

Tawanna Black Founder and CEO



Areas of Expertise

- Cross-sector collaborations focused on racial and economic equity.
- Private-public partnerships to increase economic vitality in uninvested communities
- Strategist and bridge-builder working at the intersections of Human Capital, Economic Development, and Transportation/Access

Education

B.A. Washburn University

Certifications

Executive Certificate,
Transformational Leadership,
Georgetown University, 2015

Awards

2014 Bush Fellowship

2016 Living Cities Top 25
Disruptive Leaders

2017 100 People to Know, Twin
Cities Business Journal

2017 Women in Business Award,
Minneapolis-St. Paul Business
Journal

2017 Real Power 50, Minnesota
Business Magazine

Tawanna Black is nationally recognized thought-leader who is well known for influencing, inspiring and equipping cross-sector leaders to transform a personal conviction for equality into actions that produce equitable and thriving communities. She is the founder and chief executive officer of the Center for Economic Inclusion (the Center), a cross-sector organization committed to strengthening the Minneapolis-St. Paul region's civic infrastructure and collective capacity to disrupt systems and influence market forces to catalyze prosperity and an inclusive economy. The Center is the nation's first organization dedicated to exclusively to advancing inclusive growth to achieve regional prosperity.



Previously, Tawanna lead Northside Funders Group, a place-based, collective impact organization of 20 corporate, community and private foundations and public-sector investors committed to aligning investments and strategies to catalyze racial and economic equity in North Minneapolis. As the first executive director for Destination Midtown, she led an unprecedented community economic development public-private partnership resulting in more than \$500 million of re-investment in the historic heart of Omaha in just three years.

Relevant Experience

- Advisor to senior management teams, assisting in setting the highest standards for business growth, innovation and stakeholder return by ensuring that the company understood and acted upon the needs of diverse communities.
- Selected for the inaugural Harvard Business School Young American Leaders Program on U.S. Economic Competitiveness