

Board of Directors



Ashani O'Mard

Senior Vice President, Strategic Housing Investments, Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc.

Ashani O'Mard serves as Senior Vice President of Strategic Housing Investments for the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc (ANDP). In this capacity, she focuses on growing strategic partnerships needed to enhance ANDP's ability to buy, hold, acquire, and develop land to achieve its mission and sustainability. Ashani previously served as ANDP's Senior Director of Capital Development for 7 years, with oversight of charitable contributions and capital investments. Prior to joining ANDP, Ashani served as the Founding Executive Director of the Atlanta Affordable Housing Fund for two years, leading the charge in raising \$15MM for a closed-end social impact fund and identifying opportunities to invest flexible, low-cost capital into transformative affordable housing solutions for metro Atlantans. Ashani's professional background also includes extensive experience in affordable housing development while working as a Project Manager for private developers in Cincinnati and Boston.



Brian Goebel

Managing Director, Business & Society Institute at Emory University, Goizueta School of Business

Brian Goebel serves as the Managing Director of the Business & Society Institute, an academic research center with a mission to transform business to build a more equitable and climate-smart world. Brian oversees the institute's collection of innovative fieldwork programs and student activities that boost neighborhood vitality in Atlanta through microbusiness development (Start:ME Accelerator), strengthen coffee grower communities in Latin America through women's empowerment (Grounds for Empowerment), and develop the next generation of principled social enterprise leaders through experiential learning (Social Enterprise Fellows). He also serves as a course instructor for both Nonprofit Management (graduate) and Philanthropy Lab (undergraduate).



Catherine Covington

Managing Director and Chief Business Development Officer, MCE Social Capital

Catherine joined MCE in September 2017 and is responsible for stewarding and growing MCE's investor, donor, and Guarantor community as well as overseeing MCE's marketing and communications function. Aside from a brief stint in public accounting, she has spent her entire career in the fields of philanthropy and impact investing. Prior to MCE, she was the Senior Manager, Client Engagement at RSF Social Finance where she managed their donor advised fund program, led strategy for investor/donor cultivation and stewardship, and designed and successfully completed RSF's first multi-million-dollar programmatic capital campaign. Earlier in her career, she worked with and advised public charities, private foundations

and philanthropists in her previous roles at the Tides Foundation, SunTrust Bank, and the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. She received her B.S. in Business from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and in 2020, relocated back to Atlanta with her family after a decade in San Francisco.



Jeff Woodward
Attorney, Taylor English Duma LLP

Jeff Woodward is a corporate lawyer with Taylor English in Atlanta, Georgia where he represents small to medium businesses (SMB's) in a variety of corporate matters, including formation, capital raising, mergers and acquisitions, strategic partnerships, and commercial contracting. Jeff has developed a practice representing social entrepreneurs and impact investors and is involved in the passage of B-corporation legislation in Georgia. Additionally, Jeff has more than 20 years of experience advising private foundations and public charities on a variety of matters, including PRI/MRI investments, and developing sustainable for-profit subsidiaries of tax-exempt organizations. He has founded three nonprofit companies, Attest Capital Resources, a third-party fiscal sponsor facilitating blended capital flow into social enterprises and disaster relief funds, Community Redevelopment Inc., a community-based housing redevelopment company, and the Atlanta Community Tool Bank, a national distributor of tools and materials to nonprofits and disaster areas. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and is a founding board member of Village Capital and the Georgia Social Impact Collaborative.



John Hardman
Managing Director, WoodLeaf Partners

John Hardman is the Managing Director of WoodLeaf Partners, a purpose driven investment and business advisory and management group. Prior to his work with WoodLeaf, John served in various leadership and executive positions across industries, including working within family offices, running a venture capital fund with investments across 5 continents, managing operations for early stage and growth companies, practicing corporate and real estate law, participating in management training within the financial management services vertical of a large regional bank, and teaching school in the Dominican Republic. In addition to his GSIC board service, John serves on the Trust for Public Land's Georgia Advisory Board, Georgia Cities Foundation Board of Directors, the Deans Council for the Rollins School of Public Health, The Carter Center Ambassador Circle, Chattahoochee Now Board of Directors, Drawdown Georgia Leadership Council.



Jonny Newburgh
Senior Loan Officer, Primary Care Development Corporation

Jonny works on the investment team at Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC), a nonprofit that provides capital financing, expertise, and advocacy to expand primary care access and advance health equity in communities that need it most. Prior to joining PCDC, Jonny worked as a Loan Officer, Community Facilities with Low Income Investment Fund, Associate Director, Impact Investments for Habitat for Humanity

International, and as Impact Investment Associate with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta's GoATL Fund. Jonny started his career in the public sector and spent time working with the Brookings Institution and the US Department of Agriculture. In addition to his board position with GSIC, Jonny also serves as the Loan Committee Co-Chair for Jewish Interest-Free Loan Association of Georgia.



