

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/gerard-basalla](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gerard-basalla)  
(LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Leadership  
Time Management  
Customer Service

## Honors-Awards

Ohio State Student Alumni Council  
Scholarship  
Man of the Year  
Student Body President of the Year  
Finalist  
AEI Leadership Network 2022  
Millennial Cohort  
40 under 40

# Gerard Basalla

Chief of Staff at the Columbus Partnership  
Columbus, Ohio, United States

## Summary

Gerard C. Basalla is the Chief of Staff at the Columbus Partnership, a membership-based leadership organization of 80 chairpersons, chief executive officers and senior executives from the Region's leading businesses and institutions. The Partnership's members include Fortune 500 CEOs, as well as the leaders of top universities and the world's largest private, nonprofit research and development organization.

In his current role, Basalla leads external stakeholder management and internal strategic execution across the organization while supporting advocacy and engagement strategies in the region. His work includes spearheading initiatives to advance the Columbus Region's economic competitiveness, fostering communication with business leaders and elected officials and guiding external affairs efforts across the 11-county metropolitan area.

Previously, Basalla served as Director of Government Affairs, Director and Associate Director of Public Policy, as well as Special Assistant to former Columbus Partnership President and CEO Alex Fischer.

Before joining the Partnership, Basalla served as Co-Chair of the statewide student effort to re-elect U.S. Senator Rob Portman and interned for both Senator Portman in Washington, D.C., and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine in Columbus. Additionally, Basalla represented 52,000 undergraduate students as the Student Body President at The Ohio State University and was selected to be the first student speaker in school history at the University's 415th commencement ceremony in Ohio Stadium.

Basalla is an Executive Committee member of the Board of Trustees of Opera Columbus and the Downtown Columbus Young Professionals organization. He also serves on the steering committee of Ohio Business for Immigration Solutions, and is

a member of the Columbus Region Coalition and the JobsOhio Network engagement team. He belongs to the Millennial Cohort of the American Enterprise Institute's (AEI) Leadership Network and was named to the Columbus Business First 40 Under 40 Class of 2023.

Basalla is a two-time graduate of The Ohio State University, with a Master of Public Administration and Leadership as well as Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Political Science and Strategic Communication. He resides in the Clintonville neighborhood of Columbus with his wife, Miranda, and son, Howard.

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## Experience

### Columbus Partnership

8 years 3 months

#### Chief of Staff

May 2025 - Present (4 months)

Columbus, Ohio Metropolitan Area

- Partner with the President and CEO to execute the organization's strategic plan, aligning initiatives with the Partnership's mission and member priorities.
- Represent the Partnership in meetings with Fortune 1000 executives, elected officials, and community leaders to strengthen relationships and advance organizational objectives.
- Staff and manage CEO-led strike forces focused on advancing high-impact community priorities.
- Oversee preparation and execution of Tier 1 board meetings, ensuring members are informed, engaged, and equipped to act on strategic priorities.
- Direct cross-functional projects across economic development, public policy, and community affairs, ensuring timely delivery and measurable outcomes.
- Identify and implement process improvements to enhance organizational efficiency and internal communication.
- Serve as liaison between the CEO, senior leadership, staff, and external stakeholders to ensure cohesive messaging and alignment.

### Director, Government Affairs

January 2025 - May 2025 (5 months)

Columbus, Ohio, United States

- Work in concert with the Vice President of Government Affairs with ongoing advocacy efforts, coalition building and the development of legislative updates,

letters of support, legislative testimony and other materials to advance the Columbus Partnership's competitiveness agenda;

- Consistently connect with elected officials and government relations leaders from the Columbus Partnership's 80 companies on the many issues facing the Columbus Region business community as they relate to local, state and federal policy;
- Coordinate funding efforts for the Region's priorities across federal and state government initiatives and budgets;
- Track legislation, political activity and policy trends that could impact the Columbus Region and the Smart Columbus Initiative;
- Serve on the JobsOhio Engagement Network team and help lead the Columbus Region's competitiveness agenda with One Columbus;
- Oversee the Columbus Partnership's Public Policy Fellowship program

