

Nicholas J. Bankston

NJBankston@gmail.com | (614) 599-0429 | Columbus, OH 43219 | [LinkedIn](#)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Alvis | *Director, Community Partnerships & Strategic Initiatives*

Aug 2023 – Present

- Directing **strategic initiatives** and, effectively streamlining community support across a **\$42M enterprise** spanning 44 locations, 5 cities, and employing over 400 staff members.
- **Orchestrating a high-impact Capital Campaign to secure funding for a state-of-the-art building**, catalyzing engagement and support from corporate, government, and community stakeholders. This resulted in the completion of this **\$4M campaign in 20 months**.
- **Establishing comprehensive systems and structures**, fostering a robust volunteer program, while cultivating enduring relationships with staff, volunteers, and external partners, amplifying Alvis's mission and outreach.
- **Pioneering innovative outreach campaigns**, leveraging technology and **data-driven insights**, to increase community awareness, engagement, and involvement with Alvis's mission and programs.

City of Columbus | *Council Member, Chair of Finance and Economic Development*

Jan 2022 – Present

- **Expertly analyze and evaluate the city's extensive \$2B operating and capital budget**, ensuring prudent allocation of resources to drive community growth and development.
- Demonstrate decisive leadership as a City Council Member, **overseeing budget approval and responsible allocation of funds for the entire city**, while skillfully managing a **team of two direct reports** and spearheading strategic initiatives to advance community initiatives and priorities.
- Instrumental in establishing and nurturing the **Urban Business Connection, a strategic collaboration with the Columbus Urban League and the Columbus Chamber**, leading to an exponential growth from 30 to 100 small black businesses within the inaugural year, fostering economic empowerment and vitality within the local community.
- Established and launched the Ground Floor Growth Initiative, resulting in the investment of over **\$1.7M in removing barriers for small and minority business** to catalyze downtown retail and open **9 new businesses**.

Gladden Community House | *President & CEO*

Jan 2021 – July 2023

- **Spearheaded strategic direction** and steered a dedicated small not-for-profit team of **40 employees** within a dynamic social service agency, catering to the needs of over **10,000 residents on a yearly basis**.
- **Orchestrated fiscal planning for external partners and board members on a monthly basis**, while overseeing a **\$3.2M budget**, orchestrating a remarkable **30% revenue augmentation during tenure as CEO**, through adept management of corporate, government, quasi-government, and private philanthropic partnerships.
- **Pioneered innovative staff benefits** initiatives, seamlessly introducing comprehensive medical, dental, and vision insurance programs, significantly enhancing talent attraction and retention capabilities.
- **Directed a comprehensive overhaul of the organization's digital presence**, orchestrating a strategic revamp of the website and other promotional materials, resulting in heightened organizational prominence and efficiencies.

City of Columbus | *Department of Neighborhoods, Project Manager*

May 2017 – Jan 2021

- **Managing a consulting team and 2 direct reports**, implementing comprehensive community plans in an effort to achieve long-term strategies and investments to transform the top priority neighborhoods in Columbus.
- Responsible for budgeting and planning with community funds and grants, while managing distribution across the city; examples like managing **\$1M consulting contracts**, **\$200K for general fund budget**, **\$1.525M in capital projects across 3 years**.
- Developed the **One Linden and Envision Hilltop Community Strategic Plans** to provide community and economic development in a 5-10-20 year plan while aligning catalytic investments that have resulted in over **\$250M in public and private investment**.
- Gained 5+ external stakeholder support to invest and partner with the city to advance housing infrastructures and economic development, like Chase which led to securing a \$5M grant, which was leveraged into a \$25M investment.

Nicholas J. Bankston

NJBankston@gmail.com | (614) 599-0429 | Columbus, OH 43219 | [LinkedIn](#)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (cont.)

City of Columbus, Office of the Mayor | *Director, Community Affairs*

Nov 2015 – May 2017

- **Established foundational relationships** around the Columbus community with 100+ senior community leaders; focused on small businesses, faith-based establishments, and civic associations, resulting in strong community partnerships
- Successfully managed a public bond campaign that **secured \$950M in financing for City of Columbus** infrastructure improvements, resulting in a 5-year plan to rebuild fire stations, roads, rec centers and more.
- **Key liaison across key departments of the city**, including but not limited to the Department of Development, Planning, and Human Services Funding to support community initiatives and plans through seamless communication.
- **Represented the Mayor's Office for crisis management**, responsible for delivering critical conversations while maintaining relationships with community leaders, resulting in respected relationships in the community.

