

ROOSEVELT LYONS

Public Administration • Leadership & Management • Problem Solver

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 10+ Years of municipal government experience.
- Experienced public speaker
- First person of color, and the youngest, to be appointed to the roles of Deputy Director and Director of the Kansas City, Mo. Parks and Recreation Department
- Facilitated successful community engagement efforts to rename a major thoroughfare to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Created and implemented the Quality of Life Improvement District to focus municipal resources on the six lowest life expectancy zip codes in Kansas City, Mo.
- Highlighted in a recent Urban Land Institute report titled [*Five Characteristics of High Quality Parks*](#).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

VICE PRESIDENT - ADVOCACY – QUALITY SCHOOLS COALITION

DECEMBER 2022 – PRESENT

- Implement the Quality Schools Coalition legislative agenda in order to improve the state's policy environment for public education
- Develop bipartisan working relationships with legislators other elected officials
- Lead the organization's coalition building efforts, cultivating strong collaborative relationships with civic organizations, education reform organizations, and parent groups
- Cultivate strong working relationships with the State Board of Education (SBOE), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and other officials who are making an impact within the public education sector in Missouri
- Provide direction to the organization's Governmental Affairs Consultant and communicate activities and progress to the Quality Schools Coalition senior leadership team
- Participate in a variety of commissions and task forces associated with DESE, SBOE and other education oriented organizations and assist in the recruitment of new participants for each group
- Regularly attend State Board of Education meetings and various meetings that directly impact Missouri's public education system, acting as a reputable representative of Quality Schools Coalition
- Work closely with charter schools and school districts to find common ground and advocate for policies that strengthen public education
- Advocate and promote educational initiatives through speaking engagements,
- Presentations to civic, professional, social groups and at various community events

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER – KIPP KANSAS CITY

JANUARY 2022 – OCTOBER 2022

- Serves as a member of KIPP Kansas City's regional leadership team to collectively provide strategic direction and oversight of a \$12 million organization with a deep commitment to racial justice and equity.
- Hire, manage, train, and develop regional operations staff to ensure that every school operations function is performed in excellence: teacher recruitment and student enrollment, facilities, maintenance, transportation, student information systems, procurement, food program, compliance, and reporting.
- Oversees and support the finance team in core financial functions, including budgeting, accounting, capital planning, business planning, and reporting.

- Ensures compliance systems, staffing, tools, policies, and procedures are in place for annual and charter cycles such that KIPP Kansas City fully complies with federal, state, and local legal and regulatory requirements
- Ensure operational processes are scalable and adaptable to meet the needs of a growing multi-site school
- Manages day-to-day human resource functions including; employee relations, benefit enrollment, payroll, open enrollment

INTERIM DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI PARKS AND RECREATION

JULY 2021 – OCTOBER 2021

- Responsible for the management of all parks, parkways, boulevards, highways, and public grounds under City control and for the operation of all the City's playgrounds, beaches, swimming pools, wading pools, and recreational facilities.
- Consults and advises the City Council, City Manager, and other involved persons on matters pertaining to parks and recreation and cooperates with other departments in programs of interdepartmental concerns.
- Responsible for making the official policy decisions for the department and subject only to general executive and legislative guidance.
- Responsible for the creation and administration of the department's FY 21-22 \$60+ million annual budget, with a focus on equitable service delivery
- Responsible for overseeing the department's 380 FTEs to deliver a high quality, customer-focused, experience for all Kansas City residents

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI PARKS AND RECREATION

JANUARY 2019 – JULY 2021

- Oversaw the Natural Resources, Community Services, Golf Operations, and Communication and Development Divisions
- Assumed full responsibility for the direction of the entire department as assigned and during the absence of the Director; directs and coordinates all activities through administrative and technical subordinates
- Fulfilled responsibilities of both deputy director of operations and business operations due to vacancy
- Managed the department's budget, guiding development, strategic planning, and other major duties
- Coordinated the department's request for ARP funding, resulting in an allocation of \$6,000,000
- Led the development and implementation of the department's COVID-19 response plan
- Led collaborative efforts with community partners to establish virtual learning centers in response to the pandemic
- Designed and implemented new public engagement strategies for the Department

