrant, culturally rich and beloved place for all.

Smith is a proven community builder and innovator, with over 20 years of non-profit leadership experience and trusted relationships across the Charlotte Region and NC. Smith's background blends corporate, entrepreneurial, and non-profit experience.

Smith holds his MBA from Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University and his undergraduate degree from UNC Chapel Hill. He has held roles at AT&T Communications and First Union's Capital Markets Group and was a founder at By-Products Interactive. Prior to his role as CEO of CCCP, Smith was the Chief Financial Officer at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

Since 2005, as CEO of CCCP, Smith has been a driving force behind a number of city-building initiatives, creating and helping shape initiatives that have advanced the landscape for the Charlotte in economic development, retail development, sustainability, public safety, homelessness, transit and hospitality. Over the last couple of decades, Charlotte's urban core has been transformed into a major destination, become a thriving neighborhood and expanded as the Charlotte region's major employment center.

Smith is past Chairman of the Board of Directors for the International Downtown Association. He also serves on a number of regional Boards including the Board of Trustees for UNC Charlotte, Boy Scouts of America Mecklenburg County Council, Charlotte Sports Foundation, and the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. He is active with St. Peter Catholic Parish.

He was raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, and has resided in Charlotte since 1998 with his wife, Kathleen, and their three young adult children.



MARTY THOMAS

President and Chief Executive Officer



Marty Thomas joined TTX in November 2024 as Executive Vice President. He was promoted to President in December 2025 and appointed President and Chief Executive Officer in June 2026.

Prior to TTX, Thomas spent 29 years with GE Transportation and Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corporation (Wabtec), holding roles of increasing responsibility across operations, service, quality, commercial leadership, and global business management. His positions included Shift Supervisor, Field Service Engineer, Locomotive Service Shop Plant Manager, Global Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt, BNSF and UPRR P&L Account Executive, Enterprise Quality Executive, and Senior Executive of Global Operations for a \$3.6 billion business segment.

He brings broad executive experience in lean operations, plant management, North American Class I railroad mechanical operations, rail industry procurement, global integrated supply chains, manufacturing, aftermarket remanufacturing, supplier and customer commercial negotiations, P&L leadership, global fleet asset management, enterprise quality, and acquisition integration.

Thomas is an active board member of RailPulse, a freight railcar telematics industry coalition, and serves as the Managing Director of the TTX Board. Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science in Technology from Montana State University Northern and an MBA from Frostburg State University in Maryland. He completed General Electric's multiyear Global Executive Leadership Development Programs in Crotonville, New York and various assignments abroad.

Marty is married with three sons and enjoys being outdoors in the mountains of Montana with his family.



CHARLIE TROTIER

Vice President



As Vice President at Related Midwest, Charlie Trotier oversees site acquisition, financing and day-to-day project management for the firm's growing pipeline of large-scale urban developments. Since joining Related in 2018, Trotier has played a pivotal role in advancing The 78, a transformative 62-acre master plan along the Chicago River, securing entitlements for 13 million square feet of residential, office and retail space and the largest tax increment financing package in Chicago history. His expertise in navigating complex projects has been instrumental in preparing competitive bids for some of Chicago's largest and most high-profile real estate developments. In addition to The 78, Trotier co-manages the development of Quantum Shore Chicago, a 400-acre brownfield redevelopment that will house the Illinois Quantum & Microelectronics Park (IQMP), anchored by what will be the largest quantum computing facility in the U.S. He also serves as asset manager for Landmark West Loop, a luxury 300-unit apartment building delivered in 2017.

Before joining Related Midwest, Trotier was an Investment Banking Analyst in the Services & Industrials Group for William Blair in Chicago, advising on M&A transactions totaling over \$1 billion. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in finance with a minor in economics from Miami University. Outside of his professional responsibilities, Trotier contributes his time and expertise to Related's affordable housing initiatives and volunteers with the Urban Land Institute and Eisenberg Foundation's Real Estate Challenge mentorship program.



CHRISTINE ZRINSKY

Senior VP of Development and
Government Relations



LINCOLN PARK ZOO.

Christine Zrinsky retired this month as the Executive Director of the Millennium Park Foundation, a position she held for nearly four years. In this role she managed the team that ensures the Park's art installations and gardens reflect the investments provided by the Founders when the Park was envisioned in 1998, collaborating with City of Chicago departments and the Park's management company.

Prior to this position, Christine served as the Senior VP of Development and Government Relations at Chicago's free Lincoln Park Zoo. During her 27-year tenure, the Zoo Society assumed daily management of the zoo and through the Development and Earned Revenue teams provided more than 65% of the annual revenue. The zoo went private from the Chicago Park District during her tenure, and has thrived as an independent institution.

Christine graduated with a journalism degree from Valparaiso University and lives in downtown Chicago.