

Carla Walker

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Education and Training:

- **Harvard University**, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Masters of Public Administration, 2003
- **University of Florida**, Masters of Science, Environmental Science, 1996
- **University of Cincinnati**, Bachelors of Science, Biology, 1990

Research and Professional Experience:

US Director, Environmental Justice & Equity, 06/2021–Present

World Resources Institute

- Spearheading the development of WRI-US's strategy for equity, environmental justice, and just transition in the context of climate change.
- Design and lead execution of equity strategies for the Electric School Bus Initiative, a 5-year \$30 million dollar project to jumpstart the equitable transition of the US school bus fleet to electric.

Climate Advisor, City of Cincinnati, 5/2019–06/2021

Natural Resources Defense Council

- Led development, design, and implementation of initiatives to advance municipal carbon emissions reduction goals in building and transportation sectors through the American Cities Climate Challenge.
- Coordinated national project partner engagement, presented programs at conferences, oversaw program communications, and led project teams of professionals across City Departments.
- Designed and managed public awareness platform to educate 10,000 residents on the benefits of EVs.
- Negotiated MOU between Cincinnati and Duke Energy Ohio for \$1.5M fund to provide energy efficiency programs to low-income Cincinnati renters over 5 years.
- Designed and managed suite of energy efficiency programs for low-income renters and multifamily building owners delivering education, in-unit upgrades, and bill assistance to reduce energy burden.
- Designed EV Ambassador program that trains volunteers into EV thought leaders and influencers.
- Designed and supported execution of 5-part Racial Equity Analysis and Review setting foundation for city's 2023 climate strategy.

Founder/CEO, 6/2010–5/2019

think BIG strategies

- Established a management consultancy that utilizes a services platform integrating advocacy, stakeholder engagement, communications, and public relations to bring game-changing initiatives to life. Managed partnerships and led project teams through inception to execution and monitoring, resulting in highly successful outcomes.
- Led an expert equity-focused advisory committee in transforming a regional water coalition, advocating for Federal funding to restore the Great Lakes. Successfully integrated equity strategy and principles in operations, processes, and outreach to 150+ members, leading to a significant increase in member satisfaction and engagement.
- Managed a highly diverse and multicultural team for ONE Campaign Africa that was responsible for delivering 'Poverty is Sexist' policy asks at Africa Union Summit, World Economic Forum-Africa,
- Spearheaded public engagement initiatives to gather community leader input for the development of revised plans, services, and operations for the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority. This initiative was instrumental in laying the foundation for the Reinventing Metro strategic plan.

- Conceptualized, produced, and organized the first-ever 'Black Flowers' virtual event, which showcased Black and Brown voices and experiences and advanced climate change issues in Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky.
- Co-led a coalition of business, academia, and civil society leaders in a comprehensive two-year examination of the regional poverty crisis. The effort resulted in a 10-year strategy with recommendations for investment and community engagement to tackle the issue head-on.

Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, 12/2005–6/2010

City of Cincinnati, OH

- Spearheaded the successful transition of a new Administration and delivered the Mayor's vision for transforming the city through large-scale initiatives, resulting in a significant enhancement of the city's image, atmosphere for business development, and connection to global networks. Managed day-to-day operations with a budget of \$500K, overseeing Communications, Constituent Outreach, Legislative, and Administration staff.
- Achieved the City's signing of the US Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and served on the Climate Protection Steering Committee, which created the City's initial Green Cincinnati Action Plan, resulting in significant progress towards environmental sustainability.
- Positioned the city as a leader and led the Mayor to the forefront of national attention on Census, Public Safety, and environmental sustainable development issues.
- Played a key role in reconstituting the Office of Environmental Quality and the Planning Department after they were previously zero-funded and eliminated by the previous Administration, resulting in a stronger environmental focus and planning infrastructure for the City.

US Deputy Campaign Director, 8/2003–12/2005

ONE.ORG

- Recruited to rebuild local partnerships in 7 targeted states and manage campaign that successfully advocated for the largest Congressional funding increase for development assistance in 40 years. Built national field operation. Recruited, trained, and managed 10-member team that grew support base from 100,000 to 2 million in 8 months.
- Developed and managed national campaign strategy mobilizing 5 thought leader groups in 10 regions.
- Designed and oversaw execution of monthly themed events to mobilized public on US G8 and US Live8.
- Organized and led delegation of 100 volunteer advocates to participate in 2005 G8 Summit. Directed actions for coalition partners who advocated global leaders to support historical G8 agreement.

Publications:

- [EquitableGreenInfrastructure-9-24-2020.pdf \(northcentralwater.org\)](#) (2020)
- [Voting Rights Are Fundamental to Democracy and Climate Justice | World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#) (2021)
- [How Prepared Are US Cities to Implement the Justice40 Initiative? | World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#) (2022)
- [Justice40 Initiative: Integrating Environmental Justice into US Climate Policy | World Resources Institute \(wri.org\)](#) (2023)
- [Comment: Here's how Biden can fulfil his promise that 40% of climate funds will go to America's poorest neighborhoods | Reuters](#) (2023)