

James E. Sweeney

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Sweeney & Associates, Columbus, Ohio

Principal - January 2017 to present

- Consultancy providing guidance in creative community development, non-profit formation, grant writing, video production and other support services to non-profits and independent artists.

Franklinton Development Association, Community Development Corporation, Columbus, Ohio

Executive Director - October 2002 to August 2016

- Built viable and sustainable grass-roots organization. Led organizational capacity building initiatives including strategic planning, board reorganization and development, resource development planning, succession planning, and all other organizational policy development. Maintained a board of trustees with 51% community representation
- Led neighborhood rebranding campaign replacing "The Bottoms" moniker with that of an affordable and dynamic arts and innovation community. Created the Franklinton Arts District and led several development projects including establishing the Columbus Idea Foundry in Franklinton to build the creative culture and cement the new brand and trajectory of investment.
- Developed the 60,000 square foot Columbus Idea Foundry project and several smaller commercial real estate projects
- Created and implemented neighborhood redevelopment and strategic housing revitalization plans and other strategies including the award winning East Franklinton Creative Community Plan and West Franklinton Plan.
- Developed or co-developed 155 affordable housing units in the low-mod income community of Franklinton using various conventional and affordable housing financing programs, including HOME, NSP, and LIHTC
- Created and managed administrative and construction budgets and expenditures.
- Created productive partnerships with private and public sector interests.
- Represented and advocated for the community and housing interests of Franklinton at federal, state, and local levels.
- Hired, trained and supervised seven staff members plus interns and volunteers.

Homes on The Hill, Community Development Corporation, Columbus, Ohio

Development Planner - July 2001 to June 2002

- Created and evaluated affordable housing development proposals including grant and loan proposals.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus, Ohio

Senior Planner - July 1997 to April 2001

- Created comprehensive land use plans for member municipalities and townships including technical existing condition analysis, community and political support facilitation, and formulation of general and detailed recommendations for all aspects of land use, transportation, environmental, recreation and growth policy.
- Reviewed development plans to determine compliance with various county and township land use, environmental and transportation plans. Presented staff opinion to various review boards and the county commissioners on a monthly basis.

Board Service

- November 2020 - present, Franklinton Special Improvement District
- May 2017 - present, Columbus Landmarks Foundation
- 2005 - 2019, Franklinton Arts District, Founding Member
- 2011 - 2017, Ohio Community Development Corporation Association
- 2012 - 2013, United Way of Central Ohio, Chair, Revitalization and Affordable Housing Committees
- 2004 - 2012, Franklinton Board of Trade
- 2009, Rebuilding Lives Strategic Planning Committee

Awards and Honors

- 2019 Michael B. Coleman, Franklinton Arts Leadership Award
- 2016 Commendation by Columbus City Council
- 2015 Art Partner of the Year by the Greater Columbus Arts Council
- 2015 voted "Community Champion of the Year" by readership of Columbus Underground
- 2009 CDC of the Year by Ohio Community Development Corporation Association

Education

- 1996 The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio - Master of City and Regional Planning
- 1989 Ohio University, Athens, Ohio - Bachelor of Science in Television Production