

CHICAGO
FINANCIAL FUTURE
TASK FORCE

INTERIM REPORT | AUGUST 31, 2025

Task Force Team Bios

The voices and experience behind
Chicago's Financial Future Task Force.

CO-CHAIRS



Jim Reynolds

Loop Capital

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

James Reynolds, Jr., is the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Loop Capital, founded in 1997 with a commitment to exceeding client expectations. He leads all operations, including investment banking, brokerage, project finance, financial advisory, and asset management, establishing Loop Capital as a top-tier financial institution.

With 40 years in the financial sector, Mr. Reynolds held senior roles at major Wall Street firms before launching Loop Capital as a municipal bond firm. His leadership has expanded it into a leading diversified investment bank, offering corporate finance, global equity and fixed-income trading, mergers and acquisitions, public finance, infrastructure investment, asset management, and strategic ventures like &Partners and JLC Infrastructure, co-founded with Magic Johnson Enterprises in 2015.

A committed civic leader, Mr. Reynolds serves on boards such as The Chicago Community Trust, SIFMA, World Business Chicago, Intersect Illinois, the Chicago Urban League, and the Kellogg Global Advisory Board. Recognized with accolades like the Lincoln Leadership Prize and Bond Buyer Hall of Fame induction, he continues to shape the industry. He holds a Master of Management in Finance from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. His innovative approach has earned Loop Capital a reputation for excellence and reliability.



Karen Freeman-Wilson

Chicago Urban League

President and Chief Executive Officer

Karen Freeman-Wilson began serving as President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League in January 2020. She brings a passion for equity and social justice to the organization, which works to advance economic, educational, and social progress for African Americans through direct service and advocacy. Having served in the public arena most of her professional life, Freeman-Wilson has deep experience in addressing issues that impact urban communities. She was mayor of her hometown of Gary, Indiana, from 2012 through 2019. She was the first female to lead the city of Gary and the first Black female mayor in Indiana.

Freeman-Wilson previously served as Indiana Attorney General, Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, and presiding judge of the Gary City Court. She also served as Executive Director of the National Drug Court Institute and CEO of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Freeman-Wilson is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She chairs the Cities for Financial Empowerment and sits on the boards of the National Policing Institute; Center for Community Progress; Sandy Hook Promise; and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and the Links, Inc.

MEMBERS



Ronald DeNard

United Way of Metro Chicago
Chief Financial Officer

Ronald DeNard is United Way of Metro Chicago's Chief Financial Officer, overseeing financial operations, strategy, and data analytics. He has over 30 years of financial expertise across public and private sectors. He is known for leading high-impact financial turnarounds, fostering collaboration, and translating complex financial solutions into actionable insights for executives, boards, and stakeholders.

Ronald's public sector experience includes serving as the senior vice president of finance for the Chicago Board of Education and the chief financial officer for the Chicago Transit Authority and the Chicago Park District. He has also held various financial positions in the private sector at Aluminum Company of America, L'Oréal USA SoftSheen-Carson division, Exelon Corporation, and Johnson Publishing. Some of his career accomplishments include:

- Spearheaded the elimination of a \$1 billion operating deficit through cost containment, revenue optimization, financial restructuring, and additional state funding.
- Refinanced and restructured debt, received upgrades from all four rating agencies, and reduced borrowing costs by 40% over prior issuances.
- Restructured and reduced administrative staff costs.

Ronald holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School and a BS in Accounting from Florida A&M University.



Julie Dworkin

Institute for Public Good
Co-Director

Julie Dworkin is the Co-Director of the Institute for the Public Good, a non-partisan policy institute that strengthens the public good by releasing research and supporting legislative efforts that advance racial equity and economic justice. Julie spent 27 years on the policy staff at the Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness (CCH), with 17 years as the Director of Policy. In her role, she worked on policy research, policy development, advocacy strategy, coalition building and facilitation, and legislative and administrative advocacy. She worked on a wide range of issues towards addressing homelessness including affordable housing, health care, public benefits, criminal justice reform, education, and living wages. Julie led a statewide coalition to create, develop and pass the state's homelessness prevention program, a statewide rental subsidy program, and the first funding for housing in the state's capital budget. She also supervised the work to put the Bring Chicago Home ballot measure on the ballot. Since leaving CCH in 2023, she has worked on political campaigns and supported organizational functions of the United Working Families organization during a time of staff transition.