#### Director, Public Policy

August 2022 - May 2025 (2 years 10 months)

Columbus, Ohio, United States

#### Associate Director, Public Policy

September 2019 - August 2022 (3 years)

Columbus, Ohio, United States

- Track legislation, political activity and policy trends that could impact the Columbus Region and the Smart Columbus Initiative
- Work with the Vice President of Public Policy with ongoing advocacy efforts, coalition building and the development of legislative updates, letters of support, legislative testimony and other materials to advance the Columbus Partnership's competitiveness agenda;
- Assist in creating the Columbus Region's competitiveness agenda with One Columbus

#### Special Assistant to the President and CEO

June 2017 - September 2019 (2 years 4 months)

Columbus, Ohio Area

- Served as a member of the President/CEO's support staff, participating in high-level discussions related to his duties and the Partnership's economic development mission.
- Performed research and prepared President/CEO materials for various board meetings and events.
- Facilitated communication to external audiences in concert with the President/CEO.

- Worked with the President/CEO to execute the work of the Partnership, including board meetings, annual leadership retreats and Washington D.C. trips.

## The Ohio State University

### Student Body President

April 2016 - April 2017 (1 year 1 month)

Columbus, Ohio Area

- Represented over 52,000 Undergraduate students in high-level academic, financial and policy decisions at The Ohio State University while serving as the chief executive of an organization of 150 members
- Appropriated \$220,000 for programming, promotions and project development across campus
- Priorities included college affordability, diversity and inclusion initiatives and mental health resources
- Advocated for Ohio State students in the local, state and federal governments in higher-education policy

## Rob Portman for Senate

### Co-Chair, Students for Portman

August 2015 - November 2016 (1 year 4 months)

Columbus, Ohio Area

- Served as a Co-Chair of Students for Portman, an influential coalition of Sen. Portman's student supporters across the State of Ohio
- Facilitated many initiatives including coalition outreach, event planning, policy research, advance team work and voter contacts

## U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)

### Intern

May 2016 - June 2016 (2 months)

- Supported the staff that is responsible for the Senator's legislative, press and administrative operations
- Worked alongside staff and witness the internal operations and procedures of the U.S. Senate
- Conducted research, attend briefings, write memos, facilitate tours and work with constituents

## Ohio Attorney General's Office

### Charitable Law Intern

May 2015 - August 2015 (4 months)

Columbus, Ohio Area

- Prepared weekly meetings that include four teams of attorneys, investigators, compliance examiners, supervisors and section chiefs to provide updates on cases in the Attorney General's Charitable Law Section
- Trained, practiced and applied several legal courses taught by the Attorney General's Office

## Cleveland Guardians

### Guest Services

March 2014 - May 2015 (1 year 3 months)

- Attended to Guests' needs, requests, and questions quickly and professionally
- Worked through many relevant policies and procedures of the Ballpark Operations Department, Progressive Field, and The Cleveland Indians
- Provided excellent guest service and ensured any problem or concern a guest may have had was handled quickly, professionally and with positive result
- Monitored and implemented policy and procedure in a polite and respectful manner
- Monitored all public areas of the Ballpark to maintain order and safety while providing the highest level of Guest Service
- Provided direction and assistance to Guests and Visitors
- Provided assistance and attention to Guest with disabilities and special needs
- Monitored the cleanliness of the Ballpark and report any discrepancies
- Resolved ticket problems through the use of set procedures
- Attentively listened to all Guests and answer any question or concern
- Solved any Guest problem or concern through established means

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## Education

John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University  
Master of Public Administration - MPA, Master of Public Administration and Leadership | Specialization: Public Policy · (September 2022 - May 2025)

### The Ohio State University

Bachelor of Arts - BA, Political Science, Strategic Communications · (September 2013 - May 2017)

### St. Edward High School

High School · (2009 - 2013)

