

# MARYSUE BARRETT

President | Public & Private Partnership Leader | Policy Changemaker | DEI Champion

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**Results-driven, high-energy strategist who leverages civic experience and policy acumen to drive social and economic advancement through ethical decision-making and objective leadership.**

**Successful track record delivering innovative solutions to systemic, complex problems spanning water infrastructure, transportation, affordable housing, tax policy, social equity, and environmental sustainability.**

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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### EXECUTIVE & CIVIC LEADERSHIP

- **Led the transformation of an independent, 87-year-old civic organization, the Metropolitan Planning Council of Chicago, into a widely respected national policy change agent** via cutting-edge research, proven partnerships, and effective advocacy
- **Redesigned problem-solving from the top-down and bottom-up**, applying a *whatever-it-takes* mentality utilizing grit, resiliency, and creativity to lead cross-functional, cross-organizational teams to deliver right-sized solutions
- **Executed successful policies and program turnarounds** by developing and employing cost-effective, sustainable, and equitable solutions to long-standing metropolitan challenges, earning local and national recognition
- **Developed and enacted a multi-medium communications strategy** to share and support solutions that are economically feasible and culturally attuned to support diverse, multi-generational communities

### CULTURAL & ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

- **Cultural Transformation.** Brokered systematic action through data-driven storytelling and relatable narratives for media, community leaders, and influencers. Skillfully illuminated local and personal impacts to fuel the case for change
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Leader.** Increased employee and community engagement as a champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across internal and external initiatives, events, and policies
- **Strategic Partnerships.** Spearheaded the creation of mutually beneficial public-private partnership models to expand capacity and anchor implementation

## CIVIC LEADERSHIP

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**Brookings Metro**, Nonresident Senior Fellow

**IFF** (a Midwest Community Development Finance Institution), Board Member

**Current Water** (a catalyst to solve pressing water challenges), Board Member

**Edgar Fellows** (bipartisan leadership program), Advisory Board

**Illinois Justice Project**, Advisory Board

## FELLOWSHIPS

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**Rockefeller Foundation**, 2009

**British American Project**, 2003

**Aspen Institute**, 2001

**Chicago Council on Global Affairs**, 1997

**International Women's Forum**, 1996

**American Council on Germany**, 1996

**Leadership Greater Chicago**, 1994

## EXPERTISE

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### EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

P&L, Budgeting & Forecasting

Strategic Planning & Execution

Organizational Transformation

### CIVIC & SOCIAL POLICY

Policy Advocacy

Research & Evaluation

Due Diligence, Analysis & Insight

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Strategic Partnerships

Storytelling & Communications

Influencer Identification

### INNOVATION

Cross-Industry Initiatives

Team Building

Replication & Advocacy

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL OF CHICAGO (MPC)

1996-2021

*An independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves communities and residents by developing, promoting, and implementing solutions for sound regional growth.*

#### PRESIDENT

- Delivered 4X revenue growth, diversified the income base, and set organization on track for \$4.5M+ in FY 2021
- Stewarded dozens of trust-based relationships with foundations, corporations, and individuals; leveraged a \$4M institutional grant (MacArthur Foundation) to raise \$5M more, creating organization's first endowment, now a \$16M investment portfolio
- Partnered closely with a 60-member Board of Governors, five operating committees, and five program committees, incorporating diverse perspectives to forge positions, take risks, and evolve strategic priorities
- Increased diversity and inclusion across the organization; deepened racial diversity by 30% at the staff level, achieved 48% representation of people of color at the management level; increased female representation at the Board level by 45%
- Inspired bold ideas, bringing diverse voices together to solve complex challenges facing urban areas; enacted pioneering programs and policies, including employer-assisted housing, planning blueprints, Great Rivers Chicago, the Cost of Segregation, and the #BustedCommute social media campaign
- Identified and promoted solutions to inter-related, multi-faceted community problems by researching, developing, and publicizing fiscally responsible and sustainable policies to tackle social, economic, and educational obstacles
- Recognized as a persuasive communicator who fosters coordinated action; experienced media spokesperson; engaging keynote speaker and writer of opinion pieces
- Recruited and developed entrepreneurial employees who reflect metro Chicago's diversity; grew staff from 10 to 30 full-time employees plus fellows and consultants; mentored staff, many of whom have advanced to pivotal external leadership roles
- Fostered trust-based community alliances to attract multi-sector, multi-racial audiences of 1,600+ individuals to organizational events

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR – CITY OF CHICAGO

1989-1996

*The office was held by Richard M. Daley, 54<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Chicago, who served from 1989 to 2011.*