Maricela Garcia

Mujeres Latinas en Acción

Interim President and Chief Executive Officer

Maricela Garcia, Interim President and CEO of Mujeres Latina in Acción since 1973, empowers Latinas with culturally relevant services. She led Gads Hill Center as CEO for 12 years, focusing on education and community engagement. With 20+ years in nonprofit leadership, she was Executive Director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, founding Executive Director of the Latino Policy Forum, and Director at UnidosUS.

A Guatemalan immigrant, Garcia arrived in the 1980s, founding Casa Guatemala and co-founding Women for Guatemala. She served on boards like the National Immigration Forum and Latino Policy Forum.

Garcia holds a BA from Northeastern University, an MSW from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and was a Harvard Kennedy School fellow. She completed executive programs at Kellogg and Harvard Business School. Awards include the Chicago Community Trust Fellowship and Casa Guatemala Human Rights Award. Named a top Chicago leader in 2001, she co-authored 2021 articles on COVID-19's impact on Latinos.



Dan Lurie

Metropolitan Planning Council

President & Chief Executive Officer

Dan Lurie is the President and CEO at the Metropolitan Planning Council a Chicago-based, regionally focused think tank. Dan is a nationally recognized policy leader who has crafted and implemented innovative inclusive economic growth and social safety net programs at the highest levels of government and civil society. An attorney, he is a veteran of Chicago's City Hall, the Obama-Biden White House, the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Washington, D.C. think tank New America, and the Chicago Transit Authority. Before becoming CEO at MPC, Dan founded the Municipal Governance Initiative that is addressing the state capacity crisis threatening local governments' ability to solve critical social problems. Prior to MGI, Dan was the City of Chicago's Chief of Policy where he oversaw the City's policy design and program implementation, from democracy reform to housing to transportation and land use to environment to the care economy, including former Mayor Lightfoot's whole-of-government project to reduce racialized intergenerational poverty and economic insecurity while strengthening the social safety net.

Dan is known for fostering partnerships that advance bold policies confronting race and gender inequities, and for reaching new consensus that, as he likes to say, "expands the aperture of the possible".

He is a graduate of the University of Michigan (B.A. and JD) and lives with his family on Chicago's Northwest Side.



Ralph Martire

Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA)
Executive Director

Ralph Martire is executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA), a bipartisan think tank promoting equitable workforce, education, fiscal, and economic policies, and the Arthur Rubloff Endowed Professor of Public Policy at Roosevelt University. At CTBA, he has driven legislative successes, including the 2018 Evidence-Based Model of Education Funding, a state Earned Income Tax Credit, and corporate accountability laws. He has taught fiscal policy and education finance at various universities and the International Fulbright Scholar Program.

Martire serves on the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Commission on Equitable Public University Funding (2021) and the Professional Review Panel for Illinois' school funding formula (2018). He was part of the federal Equity and Excellence in Education Commission (2011-2013), co-authoring the "For Each and Every Child" report. His political roles include deputy issues director for Dawn Clark Netsch's gubernatorial campaign and issues director for David Wilhelm's Senate run.

An elected school board member for Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 since 2019 and former president of River Forest District 90's board, Martire has received the 2007 Champion of Freedom Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the Adlai Stevenson Award for Public Service. He is a frequent media commentator on tax policy for WTTW and WPWR and a columnist.



Andrea Sáenz

**Chicago Community Trust
President & CEO**

Andrea Sáenz is President & CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations. She leads the Trust's work to build a more equitable Chicago region where opportunity isn't limited by race, ethnicity, or zip code—a mission that reflects her deep commitment to inclusive civic institutions.

Before becoming CEO in 2022, Sáenz served as the Trust's Chief Operating Officer. Her prior roles include leading innovation at the Chicago Public Library and advancing education equity at Chicago Public Schools, the U.S. Department of Education, and organizations supporting Latine career success.

Named one of Crain's Chicago Business' "25 Most Powerful Latinos" (2019) and featured on its "Who's Who in Chicago" and "Women of Note" lists (2023), Sáenz is a widely respected civic leader. She serves on the boards of the Economic Club of Chicago, ACLU, National Louis University, the Chicago Public Education Fund, and the Chicago Public Library Foundation. A Leadership Greater Chicago fellow since 2009, she also advises the Center for Effective Government at the University of Chicago. Sáenz holds honorary doctorates from Dominican University and Lake Forest College and earned degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Scripps College.



Mary Wagoner

**Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago
Senior Director, State and Local Finance**

Mary Wagoner is the Director, State and Local Finance at the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago. In this role, her work focuses on budgets, tax policy, and pensions for the State of Illinois and City of Chicago.

