

VANESSA Y. WHITE, PHD, MBA

Administrative leadership in:
Strategy Development
Organizational Development
Relationship Management
Budgeting and Finance
Program Development

Expertise in:
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Results Based Facilitation
Process Improvement
Public Engagement
Research

Experience in:
Training/Coaching
Fundraising
Public Speaking
Written Communication
Policy and Advocacy

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Reliable strategic thought leader and experienced professional, with a PhD and MBA. Distinguished performance in organizational development, strategic planning, problem-solving, systems change, process improvement, diversity, equity & inclusion, community engagement, relationship building, and talent development. Consistently demonstrates a differentiating value add. Range of experience includes human services, child and family advocacy, education youth development, parent and community engagement, arts, nonprofit management and community development.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

VANTAGE CONSULTING GROUP, LLC

Sep 2017– present

Brings excellent analytical and connect-the-dots thinking to assist organizations and communities with strategic planning and program development. Using evidence-based practices, research, coaching, training, and results-based facilitation, works with organizational leadership as well as grassroots leaders to develop strategies and infrastructures that advance shared goals and increase impact. Areas of focus include economic mobility, educational excellence and equitable neighborhood and community development.

Principal Consultant, Building the Engine Equitable Development in Detroit

Aug 2019 – Nov 2020

Led the Building the Engine non-profit coalition to establish a permanent governance structure and roadmap for collective impact through strategic planning, coaching, process improvement and results-based facilitation. Developed toolkit with strategies and approaches to advance organizational goals of becoming more equitable and inclusive in its community economic development impact.

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER SOUTHWESTERN OHIO

Senior Vice President of Strategy & Advocacy

Nov 2019 – June 2020

Developed frameworks, strategies, and partnerships to strengthen programs for low-income residents and expand programs designed to grow a black middle class. Strengthened organizational operations. Oversaw strategic information technology transformation. Developed community engagement and advocacy strategies and tools. Secured Youth and Excellence grant to train parents to advocate for student needs.

OFFICE OF CINCINNATI COUNCILMAN GREG LANDSMAN

Chief of Staff

Jan 2018 – Nov 2019

Planned, organized, managed, directed day-to-day operations. Built coalitions among elected officials, city administrators and residents to drive effective policy change. Developed strategies to move a wide range of issues and policies forward. Conducted research and analysis on issues and topics affecting the city, especially its most vulnerable residents, primarily Black and low-income. Led the establishment of the Children and Families Cabinet and the development of eviction prevention and affordable housing practices and policies.

CINCINNATI PRESCHOOL PROMISE

Director of Operations

Apr 2017 – Dec 2017

Directed the day-to-day coordination of Cincinnati Preschool Promise (CPP) activities to expand high-quality preschool coverage across Cincinnati by including community-based providers, mostly owned or managed by Black females, thus creating a more equitable childcare ecosystem. Supervised the Quality Improvement Manager, Parent & Provider Relations Manager and Participant Relations Specialist and Enrollment and Data Manager. Ensured that CPP achieved its stated start up goals.

Project Implementation Lead

Jan 2016 – Mar 2017

Served as primary point person responsible for establishing the foundational infrastructure for the new publicly funded organization. Developed organizational budget. Hired and onboarded new staff. Lead provider engagement and training. Provided thought leadership for the implementation of preschool enrollment and quality improvement programs. Designed and implemented community engagement strategies, including targeted plan for parent recruitment in high-need areas. Oversaw communication group in creation of all marketing collateral.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Program Director

Sept 2015 – Feb 2016

Directed the implementation of all components of the Emerging Healthcare Leaders Pathway program designed to increase the number of students of color enrolled in the university’s nursing program. Wrote successful grant renewal to extend the program for second cycle.

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER CINCINNATI

Vice President of Youth Services

Jan 2015 – Sept 2015

Directed operations with supervisory responsibility of employees in programs related to youth in education, employment, career development and workforce readiness.

