



South Side
Community Growth Foundation

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

POSITION PROFILE

Organization: South Side Community Growth Foundation

Location: Syracuse, NY



MANEVA



The South Side Community Growth Foundation (SSCGF) is a newly established nonprofit committed to advancing equity, expanding opportunity, and driving neighborhood transformation in the South Side of Syracuse, New York. Founded in 2024 by Syracuse native Chedy Hampson—a business leader and philanthropist—SSCGF works in close partnership with residents, local businesses and organizations, and government agencies to support initiatives that help South Side neighbors thrive.

Rooted in the community surrounding McKinley Park—from West Brighton Avenue to Ballantyne Road, and from South Salina Street to Valley Drive and South Avenue—SSCGF is focused on place-based investment and inclusive revitalization. With a long-term vision for increased resident leadership, housing stability, and financial security, the organization has completed a comprehensive strategic planning process to guide its work for the next decade.

In its initial phase, SSCGF will focus on three foundational areas: housing and community development, community engagement, and internal infrastructure. Within the community engagement pillar, SSCGF is working to increase connection among South Side neighbors, establish a data-informed understanding of neighborhood priorities, and respond to emerging needs—such as improving shared spaces, supporting community-driven initiatives, and exploring business corridor partnerships.

Through efforts like homeowner grants and loans, land acquisition for new builds, and neighborhood gatherings, the organization is helping to strengthen both the physical and social fabric of the South Side—amplifying resident voice and activating a shared sense of ownership across the community. SSCGF is in the earliest and most exciting stages of its journey, offering a rare opportunity to help shape a deeply rooted, community-led foundation from the ground up.

You can learn more at <https://southsidegrowth.org/>



DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The South Side Community Growth Foundation (SSCGF) seeks a collaborative, relationship-driven leader to serve as its first Director of Community Engagement. This role will lead SSCGF's efforts to strengthen relationships with South Side residents, community-based organizations, and local partners—ensuring that the Foundation's work is shaped by those who live, work, and invest in the neighborhood.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Director will divide their time between field-based engagement and strategic planning—spending roughly half their time in the community listening to residents, facilitating meetings, and participating in neighborhood events, and the other half designing and implementing a long-term engagement strategy that builds trust, captures data, and measures impact.

This leader will develop a comprehensive community engagement framework that includes town halls, surveys, and the formation of a Resident Advisory Council to ensure that residents' voices guide SSCGF's priorities. They will oversee systems for managing community feedback and data, ensuring that insights are integrated into programs and decision-making. The Director will immediately hire and mentor a Community Engagement Coordinator to support fieldwork and outreach, and will ultimately oversee the operations of SSCGF's future community center, envisioned as a central hub for connection, programming, and collaboration.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Community Listening & Trust-Building** – Lead authentic, ongoing engagement with South Side residents to understand their needs and aspirations, building relationships grounded in respect, empathy, and transparency.
- **Trusted Presence and Partnerships** – Serve as a visible and trusted resource by actively participating in local events, forums, and collaborations with community-based organizations.
- **Resident Outreach and Relationship Building** – Build authentic, long-term relationships with residents and neighborhood leaders to foster collaboration, inclusion, and shared problem-solving.
- **Neighborhood Activations** – Organize town halls, listening sessions, and community gatherings that encourage open dialogue and strengthen SSCGF's connection to residents.
- **Resident Leadership & Voice** – Establish and lead a Resident Advisory Council to provide feedback, elevate resident leadership, and guide SSCGF's community-focused initiatives.
- **Team and Volunteer Leadership** – Hire, mentor, and supervise a Community Engagement Coordinator and volunteers while partnering across departments to align engagement with SSCGF's broader mission.
- **Data and Information Management** – Manage systems for collecting and analyzing community data to ensure resident feedback drives decision-making and continuous improvement.
- **Evaluation and Learning** – Define key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure engagement outcomes and prepare an annual community impact report summarizing progress and insights.
- **Communication and Storytelling** – Collaborate on messaging and social media efforts that highlight community voices, share progress, and celebrate neighborhood success stories.



LEADERSHIP & COMPETENCY EXPECTATIONS

> **Trusted Connector**

Anchored in the neighborhood's history, culture, and energy, this leader understands that lasting progress begins with trust. They bring a genuine love for people and a deep respect for the wisdom already present within the community—meeting residents where they are, listening deeply, and ensuring every engagement effort reflects real voices, shared ownership, and collective pride.

> **Approachable Advocate**

This is a highly visible, hands-on role for someone who thrives in the field and values relationships as much as results. The ideal candidate will be relatable and empathetic, able to build trust through authenticity and humility. They will have the judgment to deliver both good and difficult news with respect, and the communication savvy to adapt their message to different audiences—residents, civic partners, and stakeholders alike.

> **Entrepreneurial Builder**

This leader will bring the ingenuity and drive of a builder—someone who can design the roadmap while bringing others along the journey. They are equally comfortable being in the weeds—working side by side with residents, staff, and partners—as they are stepping back to see the bigger picture, identify trends, and chart the path forward. Self-directed and solutions-oriented, they know how to turn data and feedback into action, create systems that sustain growth, and translate vision into meaningful impact for the South Side.



QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will bring a blend of relational leadership, strategic follow-through, and deep respect for community voice.

While it is understood that no single candidate will embody every qualification, strong candidates will demonstrate many of the following skills, experiences, and attributes:

- Demonstrated experience in community engagement, organizing, neighborhood development, or related fields, with a record of building trust and collaboration across diverse communities.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to relate to residents, community leaders, and institutional partners with empathy, respect, and professionalism.
- Proven ability to design and implement engagement systems and tools, including use of CRMs or databases to track participation, feedback, and impact.
- Skilled at balancing on-the-ground engagement with strategic planning—able to manage details while keeping sight of long-term goals and community outcomes.
- Experience supervising staff or volunteers and leading collaborative initiatives across teams or partner organizations.
- Deep understanding of the South Side community or similar urban neighborhoods, with a passion for equitable development and local empowerment.



LOCATION, COMPENSATION, & BENEFITS

This is a full-time, exempt position based in **Syracuse, New York**. While some administrative work may be completed remotely, the role is highly community-facing and requires regular in-person engagement across the South Side. The Director will attend neighborhood events, meetings, and site visits, with occasional evening and weekend hours based on community needs.

Salary is based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, experience, qualifications, and potential for long-term impact in the role. The salary range for this position is **\$65,000-\$75,000**. SSCGF offers a comprehensive benefits package, including health, dental, and vision insurance; a 401(k) plan with company match; three weeks of paid time off; eleven paid federal holidays; and paid sick leave.

HOW TO APPLY

To express your interest in this opportunity, please submit your **resume** and **cover letter** [here](#).

All inquiries and discussions will be handled with the utmost confidentiality. This position is available immediately, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the role is filled.

We look forward to hearing from you!



ABOUT MANEVA GROUP

Maneva Group is a leading woman and minority owned executive search firm dedicated to connecting exceptional talent with organizations committed to making a meaningful impact. Through a consultative and client-focused approach, Maneva Group partners with mission-driven organizations to build transformative leadership teams.

Our name, Maneva, comes from the combination of two Sanskrit words: “**Mānav**” meaning mankind & “**Sevā**” meaning service. We are driven by the ideal of our name - service to humanity.