Since joining the Civic Committee in 2015, Mary has been the staff lead for the Tax Policy Task Force and State Finance Task Force. Her research and analysis on State budget, tax policies, and pensions has underpinned three published reports: Bringing Illinois Back: A Framework for our Future (2017), Restore Illinois: A Foundation for Growth (2019; lead author), and Securing Illinois' Future: Stabilizing State Finances to Promote Long-Term Growth (2023; lead author).

Before joining the Civic Committee, Mary worked for the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Illinois Partners for Human Service, and the Arlington County Treasurer's Office in Arlington, Virginia.

Mary has a master's degree in public policy from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago and a BA in Political Science from the University of Mary Washington. She is also an alumna of the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership's Emerging Leaders Program. Mary is an associate member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and is a member of Women in Public Finance.



Martin Cabrera Jr.

Cabrera Capital Markets & Cabrera Capital Partners
Chief Executive Officer and Founder

Martin Cabrera is the Founder and CEO of Cabrera Capital Markets (CCM), a global investment bank and institutional brokerage firm, and Cabrera Capital Partners (CCP), a real estate development and investment firm.

Martin founded CCM in 2001 in Chicago, and since then the firm has grown to become a global financial enterprise with 8 offices nationwide and dedicated trading personnel resources in London. Martin started CCP in 2013 as a real estate development and investment firm that provides advisory services including development, acquisition, and management.

Martin serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at St. Ignatius College Prep, and is on the board of World Business Chicago, INTESECT Illinois, and Homeboy Industries among others. Martin earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Northern Illinois University.



Carlos Calderon

Ariel Investments & Ariel Alternatives
Chief Financial Officer

Carlos serves as Chief Financial Officer of Ariel Investments and Ariel Alternatives, overseeing financial functions, including reporting, corporate development, planning, accounting, and capital management across all subsidiaries. He is a member of Ariel's Operating Committee and chairs Ariel Alternatives' valuation committee, determining portfolio company valuations. With extensive experience in strategic planning and financial systems in asset management, Carlos previously held roles at Morgan Stanley's Eaton Vance, overseeing financial planning for equity and alternatives, and at State Street Global Advisors, managing global finance for investment strategies and supporting the \$100 billion GE Asset Management acquisition. Earlier, he was regional CFO at BNY Mellon Investment Management for a \$9 billion Southeast practice. Carlos serves on the boards of Hope for Kasai and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and advises the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals for America.

He holds a BBA in corporate finance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Isenberg School of Management. His leadership has driven financial innovation and operational efficiency across global investment platforms. At Ariel, Carlos has implemented advanced financial systems to enhance transparency and decision-making. He is a frequent speaker at industry conferences, sharing insights on asset management and diversity in finance. Committed to mentorship, Carlos actively supports emerging leaders in the financial services industry.



Tyler Clark

Microsoft Corporation

US Government Affairs Industry Director

Tyler Clark is passionate about the intersection of politics, governance, business, and technology and the impact they have on people's lives. He serves as the U.S. Government Affairs Industry Director at Microsoft, working to advance digital transformation in the public sector.

Tyler most recently served as the Director of Public Affairs and Innovation at Serafin and Associates, a Chicago-based public affairs and communications firm where he advised clients in technology, energy, healthcare, and regulated industries.

He previously led the administrative and legislative effort for unifying Illinois' state government IT functions and served as the first chief of staff at the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology. He was a policy analyst specializing in taxes and economic development in the Illinois Senate and later served as Senate liaison in the Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs, advising on government operations, public safety, and higher education.

Tyler received his undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and his master's degree from the University of Illinois-Springfield, where he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree focused on digital transformation in the public sector. He is a member of the North Lawndale Employment Network board of directors in Chicago.



Phil Clement

World Business Chicago

Chief Executive Officer & President

Philip B. Clement, a dynamic executive with a global outlook, has a distinguished career marked by transformative leadership. He served as AON's first global chief marketing and communications officer, where he pioneered the company's global CRM systems, standardized sales processes, and established a cohesive global brand. At Johnson Controls, he spearheaded global market strategy, demand generation, and in-depth market research, achieving significant marketing targets. Currently, as leader of World Business Chicago, Clement drives equitable economic development, aligning with Mayor Johnson's growth agenda to position Chicago as a hub for business innovation. Through partnerships with industry, startups, universities, and investors, he fosters prosperity across the seven-county region, uplifting working families and enhancing Chicago's global competitiveness.