Khaliff Davis

Managing Director, Structured Lending & Investments, Reinvestment Fund

Khaliff Davis currently serves as the Managing Director, Structured Lending & Investments at Reinvestment Fund, a national CDFI lending in Atlanta. In this role, Khaliff leads the management and oversight of the registered investment management platform, designed to drive equitable financing impact beyond the firm's core balance sheet. He has contributed to Reinvestment Fund's deployment of \$200M in catalytic capital in the Southeast. Khaliff's field leadership efforts also include support for Reinvestment Fund's Growing Diverse Housing Developers initiative. He was selected by the Center for Community Investment as a Fulcrum Fellows.



Latresa McLawhorn Ryan

Founder & CEO, Blackbird Strategy Group

Prior to founding Blackbird Strategy Group, LaTresa served as the founding Executive Director of the Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative (AWBI). Under her leadership, AWBI developed as an ecosystem hub serving as a think tank, data engine, community convener, funder, and philanthropic and community development advisor launching its signature Advancing Enterprise Prosperity: 1,000 Black Businesses in 1,000 Days campaign to empower businesses with assets and tools to grow and scale while paying employees a living wage. Before joining AWBI, Latresa was a Vice President within SunTrust Bank's Foundations and Endowments Specialty Practice. Her expertise helped families, nonprofits, and foundation clients maximize the impact of their assets to support and align with their missions and personal goals. Prior to joining SunTrust in 2014, Latresa was the Director of the Office of Partnerships and Global Vice President of Strategic Partnerships & Development at Operation HOPE.



Mandy Eidson

Director of Business Development and Community Engagement, Self-Help Federal Credit Union

Mandy Eidson is the Director of Business Development and Community Engagement at Self-Help Federal Credit Union. Prior to joining Self-Help, Eidson worked for nearly ten years at the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership (ANDP) – first as a Development and Loan Fund Associate and then as the Director of ANDP's Loan Fund. Mandy is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and the 4CITIES Erasmus Mundus Master's in Urban Studies program. Mandy is active in Georgia's nonprofit sector. She is Chair of HOPE Atlanta's Young Professionals Board as well as the Service Committee Chair for the Atlanta chapter of the Women's Affordable Housing Network.



Mark Crosswell
Founder, Converge Capital

Mark is a social entrepreneur with experience in working with social enterprises and philanthropic organizations to develop impact investment strategies designed to achieve an organization's social impact goals. Mark is the Founder of Converge Capital, a social impact and impact investing advisory practice. Previously, Mark served as Managing Director of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta's social impact strategy and the GoATL Evolution initiative, a series of impact-focused funds that invest debt and equity capital to address social outcomes across a diverse range of impact areas. Prior to joining CFGA, Mark ran venture development for the Civic Accelerator, a program of Points of Light, a national nonprofit. He also serves or has served in various leadership roles on the boards of GSIC, Georgia Grantmakers Alliance, RH Dobbs, Jr. Foundation and is often a speaker, or advisor, for various regional and national impact investment initiatives.



Ron Alston
Senior Vice President, Not-for-Profit & Government Banking, Truist Bank

Ron Alston has worked in various leadership positions with Truist Bank (formerly SunTrust) for over 35 years. Today, Ron is the Senior Vice President of not-for-profit and government banking for the Georgia Region of Truist Financial Corp. Prior to his current role, Ron served as Atlanta Market President, Senior Vice President, Credit Risk Manager, and Vice President of the Credit Department. Beyond his professional work, Ron is active in both the Georgia community and the broader impact investing field. He serves on the boards of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, Harmonia Atlanta, Partners for Home, and the YMCA of Metro Atlanta. Ron previously served as the Board Chair for RSF Social Finance.



Sam Moss
Executive in Residence, Emory University, Goizueta Business School

Sam is a retired banking, finance, and investments professional. His previous professional roles include Senior Director of Finance for the East Lake Foundation and Cousins Foundation, President of Gray Matters Capital, Managing Director of Gray Ghost Ventures, and Managing Director of Wachovia Bank. Since retiring, Sam has continued to support philanthropic, nonprofit, entrepreneurs, and innovative investment vehicles through his consulting practice, Impact Advisory Services. Sam also serves as Executive in Residence for Emory University's Goizueta Business School. Sam is a founding GSIC board member.



