

REEMBERTO RODRÍGUEZ

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OBJECTIVE

To culminate my life's journey improving the lives of others

EXPERIENCE

Collaborating with many, empowered over 100 communities throughout the USA; trained thousands; established international trusting relationships; and built thriving, diverse, and dynamic local places.

SKILLS

Local community and neighborhood building
Municipal policy and political leadership
National coordination, management, and delivery of technical assistance and training
Multi-sector negotiator among businesses, non-profits, and communities
Urban planning, architecture, neighborhood development, and placemaking
Community engagement and economic development practitioner
Leading partnerships, coalition building, and collaborative efforts
Curriculum design, development, and implementation
Facilitating participatory visioning and adult learning
Organizational assessments
Emergency management response
Fully bilingual (Spanish and English)

VALUES

Commitment to accountability, mutual growth, and interdependency
Embrace asset-based community development, servant leadership, and grassroots organizing
Spark, enthuse, and connect people across ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic perspectives
Embed racial equity and social justice in everyday life

Professional Experience

University of Maryland 2021 to Present (part-time)

Affiliate Professor, National Center for Smart Growth

Part-time consultant to the University of Maryland National Center for Smart Growth where I am:

- coordinating case studies in small business anti-displacement for the Small Business Anti-Displacement Network (SBAN);
- assisting in identifying potential class projects in the State for the Partnership for Advanced Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program; and,
- developing neighborhood walks in certain Purple Line stations for the Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC).

Also teaching a study abroad course in Havana (Cuba).

Montgomery County, Maryland 2009 to 2021

Director, Silver Spring Regional Center, Urban District, and Arts & Entertainment District 2009-2021 (Retired)

Directed all aspects of operations of one of the County's five Regional Centers, including budget, supervision, contract procurement and management, and implementation of projects and programs. The Center serves a diverse number of neighborhoods and downtown Silver Spring, including the Urban District's 30 staff and the Arts & Entertainment District. The mission: Be the county's eyes and ears to the community and the community's voice to the county. As an appointee of the County Executive (and approved by County Council) serve as liaison for all policy and critical issues in the Silver Spring Region and facilitate the work of volunteer advisory groups. During the Covid-19 Pandemic served as the County's point person for the re-opening of retail and restaurants countywide.

NeighborWorks America (Corporation chartered by Congress) 1990 to 2009

Community Engagement & Neighborhood Revitalization Training Manager 2004 to 2009 At the national level, led the design, development and implementation of two Professional Certificate Programs of the Training Division, Community Engagement and Neighborhood Revitalization.

Organizational Assessment, Management Consultant 2003 & 2004 Primary role was to lead teams of staff and external consultants to conduct capacity building and health assessment of over 50 complex NeighborWorks organizations throughout the country.

Organizational Assessment, Special Initiatives 2001 to 2003 Responsible for collaborative and emerging markets initiatives of the Organizational Assessment Unit.

Program Review Officer 1994 to 2001 Responsible for helping over 50 communities form partnerships between businesses, residents, and local jurisdiction.

Field Service Officer 1990-1994 Responsible for providing technical assistance simultaneously to seven southern non-profit community and economic development agencies.

City of Atlanta, Department of Community Development, Bureau of Planning 1984 to 1990

Division Manager, Housing and Economic Development 1988-1990 Responsible for supervising 4-6 staff members, plus interns. Specific assignments included the coordination of two Comprehensive Development Plans for the City; supervising the production of the Central Area Study II; various Transit Station Area Studies; the Georgia Dome Financial Feasibility Study; and working with the Community Development Block Grant process. A major component of this work included ensuring appropriate community input in these projects. (Also served as Housing Planner and Urban Designer.)

Community Design Center of Atlanta, Inc. 1980 to 1984

Executive Director 1982-1984 Responsible for all aspects of operations - including supervision of staff and resource development - of a non-profit community and economic development, planning and design firm. Projects included preliminary design, cost estimates, and feasibility studies for senior centers, community theaters, rural housing, neighborhood commercial areas, and many others. (Also served as Architectural Coordinator.)

Other Professional Experience

Part-Time Instructor at Georgia State University 1983-1986; 2003-2004

Mortgage Loan Officer 1998-2002

Miscellaneous Consulting 1982-2009

Trainer and facilitator

Educational Attainment

University of Maryland (Francis King Carey School of Law)
Public Policy Conflict Resolution Fellows Program 2012

Georgia State University (Andrew Young Policy School)
Masters of Urban Affairs, specializing in Community Development 1984

Development Training Institute
Fellowship in Community Economic Development 1982

Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech)
Masters of Architecture, specializing in Urban Design 1980
Bachelor of Science, specializing in Architecture 1978
Minor in Political Science, specializing in Urban Issues 1978

Personal Civic Engagement

Current Community activities include:

- Member of the Downtown Silver Spring Rotary Club
- Board Member Montgomery History

Have been a Director on the board of or active participant with, among others:

- Development Leadership Network (network of community economic development practitioners)
- Impact Silver Spring (Treasurer)
- Member of East Silver Spring Civic Association
- MAPP, an initiative to improve community health in DeKalb County (GA)
- Fulton County (GA) Community Development Corporation
- Traveler's Aid (a United Way Agency which addresses the plight of the homeless traveler)
- Catholic Social Services (the local Catholic Charity)
- Atlanta Neighborhood Housing Services
- Hispanic Atlanta, Inc.
- Board Member of the Georgia Historic Preservation Review Board
- Board Member of Nicholas House Family Shelter
- United Way Dekalb County Advisory Board
- Leadership Atlanta - Class of 1995 (helped develop the racial / ethnic programs)
- Senior Leadership Montgomery – Class of 2013 (on Programs Committee)
- American Planning Association and American Institute of Certified Planners

Samples of articles, recognitions, and awards

Article: Creating a Revitalizing Public Gathering Space in Tough Fiscal Times 2018
Revitalization: The Journal of Urban, Rural, and Environmental Resilience (Issue #76, June I, 2018)

Recognition: The Powermeter 100 "Exemplary Leadership and Influence" 2019
El Tiempo Latino (Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia)

Award: Innovations in American Government 2016
Harvard University Kennedy School – Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation (for the Silver Spring Civic Building)

International journeys

Montgomery County Sister Cities 2012 to 2017 Participated with the Montgomery County Sister Cities in trips to Ethiopia, India, and El Salvador, establishing relationships that are instrumental to the role of Silver Spring Regional Director on behalf of the County Executive - and enriching personal growth.

Cuba 2015 to 2023 Returned to Cuba after leaving as a child in 1966 - 49 years to the date - in 2015. Have since been back almost every year to reconnect personally and through my faith, and to teach a study-abroad graduate level course with the University of Maryland.