

Maria LaLonde

Director of Investor Relations

Maria LaLonde is the Director of Investor Relations for the Detroit Regional Partnership (DRP), a leading economic development nonprofit serving the 11-county Detroit Region. In this role, LaLonde oversees annual fundraising strategies and engages investors to support the DRP's work to attract foreign and domestic business and investment to the Region. Her responsibilities also include grant management, operational financials, and serving as an advisor to the CEO.



A recognized entrepreneurial leader in Southeast Michigan, LaLonde has two decades of experience building and leading successful organizations and initiatives. Most recently, she worked as senior program officer for the New Economy Initiative (NEI), one of the nation's largest philanthropic partnerships where she managed NEI's high-growth and inclusion grantmaking strategy and grant portfolio.

Prior to NEI, LaLonde served on the leadership team for Bizdom, a tech startup business accelerator founded by Dan Gilbert. She is a serial entrepreneur that has founded businesses in the recruiting, automotive and real estate industries. LaLonde is a Detroit native that has served on numerous advisory boards and is skilled at entrepreneurship, community and inclusive economic development.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Advisory Board Member, Accelerate Michigan Innovation Competition, Invest Detroit
- Executive Board Member, Accelerate4Kids
- Advisory Board Member, Detroit Mobility Initiative, City of Detroit
- Advisory Board Member, EmpowerChange Social Venture Competition, Michigan Women's Foundation
- Joint Evaluation Committee Member, Angel Capital Development RFP, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- Advisory Board Member, Detroit Technology Exchange Launch Accelerator, TechTown
- Innovation Council Member, Forward Cities National Learning Collaborative Initiative
- Member, Junior Achievement of Southeast Michigan's Youth Entrepreneurship Taskforce
- Executive Board Member, Automotive Women's Alliance Foundation

PAST EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

- Senior Program Officer, New Economy Initiative, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
- Recruiting and Development Leader, Bizdom
- Realtor, Century 21 East Lake Realty
- Finish Line Motors Sales, Owner and Operator
- Direct Hire Network, Owner



Detroit
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- Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Michigan State University