

Leslie Ann Smith, CEO TechTown Detroit

Collision Werks Board Vice President



Leslie is an experienced, transformational Chief Executive and currently the President and CEO of TechTown, a non-profit developed to accelerate economic growth in Detroit by growing strong businesses and driving regional collaboration.

She has a myriad of for-profit executive experiences translated into best in class non-profit leadership in the Economic Development Industry with a specific focus on strategies which advance and synthesize community development, economic justice, entrepreneurship, innovation and social equity. She is a visionary strategist, outcome oriented leader, and skilled coalition builder with the following career highlights:

- Successful implementation of enterprise best practices and policies for multiple employers and clients installed to ensure proper financial and operational controls with the requisite support systems.
- Fifteen years complex transactional structuring experience, including the successful negotiation and delivery of myriad multi-faceted acquisition, disposition, capital acquisition & financing transactions with private equity, venture capital, corporate donors, local and national foundations, commercial banks and institutional totaling in excess of \$200 billion.
- Demonstrated ability to develop trust, manage political landscapes, build community and create consensus among disparate constituencies.

Prior to TechTown she was the Chief Financial Officer of a privately held Real Estate Firm leading, mentoring and managing the legal, risk, finance, treasury and transactional groups for a multi-billion dollar privately held Real Estate Company and their third-party clients.

She is a member of several local and national organizations focused on the advancement of women socially, economically and politically including Women in Public Policy, The Clinton Global Initiative, and Inforum. She is a board member of Midtown Inc, Detroit Nation, and Collision Works.

She is also actively involved in her local community and has served in a variety of volunteer non-profit leadership roles for The Ark, Hartland Community Sports Association, Encore Youth Theater, Hartland Players, and others.