Suzanna Stribling
Executive Director, Wilbur & Hilda Glenn Family Foundation

Suzanna Stribling has served the Foundation since 2010. Suzanna's career in philanthropy and nonprofits extends beyond her time at Glenn. Prior to joining Glenn, Suzanna held several positions at Philanthropy Southeast and served as the founding director of the Georgia Center for Nonprofits. In addition to her board role with Georgia

Social Impact Collaborative, Suzanna has served on numerous boards and is a member of Leadership Atlanta and Leadership Georgia.



Sydney Hulebak

Senior Impact Investment Manager, GoATL Fund, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

Sydney Hulebak is the Senior Impact Investment Manager at the Community Foundation, where she manages the GoATL Community Capacity Fund – a fund investing in the region’s most innovative and impactful intermediaries. Prior to the Foundation, Sydney worked in operations for an impact-oriented family office, ran a grassroots organization focused on building an impact investing ecosystem and spent time working in the fields of social enterprise and philanthropy. Active in the Atlanta community, Sydney is the Vice-Chair of the Dad’s Garage board.



Dr. Thelma Adams Johnson

President & CEO, Albany Community Together (ACT!)

Since 2002, Dr. Thelma Adams Johnson has been the President and CEO of Albany Community Together, Inc. (ACT!), a Georgia-based CDFI. Under her leadership, ACT! has provided over \$9M in capital, leveraged more than \$27 million in private funds, and assisted in creating or retaining 1,032 jobs in Southwest Georgia. Beyond her role with ACT!, Thelma also serves as a judge for the Spark Tank Pitch Competition, a member of Georgia State’s Capital Absorption working group and a member of the African-American Alliance of CDFIs CEOs. Thelma’s impact extends to various roles, including being an adjunct professor, Board Chair of Downtown Development Authority, and board member of several organizations. Recognized as a Southwest Georgia 40 under 40 honoree and SBA Financial Champion, Thelma has over 20 years of experience in nonprofit management and economic development. In 2018, she received the SunTrust Foundation’s ‘Lighting the Way’ award for her tireless community efforts.

Program Committee



December Thompson

AVP, Market Manager GA/AL, TruFund Financial Services

December Thompson is the Assistant Vice President and Market Manager for Georgia and Alabama at TruFund Financial Services, a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) dedicated to expanding access to capital for underserved entrepreneurs and small businesses. In this role, she leads strategic initiatives to promote inclusive economic growth and financial empowerment across the Southeast. Before joining TruFund, Thompson held several key positions within the City of Atlanta’s Department of City Planning. She served as Grant Services Manager, overseeing housing finance programs and entitlement

operations. Earlier, she was a Housing Development Specialist, Senior, where she managed affordable housing projects, including design planning and financial analysis. December is an alumna of Clark Atlanta University, an HBCU located in Atlanta, GA.



Gretchen Blankinship

Grants & Account Manager, Accion Opportunity Fund

Gretchen Blankinship serves as a Grants & Account Manager at Accion Opportunity Fund, a national community development financial institution providing affordable loans, educational resources, coaching, and thriving networks for underserved small businesses across the country. Prior to joining the Accion, Gretchen worked as a consultant to nonprofits and philanthropic foundations at Arabella Advisors, one of the country's leading nonprofit strategy and support services firms. Gretchen's professional experiences also involve work in the public policy and affordable housing spaces. Gretchen holds a BA the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.



Katie Chastain

Special Projects Coordinator, Thomasville Community Development Corporation

Katie Chastain is an educator and entrepreneur interested in how entrepreneurial thinking can improve communities. As an independent project partner in Thomasville, GA, she works with partners like the Thomasville Community Development Corporation, Georgia Tech's Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISM), Imagine Thomasville to implement creative solutions to tough challenges. Her current projects include helping childcare providers scale up to meet community needs, establishing a community development loan fund (InvestTVL), building awareness and skill development opportunities for high-demand, developing high-wage career paths and retrofitting a beloved historically black school for affordable independent senior living. She currently serves as Board Chair at the Vashti Center.



Kelsey Brantley

Program Manager, Atlanta Emerging Markets Initiative, Invest Atlanta

Kelsey Brantley is the Program Manager for the Atlanta Emerging Markets Initiative (AEMI) at Invest Atlanta, where she oversees impact lending programs and supports the deployment of New Markets Tax Credits. Her work focuses on revitalizing underserved communities through strategic financial investments. In addition to her role at Invest Atlanta, Kelsey serves as the Partnership Liaison with the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office and leads Leapbound Capital, Invest Atlanta Partnership's emerging Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). She has previously served as the Interim Executive Director of the Invest Atlanta Partnership and has advised public-private partnerships across the Southeast, supported economic development initiatives throughout Georgia, and facilitated comprehensive community engagement efforts. Kelsey holds a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech. She is a Fulbright grant recipient who conducted research on post-conflict community reconstruction in Mitrovicë,

Kosovo. She is also a graduate of the LEAD Atlanta Class of 2023 and a member of the inaugural Atlanta Hawks SheLEADS program.



