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Professional Summary

I have more than two decades of experience as a convener and collaborator, bringing people together to find solutions, whether that be a municipal initiative or the content of an award-winning alumni magazine. I spent eight years on the leadership team of Mayor Andrew J. Ginther during some of the most challenging times the city has endured. In the face of a global pandemic, social unrest and spike in homicides, we created new policies and worked on winning the trust of all residents. As the Director of Strategic Visioning at Experience Columbus, I lead alignment efforts with various stakeholders on community-wide priorities such as new development, amenities and transportation.

Related Work History

Experience Columbus

Columbus, Ohio

April 2024-present

Director of Strategic Visioning

Leads alignment efforts with the City of Columbus, Downtown Columbus Inc., Franklin County Convention and Facilities Authority and Experience Columbus/Greater Columbus Sports Commission, as well as other stakeholders on community-wide priorities such as new development, amenities and transportation efforts.

City of Columbus

February 2016 to April 2024

- Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Andrew J. Ginther: April 2021 to April 2024
 - Lead a team of five communications professionals and advised communicators in all other city departments.
 - Worked as liaison to departments of Development, Building and Zoning, Public Health, Recreation and Parks, and CelebrateOne to guide directors on critical projects including:
 - New zoning code to allow development with fewer variances, including more housing density in all neighborhoods,
 - Legislation for citywide community reinvestment policy to spur building of more housing,
 - Solutions to displacement of hundreds of residents from substandard apartment complexes,
 - Partnerships with the Columbus Crew SC on a new community sports park,
 - Participating in a study to recognize the impact of stable housing on pregnant women,
 - Growing city's tree canopy to slow impact of climate change.
 - Lead a team from various departments to formalize the city's DEI strategy, called Opportunity Rising to inform all decisions made by the city from budget to hiring.

- Served as the interim director of CelebrateOne, Mayor Ginther’s initiative to lower the infant mortality rate, while also leading a search for the new director to carry on the mission.
- Senior Director of Media Relations for Mayor Andrew J. Ginther: February 2016 to April 2021
 - Spearheaded all city communications during the COVID-19 pandemic, working closely with Columbus Public Health, Governor’s Office, Columbus Partnership and multiple nonprofits to inform public of latest health news, vaccines and how to stay safe.
 - Transformed Mayor Ginther’s State of the City address from in-person to livestreamed during the pandemic, using video, slides and testimonials from residents to keep it engaging. Thousands more residents were able to watch the address through this format.
 - Orchestrated the announcement that Columbus Crew SC was staying in Columbus with new owners, a \$50 million investment from the city and a \$315 million new state-of-the-art downtown stadium, now home to sell-out crowds and three-time MLS Cup Champions.
 - Collaborated on the announcement of Columbus winning the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Smart Cities Challenge grant that brought \$50 million to the city to explore how modern, integrated transportation options can empower residents to live their best lives.

Kenyon College

Gambier, Ohio

August 2013 to February 2016

Editorial Director

- Lead all aspects of production of award-winning alumni magazine from writing and editing to hiring freelance writers, photographers and designers
- Worked with media relations to promote Kenyon College in a positive light

The Columbus Dispatch

Columbus, Ohio

August 2002 to August 2013

Food Editor/Assistant Features Editor

- Managed all aspects of food coverage from writing and editing stories on food trends to news and recipe stories
- Hosted a television segment and specials related to food on 10TV
- Wrote business, travel and feature stories

The San Francisco Chronicle

San Francisco, California

February 1996 to February 2002

Restaurant Critic/Food Writer

Bon Appetit Magazine

Los Angeles, California

February 1993 to February 1996

Assistant editor

Education

University of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio
Bachelor's degree, English and psychology

Board Memberships

Greater Columbus Arts Council, 2022 to 2024
Experience Columbus, 2020 to 2024
Columbus Film Commission, 2017 to 2019

Books

Recipe for Joy, Loyola Press, 2013

North Market Cookbook, American Foodways Press, 2008

Star Wars Cookbook, Chronicle Books 1998

Awards

James Beard Award for Excellence for Newspaper Feature Writing 2000