

BENJAMIN A. JOHNSON, JR. CPRP



Summary of qualifications

- Over twenty years management experience in local and federal government
- Over twenty years' experience working in the non-profit arena
- Over twenty years' experience managing local and remote staff
- Over twenty years' experience in management of special projects and creative program design
- Experienced in allocating financial and staff resources, against competing internal and external needs
- Ability to work with varied organizations, styles and skill levels to achieve strategic objectives
- Detail oriented with strong organizational and planning skills
- Skilled in administrative analysis, problem solving and consensus building
- Articulate and persuasive in written and verbal presentations
- Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP)

Professional experience

Assistant Director of Recreation, Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation

April 2013 – Present

Oversee the operations, programming, partnerships and staffing for twelve community centers, one recreation center, two art centers and two senior centers. Coordinate, create and grow relationships with a wide variety of community partners ranging from businesses and school systems to churches and neighborhood groups. Strong emphasis on community and media relations. Overall budget over \$5 million, total staff of 55.

Community Project Manager, nFocus Solutions

March 2011 – March 2013

Responsible for every aspect of the implementation, utilization and support for TraxSolutions software being utilized in partnership with Metro United Way, Louisville Metro Government and the Jefferson County Public Schools. I served as the liaison between the partners, the community and nFocus Solutions.

This is a varied role where I set up meetings, conducted trainings, troubleshoot software, recommend improvements, monitor usage, etc. for nearly forty different non-profit organizations using tracking software. This software allows organizations to track the progress of the youth they serve by accessing school records (with parental consent) and recommend programs / interventions to build on strengths or address potential weaknesses.

US Department of Commerce, Census Bureau

Kentucky Team Leader, 5/2008 – 9/2010

Partnership Specialist, 5/1999 – 9/2000

As the Team Leader for the Partnership Program in Kentucky, I was the senior representative statewide for all efforts related to the public outreach campaign of the decennial Census.

Working with a team of twelve direct and over forty indirect reports, I oversaw communications, presentations, special projects, data input, internal and external communications. The team was charged with working with all segments of the community from elected officials to organizations serving persons experiencing homelessness, colleges, businesses, faith-based organizations, etc.

Led the Partnership Team (statewide) in establishing meaningful partnerships with over 300 governmental units and 3,000 community-based organizations. As a Sr. State Team Leader, I was selected to present with or in place of Sr. Regional Management at regional and national conferences.

Assistant Director, 10/2000 – 4/2008
Louisville Metro Office of Youth Development

I managed the operations of three distinct programs (teen empowerment, job training and arts) serving over 500 youth annually. Handled administrative and public relations duties along with numerous special projects and collaborations with community organizations and local businesses. Direct supervisory responsibility for three managers and one administrative support person; total staff of sixteen.

Transitioned teen empowerment program staff from part time to full time with “net zero” budget effect.
Tripled the number of participants served in our job-training program with reduced staff.
Sales and exhibits in the youth arts program increased every year with no additional staff or expenses.

Community Organizer, 1998 – 1999
The Community Builders, Inc., Boston, MA

Under a Hope VI federal grant, worked to organize and engage local residents, businesses and religious groups to work together to create a greater sense of community and cooperation.

Created public forums, resident engagement programs, a local directory, and a community calendar to share information among parties that had never worked together previously.

Associate Program Officer, Whitney M. Young Scholars Program, 1994 – 1998
Interim Director, Minority AIDS Program, 1997 – 1998
Program Coordinator, Project BUILD, 1994 – 1997
Event Manager, LF Derby Festival Barbecue, 1996 – 1997
Lincoln Foundation, Inc. Louisville, KY

Organized the administrative and development functions of the Scholars Program. This included public relations, marketing, finance, proposal writing and setting operational policies.

Managed paid, volunteer and contract staff in community-wide AIDS educational outreach efforts. Coordinated collaborative efforts with the health department and other agencies along with managing special events.

Recruited, interviewed and selected thirty-five students annually for a pre-college program designed to introduce rising high school seniors to a college level business curriculum. Served as the liaison between the Lincoln Foundation, University of Louisville and numerous corporate sponsors.

Board / Advisory Council affiliations

LEE Initiative (President), JCPS Advisory Council on Racial Equity (Chair), Education First Foundation (President), Florida A&M National Alumni Association – KY Chapter (President), Louisville Sports Commission, Simmons College Education Council, New Directions Housing Corporation (President), Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs (Chair), Community Partnership for the Protection of Children (Co-chair), Project One, YouthBuild, Canaan Family Life Center, OASIS Life Center,

Special Projects

James Beard Award judge, Bell Award Recipient, BMe Genius Fellow, CBMA American Express Leadership Fellow, American Express Global Leaders Summit, NRPA National Conference speaker, Showcase of HBCU Steering Committee (Chair), Cooking with Chef Ed Lee, Shawnee Justice Reinvestment Project, Metro United Way, MLK Season of Service, Urban League Doing the Right Thing Festival and High Risk African American Male Coalition, Defender Community Expo Youth Forum, Dating Violence Network, JB Speed Art Museum Docent, KY Center for the Arts - Art Can Save Task Force, Kentuckiana Minority Supplier Development Council

Education

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration

Ben Johnson Community Engagement

Listed alphabetically, non-exhaustive

Bell Award winner

Community Center partners – initiated the practice of leasing space to other youth service providers in community centers

COVID contact tracing assistance with Health Department (initiated partnership)

Dare to Care – hot meals for youth at community centers

Evolve502, Backpack League

FAMU NAA KY Chapter President

James Beard Awards Judge (2 years)

JCPS – Advisory Council on Racial Equity (Chair)

JCPS Satellite Office at California Community Center (initiated partnership)

Kentucky Derby Festival –

Bed Race, Block Party, JusticeFest, Parade

L.E.E. Initiative Board President –

2024 James Beard Humanitarian of the Year Award winner

Louisville Alliance for Sustainable Violence Reduction

Louisville Urban League

NFLPA – Lamar Jackson / Teddy Bridgewater event

NRPA and KRPS presenter,

NRPA Ethnic Minority Society Finance Committee

Metro United Way

Rajon Rondo Foundation

Robbie Valentine Basketball Camp

Safe Summer Grants partner (Community Center liaison)

Showcase of HBCU Board Chair

Sports Commission

Texas Roadhouse – Summer Blessings snacks for kids

The SPOT presenter

Youth Chat with LMPD creator