Andrew Ginther for Mayor Campaign | *Outreach Director*

Feb 2015 – Nov 2015

- **Implemented a targeted outreach strategy** to educate and build support for the City Council President Andrew Ginther's mayoral campaign; **historic fundraising that raised the most dollars in a mayoral campaign at \$3M.**
- **Managed a direct report** while supporting the day-to-day operations of the campaign outreach efforts in **100+ key constituent groups** like the faith-based community, LGBTQ+, women, and African American communities.
- Executed **all community outreach efforts** and was responsible for the success of key field tactics including one-on-one meetings, **100+ community roundtables**, and staffing at events to understand the community needs.

Franklin County, Court of Common Pleas | *IT Specialist*

Feb 2014 – Feb 2015

- **Researched, identified, and resolved technical issues** on an ongoing basis, ranging from hardware failures to networking connectivity to support data issues for 72 employees.
- Responded to personnel requests for **technical support**, and documented, tracked, and monitored support requests to ensure a timely resolution.

Franklin County, Recorder's Office | *Asst. IT Director*

Jan 2013 – Feb 2014

- **Collaborated with the IT Director** on administrative related issues, such as budgeting, inventory, organizational projects, and productivity to support all 40 employees and thousands of public users.
- **Designed and published marketing materials** for the office, such as literature pieces, logos, announcements, to provide innovative ways to enhance the technological experience and effectiveness.

Coleman for Columbus | *Field Coordinator*

Jul 2011 – Nov 2011

- **Successfully worked to re-elect Mayor Michael B. Coleman** while effectively **running accurate data collections** into excel to analyze and report out to the mayor's team on canvassing progress and polling data.

City of Columbus, Office of the Mayor | *Communications & Community Affairs Staffer*

Feb 2010 – Aug 2012

- **Launched a pilot program named City Reader's**, a city initiative that mentored young men to become leaders through reading over the summer, which resulted in the long-term program known as APPS.
- Managed a pothole reporting initiative via social media, which was the **first of its kind** in the state; **resulting in operational efficiencies** in fulfilling pothole requests.

SKILLS

- Strategic Leadership & Organizational Management; Public Finance & Economic Development; Fundraising & Capital Campaigns; Stakeholder Engagement & Community Relations; Policy Development & Government Relations; Program Design & Implementation; Technology & Digital Strategy; Campaign Management & Political Strategy.

Nicholas J. Bankston

NJBankston@gmail.com | (614) 599-0429 | Columbus, OH 43219 | [LinkedIn](#)

COMMUNITY & BOARD SERVICE

Celebrate One <i>Board of Directors – Vice Chair</i>	2025 – Present
Financial Review Advisory Committee <i>Ex Officio Member</i>	2025 – Present
All Nations Worship Assemblies Columbus <i>Board of Trustees</i>	2022 – 2024
Neighborhood Design Center <i>Board of Directors – Vice President</i>	2019 – 2021
Reeb Avenue Center <i>Board of Directors</i>	2016 – 2021
St. Stephen's Community House <i>Board of Directors</i>	2019 – 2021
Columbus Urban League <i>Board of Directors – President, Young Professional Auxiliary</i>	2015 – 2020
Rickenbacker-Woods Foundation <i>Board of Trustees – Vice Chair</i>	2015 – 2018
Greater Columbus Sister Cities International <i>Board of Directors</i>	2016 – 2018
Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church <i>Associate Minister, Youth Department Director</i>	2011 – 2016

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mahogany Columbus	2025
<i>2025 Class of Extraordinary Men</i>	
Aspire Women's Book of Business Columbus	2025
<i>Smartest Men in the Room Honoree</i>	
Who's Who in Black Columbus	2024
<i>Most Influential Recognition</i>	
Keys to Black Wealth	2024
<i>Generational Wealth Award</i>	
Columbus Urban League Young Professionals	2024
<i>Celebrate Him Civic Engagement & Leadership Award</i>	
RISE Together Innovation Institute	2024
<i>Bridge Builder Award</i>	
I Am Church	2021
<i>Community Champion Award</i>	
Boy Scouts of America Simon Kenton Council	2019
<i>Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award Honoree</i>	
Radio One Columbus	2019
<i>Future History Maker Honoree</i>	
Columbus Business First	2018
<i>40 Under 40 Honoree</i>	
National Urban League Young Professionals	2018
<i>Distinguished Young Professional</i>	
Columbus Business First	2017
<i>People of the Move</i>	
Who's Who in Black Columbus	2016
<i>Emerging Leader Recognition</i>	

EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Ohio State University – <i>Bachelor of Arts</i>	Focus: Philosophy
Congressional Black Caucus Institute	2019
<i>Political Leadership Development Program</i>	
African American Leadership Academy	2015
<i>Fellow</i>	