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI PARKS AND RECREATION

JANUARY 2016 – JANUARY 2019

- Member of the senior leadership team reporting to the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation
- Division manager for the City's recreation division which consists of 109 FTEs, 12 community centers, and numerous aquatics and athletics facilities and a budget of approximately \$12 million.
- Established goals, objectives, policies, and standard operating procedures for the division
- Implemented improvements to the customer service experience for the over 500,000 annual visitors to the City's community centers and nature center, which included coordinating customer service training for 100-plus employees and implementing customer service standards for the Division
- Reviewed and assisted in preparation and administration of the Division's \$11+ million budget
- Collaborated with community groups, nonprofits, and schools to inform recreation interests, needs, and opportunities for programming

- Coordinated and managed staff for all recreation and related programs within the department including community recreation; summer camps; outdoor education; special populations; aquatics; senior recreation; adult and youth sports; and regional and local special events, programs, and activities
- Represented the City at professional conferences and other functions, presenting on topics including leadership, staff development, and change management

MANAGER OF RECREATION, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI PARKS AND RECREATION

MARCH 2014 – JANUARY 2016

- Member of the senior executive leadership team representing South District community centers and reporting to the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation
- Established goals, objectives, policies, and procedures for the Community Services Division, which consists of 109 FTEs, 12 community centers, and numerous aquatics and athletics facilities
- Implemented improvements to the customer service experience for the over 500,000 annual visitors to the City's community centers and nature center, which included coordinating customer service training for 100-plus employees and implementing customer service standards for the Division
- Reviewed and assisted in preparation and administration of the Division's \$7+ million budget
- Collaborated with community groups, nonprofits, and schools to inform recreation interests, needs, and opportunities for programming
- Coordinated and managed staff for all recreation and related programs within the department including community recreation; summer camps; outdoor education; special populations; aquatics; senior recreation; adult and youth sports; and regional and local special events, programs, and activities
- Represented the City at professional conferences and other functions, presenting on topics including leadership, staff development, and change management

SENIOR ADVISOR – OFFICE OF CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MO OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAY 2011 – MARCH 2014

- Member of the senior executive leadership team reporting to the Mayor's Chief of Staff
- Managed the Mayor's Office's 311 cases, including final resolution of cases
- Managed the Office's constituent correspondent database
- Developed and implemented a \$500,000 budget in order to produce effective and efficient youth development programs
- Managed multiple programs to provide career and leadership opportunities to youth, including the Bright Futures program, the City's internship program, and the youth development program for public service
- Developed and implemented Mayor's Nights, the Mayor's Office summer youth recreational programs
- Performed extensive community outreach through community meetings, boards and commissions, and neighborhood meetings on behalf of the Mayor's Office
- Presented to civic leaders, neighborhood leaders, and City Council members on behalf of the Mayor's Office

REGIONAL FIELD DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2010 – MAY 2011

- Member of the senior executive leadership team reporting to the Missouri state director
- Managed the Kansas City regional field office and directed all staff activity
- Organized six neighborhood teams in the Kansas City metropolitan area for electoral and issues campaigns
- Built and maintained relationships with local elected officials, civic leaders, and neighborhood leaders
- Consistently led the state in voter contact outputs measured
- Recruited, trained, and supervised a staff of six direct reports

- Outreach to key constituents including faith based organizations, small business owners, African-American residents, and college students through the Souls to the Polls and Barber and Beauty shop programs

EDUCATION

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

2011 - 2013

Emphasis in Urban Administration

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

2008 - 2010

Graduate Studies in Social Work (60 credit hours)

BACHELOR OF LIBERAL ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

2001 - 2008

CERTIFICATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CERTIFICATES

- Public Leadership Credential – Harvard Kennedy School
- Healthy Communities Leadership Academy – Health Forward Foundations
- Successful Facilitator Certificate – Mid-American Regional Council
- Public Engagement Certificate – University of Kansas
- Lean-Six Sigma – Green Belt – University of Kansas

REFERENCES

Sylvester “Sly” James	Wickham James Strategies Owner & Solutions		
Joni Wickham	Wickham James Strategies Owner & Solutions		
Terry Rynard	KC Parks	Former Director	
Krista Morrison	City of Kansas City, Mo	Budget Director	
Chris Goode	Ruby Jean’s Juicery	Owner	