

# DAN COLLISON

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## Summary

Visionary business, civic, interdisciplinary, and cross-sector executive leader who specializes in business development and public affairs. Has catalyzed new affordable housing, safety-net social services, inclusive business growth and forged strategic collaborations between diverse business, non-profit and civic leaders. Holistic and inclusive leadership style developed over 30 years of professional work in commercial real estate, business associations, the fine arts, religious, and non-profit sectors.

## Experience

### Business and Civic

2022 to Present	Senior Director of Business Development & Public Affairs, Sherman Associates
2021 to 2022	Director of Business Development & Public Affairs, Sherman Associates
2014 to 2022	Director of Downtown Partnerships, Minneapolis Downtown Council and Downtown Improvement District (MDC-DID) + Executive Director of the East Town Business Partnership (ETBP) and the NūLoop Partners

### Key accomplishments:

- Secured master developer role and work as project lead for "The Heights" in St Paul, converting a closed golf course into 1,000+ new home and \$450M in new development alongside Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and JO Companies.
- Worked cross-functionally to secure nearly \$20M in public subsidies for two developments converting vacant commercial buildings into housing on downtown Minneapolis and downtown St Paul.
- Was instrumental and part of the development team to build the new "East Town Apartments," a \$42 million dollar subsidized affordable housing project in downtown Minneapolis.
- Catalyzing an inclusive redevelopment paradigm for the Minneapolis Farmer's Market district, aspirationally called "The Root District."
- Co-facilitated the Inclusive Downtown Think Tank with the Greater Twin Cities YMCA + Launched a Private-Public Inclusive Economic Development program called "The Chameleon Consortium" that incubates and accelerates diverse businesses in the Central Business District.
- Implemented a 5-year strategic plan for the ETBP leveraging the development of the new US Bank Stadium into a new urban district that includes affordable housing and key safety net social services.
- Successfully procured multiple business grants from the City of Minneapolis (Great Streets Program) the McKnight Foundation (Regions and Community) and the Target Foundation.

- Led a transformational district branding process over two years on the east side of downtown now called "East Town" (Elliot Park and Downtown East neighborhoods.)
- Chaired a land use group fueled by a McKnight Grant that has more than 80 businesses and civic organizations engaging a systemic process for supporting diverse emerging development and best practices for new and holistic urban development.

### **Non-Profit, Religious, and Fine Arts**

2009 to 2021 Senior Pastor, First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN

Key accomplishments:

- Complete revitalization program to rebirth the church into vibrant and inclusive downtown community of faith with a multiple member staff for over 10+ years.
- Forged multiple, multi-faith, non-profit and civic partnerships addressing poverty, homelessness, and housing.
- Completion of \$42 million dollar site redevelopment featuring a 169 unit affordable housing project with Trellis Corporation.

2023 to Present	Board Member: Iowa Real Estate Development Association
2022 to Present	Board Member: Greater Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, Minnesota
2018 to Present	Board Member: Hennepin Healthcare Community Advisory Board
2019 to Present	DWC Productions (videography, photography and digital storytelling)
2020 to 2021	Humphrey School of Public Affairs Policy Fellow
2020 to 2021	Metropolitan State University, College of Management, Dean's Advisory Committee
2018 to 2022	Board Member: The Open Book
2015 to 2016	Board Member: Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association
2009 to 2011	Key organizer for the Minneapolis Multi-Faith Network
2013 to 2015	Fellow: Collegetown Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research
2014 to 2016	Board Member: Minnesota African American Museum and Cultural Center
2011 to 2013	Board Member: Salvation Army Harbor Light Advisory Board
2010 to 2014	Board Member + President: East Town Business Partnership
2006 to 2009	Manager, Gospel Artist Robert Robinson
1998 to 2009	Associate Pastor, Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie, MN
1994 to 1998	Associate Pastor, Faith Reformed Church, Kalamazoo, MI
1991 to 1994	Associate Pastor, Agape' Christian Church, Kalamazoo, MI
1990 to 1998	Professional Percussionist in the Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Battle Creek Symphony Orchestras, Michigan
1990 to 1996	Adult Foster Care Provider for Disabled Adult Men, Kalamazoo, MI
1990 to 1996	Board Member, Self Help Alternative Living Opportunities of Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI
1987 to 1990	Director: Higher Ground Music Group, Non-Profit, Eastman School of Music Students

## Awards and Acknowledgements

- 2022 American Institute of Architects, Minnesota: "2022 Collaborative Achievement Award"
- 2020 City Pages Annual People Issue: "The Unsung Heroes of the Twin Cities"
- 2015 Recipient of *Minnesota Business* magazine's (Real) Power 50 awards, an annual list of 50 remarkable business leaders.
- 2010 *Metro Magazine* "Top 100" List of people, places, and things making a positive impact.

## Fellowships

Humphrey School of Public Affairs Policy Fellow  
Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research Fellow

## Education

DMin. Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA 2009  
MDiv. Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN 2000  
BM Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY 1990  
HSD Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, MI 1986

## References (Available Upon Request)