



# Cara J. Letofsky

Versatile nonprofit and policy leader working with mission-based organizations at the intersection of community engagement, policy development, and nonprofit excellence

## **Personal Info**

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### **LinkedIn**

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### **Skills**

Nonprofit Management

Public Policy

Community Outreach

Advocacy

Program Development

Strategic Planning

Community

Development

### **Strengths**

Catalyst

Collaborative

Engaged

Mission-Driven

Problem Solver

Strategic

## **Principal, Mill City Consulting**

**December 2010 to present**

- Founder and Principal at consulting firm focused on nonprofit management and organizational development, community economic development, policy development and advocacy ([www.millcityconsulting.info](http://www.millcityconsulting.info))

### **Select Projects:**

- Interim Director, Hennepin History Museum, November 2018 – present
- Project Lead, *Racism, Rent and Real Estate: Fair Housing Reframed* series on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, October 2017 – October 2018
- Project Lead, *We the People... A Community Conversation to Understand the U.S. Constitution* series, January – April 2017
- Strategic Planning Consultant, Harrison Neighborhood Association, September 2017 – December 2018; St. Paul Women on Bikes, October 2014 – August 2015
- Public Policy Network Design, MACC Alliance and Commonwealth, Spring 2016
- Organizational Development Consultant, Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association and Dinkytown Business Alliance, July 2014 – August 2015
- Project Coordinator, *Lake Street Museum in the Streets*, Lake Street Council, May 2011 – September 2012
- Board Retreat Facilitator, Cycling Museum of Minnesota, Soap Factory, Lake Street Council, Blue-Green Alliance

## **PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

Metropolitan Council Member

March 2015 to March 2019

- Gubernatorial appointee to the Metropolitan Council representing part of Minneapolis and St. Anthony. Served on Transportation, Community Development, Environment, and Audit committees

Policy Aide, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak February 2006 to December 2010

- Managed housing and homelessness, community and neighborhood revitalization, economic and workforce development, and environmental sustainability portfolio

Founder, City of Lakes Community Land Trust

October 2001 - October 2002

- Instigated a four-organization collaborative to establish a community land trust for affordable housing in Minneapolis, led fundraising from private and public funders, facilitated Working Group, built support for a CLT among stakeholders, and led design of organizational mission, goals and structure, and implementation of legal and program structure

Executive Director, Minneapolis Neighborhood Organizations

May 1998 to July 2005

- Lyndale Neighborhood Development Corp., January 2004 – July 2005
- Interim, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, April 2003 – February 2004
- Stevens Square Community Organization, May 1998 – October 2001

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

- League of Women Voters Minneapolis: Civic Buzz: Presented Metropolitan Council 101, February 2019
- 2018 Rail~Volution Conference: Organized and facilitated session on how transit agencies addressing homeless on transit through partnerships, October 2018
- League of Women Voters St. Paul: Facilitated debate on calling a Constitutional Convention, March 2018
- 2017 Rail~Volution Conference: Presented at session on creative place-making along the Midtown Greenway, September 2017
- Hennepin History Museum: Fireside Chat presentations: Lake Street Museum in the Streets (2012); History of 27<sup>th</sup> & Lake: Industry and Transportation (2014); Historic Dinkytown (2016)
- Preserve Minneapolis, Summer Walking Tours: Lake Street (Uptown, 2012, 2013; Midtown, 2012, 2015; 27<sup>th</sup> & Lake, 2012); Dinkytown (2016); Washburn-Fair Oaks Historic District (assisted, 2016); Race and Real Estate Bus Tour (assisted, 2018)
- Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association: Facilitator, Preservation with Growth Forum, June 2015

**SELECTED VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

- Minnesota Statewide 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, Member. Provide guidance and support for the State's outreach and engagement efforts leading up to and during the 2020 Census, July 2018 – present
- Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Mayoral appointee to MPHA Board of Commissioners, Board representative to Strategic Planning Committee (2011), Chair, MPHA Audit Committee (2012 to present), January 2011 – present
- Hennepin History Museum (the Historical Society of Hennepin County), Boardmember. Elected President, February 2014-2018. As President, rebuilt the Board of Directors to represent all of Hennepin County, facilitated a staff leadership change, designed a staff-board retreat to set general goals and work plan. Changes have led to a growth in memberships, individual donations, and financial stability, January 2013 – November 2018
- womenwinning, State PAC Boardmember, January 2013 – December 2018

## **EDUCATION**

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs/University of Minnesota

- Master of Planning Program. Focus on housing and community economic development. Course work completed March 2000

Hunter College of the City University of New York

June 1993

- Master of Arts in American History

University of Wisconsin - Madison

December 1987

- Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science. Dean's List. Graduated with Distinction

## **Additional Professional Development**

- Development Training Institute and the Local Initiative Support Corporation: EXCELeRate: Affordable Housing Development (Spring 2001)
- Minnesota Council of Nonprofits: *Starting a Nonprofit in Minnesota* (June 2002)
- University of St. Thomas Center for Nonprofit Management: *Community Leadership Institute* (Spring 2003)
- Institute for Cultural Affairs: *Technology of Participation Group Facilitation Methods* (September 2003)
- James P Shannon Leadership Institute at the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation (2013)
- Transit Center-Institute for Transportation and Development Policy Transit Agency Board Member Training (2016)
- Urban Land Institute GARE Racial Equity Training (December 2017)
- EcoDistricts Accredited Professional Certified (2018-2020)