STRIVEPARTNERSHIP

Consultant

Jan 2014 – Nov 2016

Led the strategy and public engagement for a successful ballot initiative that ensured that low-income preschool aged children received two years of quality early children education. Negotiated the agreement establishing the governance structure for the start up Cincinnati Preschool Promise.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Graduate Assistantship, School of Education

Aug 2013- May 2015

Served as the professor for four semesters. Taught course for the breadth of knowledge course, Introduction to Education, to first year students who were primarily education majors. Coordinated and oversaw field placements in urban school districts.

ARTSWAVE (formerly the Fine Arts Fund)

Vice President of Community Engagement & Partnerships

Sept 2009 – June 2011

Provided thought leadership, vision, insight, and strategy to ArtsWave CEO, staff and Board. Supported ArtsWave’s diversity and inclusion and external relationship building with a variety of constituencies. Oversaw strategic initiatives that fulfilled the Board’s imperative to connect with Black and other communities of color. Advanced a strategic plan for community engagement and special initiatives for arts education and multicultural arts. Built strong community partnerships that resulted in successful outcomes through these focused initiatives. Created and implemented the Multicultural Arts Capacity Building Program to expanded capacity of existing multicultural arts programs and organizations. Leveraged community dialogues to deepen engagement with diverse segments of the community.

Director of Community Engagement & Strategic Initiatives

Nov 2005 – Sept 2009

Provided leadership and support to staff and Board on external relationship building with a variety of constituencies. Contributed thought leadership, decision-making frameworks, and business judgment to keep focus of the organization’s strategic priorities. Developed funding proposals that resulted in a multi-year grants totaling more than a \$1 million in support. Created a capacity-building program to support diverse arts organizations by building solid business models that increased their capacity and sustainability.

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

- Adoption Information Center- Adoption Liaison Manager
- Lydia Home- Foster Care Case Manager
- Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services- Foster Care Case Manager
- Children’s Home of Cincinnati- Residential Treatment Caseworker

CIVIC LEADERSHIP:

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Member

Jan 2010– Dec 2013

Established district's strategic direction and educational goals; evaluated the performance of superintendent and treasurer; adopted annual budget; made policy. Oversaw board development process. Served as Vice President and Finance Chair. Served as Ohio School Board Association Trustee. Increased public participation in Board proceedings by holding meetings in community locations. Convened the Family and Civic Engagement Team. One of seven members elected to four-year terms, developed effective campaign strategy to become the only non-incumbent elected from among 13 candidates.

PARENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS/GREATER CINCINNATI

Board President

Jan 2005 – Oct 2009

Led the Board in defining new strategic focus and implementing initiatives to train and develop parents including the Parent Leadership Institute established fiscal stability, and diversified board membership. Led fundraising and grant-writing campaign that resulted in more than \$1 million in new revenue. Established new collaborations and partnerships with school district and other key partners and constituents. Served as a member of the National board.

EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services
Doctor of Philosophy, Educational Studies

XAVIER UNIVERSITY, Williams College of Business, Cincinnati, OH
Master of Business Administration

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services
Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Executive Leadership Coaching, 2020-21

I²S² Continuous Improvement Training, 2018-19

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Results Based Facilitation, 2018-19

StriveTogether Cradle to Career National Network

ImpactU Quality Improvement Science Training, 2017-18

StrivePartnership/Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Hamilton County Commission on Women & Girls, January 2019-present

Cincinnati NAACP, 2nd Vice President December, 2020); Executive Committee, January 2016-present

Cincinnati Promise Forward, Board Member, August 2016-present

Cincinnati Preschool Promise, Board Member, August 2017-present

Upspring, Board Member, May 2015-October 2016

National Black MBA Association, Member, 2004-2018

Lighthouse Youth Services, Board Member, 2008-2012

African American Leadership Development Program, Urban League, 2008-2009

WE Lead, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's women's leadership development program, Class 2007-08

Xavier Women's MBA Group, Vice President of Community Relations, 2007-2009

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Dada Rafiki Honoree, 2016

Nefertiti Award, 2014

Who's Who in Black Cincinnati, 2007