#### CHIEF OF POLICY ('93-'96) | DEP DIRECTOR, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS ('91-'93) | ASST TO THE MAYOR ('89-'91)

- Served as a senior advisor, spearheading community economic development, public safety, and education policy
- Coordinated innovation teams spanning 40 departments and seven city agencies; built alliances with external partners in academia and foundations
- Planned and executed Chicago's successful bid to host the 1996 Democratic National Convention
- Guided 1995 governance and operational overhaul of Chicago Public Schools
- Coordinated development of City of Chicago's legislative agenda, supervising staff and consultants at state and local levels
- Liaison to Mayor's Washington, D.C. office to enact a bipartisan federal agenda
- Shepherded hundreds of early mayoral appointments to board and commissions and legislative reforms, including creation of the Office of Inspector General
- Initiated national best practices forum with U.S. Conference of Mayors

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

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**Chicago ROAR**, Regional Organizing for Antiracism | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training

2019–2020

**Harvard Business School**, Boston, MA

2006

Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Seminar

**Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL

1986

Bachelor of Science, Communications

## AFFILIATIONS & RECOGNITION

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One Million Degrees, Coach	2020-Present
The Night Ministry, Volunteer	2018-Present
Commercial Club of Chicago	2017-Present
University of Chicago Harris School Leadership, Guest Lecturer – Chicago Seminars	2010-Present
Leadership Greater Chicago, Class of 1994 Fellow & Former Board Member	1993-Present
The Chicago Network, Member, Nonprofit Subcommittee, Former Board Member	1996-Present
Economic Club of Chicago	1995-Present
Crain's Chicago Business 40 Under 40, Recipient	1994

## APPEARANCES, WRITING, AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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Metropolitan Planning Council's Virtual Annual Event "Better Together"   <a href="#">Video</a>	2021
"Modernizing Illinois' Transportation Infrastructure,"   <a href="#">Crain's Chicago Business Transportation Event</a>	2021
"Investment in City Infrastructure is an Investment in America's Future," Co-author   <a href="#">The Hill</a>	2021
Reflecting on MPC's Accomplishments Amidst a Tough Year   <a href="#">MPC</a>	2020
"What We Do Writes the Future Chicago Needs," Author   <a href="#">Crain's Chicago Business</a>	2020
Equity in Action: How the Univ. of Chicago Became a Trailblazer on Diversity in Professional Svcs   <a href="#">MPC Blog</a>	2020
Preserving Affordability Together: Blueprint for Community Action (E. Garfield Park)   <a href="#">MPC</a>	2020
"Connected to Chicago" Needed Revenues and Reforms, Interview with Bill Cameron   <a href="#">WLS Radio</a>	2019
"The Next Drivers of Prosperity" Pan with John Rogers   <a href="#">Aspen Institute's Latinos &amp; Society Program</a>	2018
What Does Illinois Face When It Comes to the Federal Infrastructure Plan, <a href="#">WGN Radio: The Download</a>	2018
"Chicago's Success Must Be Bigger Than the Downtown Boom," Co-author   <a href="#">Crain's Chicago Business</a>	2018
Economic Inequality, Interview with Craig Dellimore   <a href="#">WBBM News Radio: At Issue</a>	2018
"After 20 Years, Three Regions Confront Their Divisions," Co-author   <a href="#">Living Cities Blog</a>	2018
Transit Means Business Research and Case Studies   <a href="#">Metropolitan Planning Council E-Booklet</a>	2018
Cost of Segregation Research Report   <a href="#">Metropolitan Planning Council and Urban Institute</a>	2017
Leading Change: 7 Tips from 2 Decades of Civic and Personal Reinvention, Author   <a href="#">MPC</a>	2016
Our Great Rivers Vision for 2040   <a href="#">Metropolitan Planning Council</a>	2016
How Can Government Efficiency Be Improved, Interview with Justin Kaufman   <a href="#">WGN Radio: The Download</a>	2016
"Dear Chicagoans of 2050"   <a href="#">Meeting of the Minds Blog</a>	2015
Civic Chat Cable, Interview   <a href="#">Microsoft Chat Series</a>	2015
Great Rivers Chicago: What Chicagoans Want for their Rivers   <a href="#">Youth Video Production</a>	2015
International Meeting of the Minds Keynote Speaker – Toronto   <a href="#">"Meeting of the Minds" Conference</a>	2013
Commitment to "Building Public-Private Partnerships for Redevelopment"   <a href="#">Clinton Global Initiative</a>	2012
The Just City: Breaking Down the Barriers, Panelist   <a href="#">Ford Foundation's Anniversary Program</a>	2011