Kelsey Russell
Advisor, Brighter Investing

Kelsey Ehlers Russell is an Advisor at Brighter Investing, a firm specializing in sustainable and impact-focused investment strategies. In her role, she provides guidance on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) investing, portfolio management, and financial planning, aiming to align clients' investment goals with their values. Prior to joining Brighter Investing, Kelsey worked at The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, where she held roles that contributed to her expertise in corporate strategy and social impact. Following her tenure at Coca-Cola, she joined REMERGE, a nonprofit organization in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn neighborhood, dedicated to fostering belonging among the city's most economically vulnerable populations. At REMERGE, she engaged directly with unhoused neighbors and developed programs aimed at systemic change. Kelsey holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, where she focused on sustainable finance and impact investing.



Matt Paschall
Executive Director, EQ Housing Advisors, Inc.

Matt Paschall serves as the Executive Director at EQ Housing Advisors, an Atlanta-based non-profit investment firm focused on innovative affordable and workforce housing solutions that transform communities. Prior to joining EQ Housing Advisors, Matt worked in various capacities at Baker Tilly US, LLP. Matt started as a Financial Analyst & New Business Development Strategist – Emerging Developer Services, and his leadership at Baker Tilly grew into a role as the National Program Director of DevelUP program. In this role, Matt ensured that Baker Tilly's advisory, thought leadership, convening efforts met the needs of underrepresented entrepreneurs and the communities they serve. Matt was a central figure in the creation and execution of DevelUp's Annual Conference – an important thought leadership event for real estate development professionals and investors coming together to ensure that racial equity and community voice are considered in real estate development. Matt serves as an Advisory Board Member & Chair - Etkin Scholars Program at the Urban Land Institute – Atlanta. Matt holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in real estate from the University of Wisconsin Madison.



Michael Belles
Co-Founder and Manager, Catalyze

Michael Belles is the co-founder of Catalyze, which works to democratize access to capital, networks, and resources for entrepreneurs. In his role, he manages annual convenings for first-time fund managers, Catalyze's Runway Fund, and cultivates external partnerships. He also developed the Innovative Finance Playbook, a digital resource that aims to make information surrounding innovative and non-traditional financing methods more accessible to a greater diversity of entrepreneurs. Before Catalyze, he held various

roles in impact-focused investment organizations, including at a private equity investment firm focused on opportunity zones and a community development finance institution. Michael's past professional experiences include roles with Blueprint Local, DreamSpring, GoAbroad, and Village Capital. Michael is a well-respected thought leader in the impact investing space and was selected as a 2024-2025 Obama Foundation USA Leader. He holds a B.A. from Emory University.



Sarah McKinney
President & CEO, Athens Area Community Foundation

Sarah McKinney began serving the Athens Area Community Foundation as President | CEO in March 2017. When she accepted the position, she was the Director of Development for the Georgia 4-H Foundation at the University of Georgia. Prior to her work with Georgia 4-H, Sarah served the Athens Community Council on Aging for fifteen years, beginning as an intern in college, and leaving having successfully created and filled the first position of Director of Development. Sarah graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. She continued her education with a Certificate of Gerontology from Kennesaw State University, a Certificate of Leadership from the University of Dayton, and Certificates of Basic and Advanced Nonprofit Financial Management from Duquesne University's Nonprofit Leadership Institute.



Wesley Myrick
Executive Director, Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center

Wesley E. Myrick is the Executive Director of the Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center (The Center), where he leads a statewide mission to unite Georgia's diverse faith communities in advocating for the common good. Known for his strategic insight and ability to connect seemingly unrelated people and processes, Wesley works tirelessly to amplify faith voices in critical policy discussions on issues ranging from affordable housing to justice reform. Before joining GIPPC, Wesley served in Atlanta's city government, where he specialized in housing policy and collaborated closely with faith-based organizations under the leadership of Mayor Andre Dickens. An Atlanta native and advocate for community engagement, Wesley serves on several boards, including Common Market Southeast, where he helps connect small and mid-sized family farms to sustainable markets, and the Interdenominational Theological Center, supporting historically Black theological education in Atlanta's AUC Center. Wesley holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Georgia State University, a master's degree in international Affairs from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Master of Legal Studies from Arizona State University Law School.