Clement's academic foundation includes an M.B.A. with a concentration in Statistics and a Master of Public Policy Analysis from the University of Chicago, where he graduated with honors, and a Multi-Disciplinary Certificate in Visual Anthropology, Cinema, and Journalism from the University of Southern California. A passionate advocate for Chicago's cultural and environmental landscape, he has served on the boards of the Chicago International Film Festival since 2018, Goodman Theatre since 2003, and the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy for multiple terms. Recognized for his marketing excellence, Clement has been inducted into the Marketing Hall of Fame and named a Top Executive Ally by the London Financial Times.



Trever Johnson

Participating as a Private Citizen

Trever Johnson is a seasoned technology leader with over 15 years of experience driving innovation across major cloud vendors. As the Head of Customer Engineering for the central region at Google Public Sector, he champions innovative solutions for State and Local Governments, as well as Educational Institutions across 19 states. His work has ranged from improving language accessibility in government services to streamlining unemployment benefits distribution. Trever has previous experience in consulting across a wide array of technology platforms and in regulated markets through his tenure at both Accenture and Capital One. Trever embraces a holistic approach to problem solving and encourages others to leverage technology as an avenue to solve the world's hardest problems.

Johnson holds a B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science from University of Wisconsin - Madison and is passionate about community engagement and giving back to the Chicago community through local volunteering.



Jimmy Lee

Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce President

Jimmy Lee is a seasoned real estate developer and business leader with over 20 years of experience in construction materials, general contracting, and community development. He has demonstrated proven leadership in public-private partnerships, investment promotion, and organizational growth. Since 2008, Jimmy has been actively involved with the Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, where he advanced through roles from Member to President, showcasing his long-term commitment and leadership. During his tenure, he led initiatives to promote Chinatown as a premier tourist and business destination, organized trade missions, investment forums, and cross-sector collaborations, and worked with all levels of government to advocate for small businesses and infrastructure growth. Additionally, since 2015, he has contributed to urban planning and neighborhood development in Chicago's Near South area as a Board Member of the Near South Planning Board. Since 2019, he has served as Vice President of the Chicago Chinatown Security Foundation, overseeing safety initiatives and community engagement programs.

As President of 21st Century US Sino Services, Inc. since 2000, Jimmy operates as a licensed general contractor and material distributor, leading projects in real estate development, interior build-outs, and commercial construction, including the establishment of a Chicago-based window shade production facility and the development of multiple condo projects. Jimmy holds a B.A. in International Finance from Sun Yat-sen University, earned between 1991 and 1995.



Chasse Rehwinkel

Devon Bank

Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer

Chasse Rehwinkel is the Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Devon Bank. Devon Bank is an 80-year-old community bank on Chicago's Northside, focusing on financing a diverse footprint of communities. Before joining Devon, Mr. Rehwinkel served as the Comptroller for the City of Chicago under Mayor Brandon Johnson. In this role, Mr. Rehwinkel oversaw 500 staff at the City of Chicago's Department of Finance, managing the City's cash flow, benefits, revenue collection and enforcement. Previous to his appointment, Mr. Rehwinkel served as the Illinois Director of Banking for four years—appointed by Governor JB Pritzker in June 2019. As Director of Banking, Mr. Rehwinkel focused on major reforms to improve equity in banking and consumer protection. In 2020, Mr. Rehwinkel issued wide ranging guidance and policy relief to help vulnerable Illinoisans during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, including a forming a multistate agreement with student loan servicers to provide financial relief options on private student loans and a partnership with seven large retail banks to provide free check cashing services on stimulus check for unbanked Illinoisans.

Prior to his role as Illinois Director of Banking, Mr. Rehwinkel served in both Illinois state fiscal office—first as the Director of Policy for the Illinois State Treasurer and then as the Chief Economist and Director of the Bond Division for the Illinois Office of Comptroller. Mr. Rehwinkel received his Master in Public Policy with a focus in municipal finance from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and his Bachelor's Degree from Gettysburg College. Mr. Rehwinkel has served as a board member of the Municipal Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago, the Laborers' & Retirement Board Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund, the Chicago Firemen's Annuity & Benefit Fund, and the Illinois Bank On Commission Advisory Board. Mr. Rehwinkel also currently is a lecturer in banking regulation and management at the University of Chicago.



Adrienne Alexander

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council 31
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Adrienne Alexander serves as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for AFSCME in Illinois, where she has worked since 2010. In that capacity she leads on both policy and politics for City of Chicago and Cook County, as well as serves as a member of AFSCME's State of Illinois lobbying team, particularly focusing on criminal justice issues. In 2023, she was named in the Crain's Chicago Business 40 under 40 class. Adrienne lives in Chicago with her husband and three daughters. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College, a small, women's college in Georgia, and earned her Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota. Adrienne serves on the board of the Catholic Labor Network.



Pasquale Gianni

Teamsters Joint Council 25

Staff Counsel and Director of Government Affairs

Pasquale Gianni is Staff Counsel and Director of Government Affairs for Teamsters Joint Council 25, an umbrella organization representing over 100,000 hard-working men and women in Illinois and Northwest Indiana. As the organization's exclusive in-house lobbyist, Gianni drafts legislation, testifies in legislative committees as well as boards and commissions, works to persuade elected officials, and maneuvers the legislative process at all levels of government. Gianni helps manage a Teamster PAC Fund to align with member's interests and directs a field operation to elect pro-labor candidates. In addition, he has extensive experience with collective bargaining, National Labor Relations Board proceedings, and jurisdictional dispute hearings between local affiliates.

Mr. Gianni is President and co-founder of the Avanti Group of Young Italian-Americans, and an Executive Board Member of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans. His maternal grandfather and mentor, the late Dominic DiFrisco, served as President Emeritus of the JCCIA and shined in the Columbus Day Parade Broadcast booth for over 45 years. Pasquale is proud to have been awarded the opportunity to fill that role. In 2019, Pasquale stepped into his grandfather's shoes to serve as master of ceremonies for the JCCIA's coveted Dante Awards. Most recently, he started a monthly column titled "gioventù" in Fra Noi, Chicagoland's Italian-American publication. In 2024, Gianni was appointed co-chair of the Chicago-Milan Sister Cities Program. He is also a partner in his family's fourth generation office furniture manufacturing business, Gianni Inc located in Cicero, IL.



Jeffrey Howard

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73

Executive Vice President

Howard serves as Executive Vice President of SEIU Local 73, representing over 38,000 public workers throughout Illinois, bringing more than 30 years of union leadership experience. A seasoned advocate for working people, Howard has served on numerous boards and committees, offering deep expertise in financial oversight, strategic planning, and organizational accountability. Their work includes collaboration with political, business, and community leaders across the nation. A United States Air Force veteran, Howard is a graduate of George Meany Labor College and the IBEW Local 357 NJATC Electrical Apprenticeship program, and a proud father of four.

Howard looks forward to serving on the committee, committed to transparency, equity, and responsible stewardship in achieving its goals.



Andrea Kluger

Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL)
Chief of Staff

Andrea Kluger is Chief of Staff for the Chicago Federation of Labor. In this role, Andrea oversees the daily operations and programming initiatives of the CFL team. Andrea also leads the CFL's legislative and lobbying efforts at the City of Chicago, Cook County and the State of Illinois, where she works with labor organizations and elected leaders to develop and pass legislation that supports working people.

Previously, Andrea served as the Director of Labor Partnerships for United Way of Metro Chicago, where she developed and launched Access United (Now HIRE360), a workforce development program that seeks to increase the number of individuals entering union construction careers from underrepresented populations. Prior to that, Andrea lived in New York City, where she organized hotel and casino workers and worked for the New York City Council. Andrea has a Master's degree in public policy & administration from Northwestern and a bachelor's degree in political science from Vanderbilt.

Andrea was a 2019 Edgar Fellow, served on the Rules Committee of the Democratic National Committee for the 2020 Convention, was named one of Crain's Chicago Business' 40 Under 40 in 2023. Andrea grew up and attended high school in Islamorada, Florida.



Rocio M. Garcia

Grassroots Collaborative
Senior Organizing Director

Rocio Garcia is a Chicago-raised organizer. Born and raised in La Villita on the Southwest Side, she is the daughter and granddaughter of Mexican immigrants. García's commitment to organizing is rooted in her family's experience with wage theft, housing and food insecurity, language barriers, and in early memories of civic action alongside her parents.

Rocío García is currently the Senior Organizing Director at Grassroots Collaborative, a coalition of community and labor groups across Chicago and Peoria. She leads the People's Unity Platform—created to bring together the people's agenda ahead of the 2024 municipal election and currently leading the “Babies Before Billionaires” campaign aimed at getting \$1 billion in progressive revenue. She previously served as the Organizing Director at United Working Families, a multi-racial, working-class independent political organization that has elected over 20 members to city, state, county, and federal office.