

Eric L. Wobser

Municipal leader with over a decade of executive experience and demonstrated record of [transformational success](#) in program development, strategic planning, cross-sector collaboration, community outreach, team-building, public relations, resource development, capital planning, service delivery, urban planning, and economic development

Goal

To serve under the leadership of forward thinking elected leaders to provide excellent municipal services while solving community challenges by developing and implementing best practices and addressing global issues at the local level

Experience

City of Sandusky, Sandusky, OH, *City Manager, 2014-Present*

Manage, under the leadership of the Sandusky City Commission, a full service municipal government in a diverse and historic community of over 25,000 with a combined annual operating budget of over \$50 million and approximately 250 full-time employees directly providing services including [Police](#), Fire, Engineering, Water, Sewer, [Public Transportation](#), Public Service, Community Development & Planning, Recreation, Law, and Finance

- Led 2014 campaign and secured passage of [Issue 8](#), a joint income and admissions tax increase, by developing a coalition of residents, businesses, institutions, and civic partners that passed with nearly 60% of vote and was the first voted municipal income tax increase in Sandusky's history, providing resources targeted to economic development, housing and blight elimination, infrastructure, and public safety;
- Spearheaded the creation of the [Bicentennial Vision Plan](#) in 2015 that directly engaged every Sandusky neighborhood to design a blueprint for deployment of Issue 8 tax dollars and the celebration of the city's Bicentennial in 2018, which led to the creation of innovative new programs and over [\\$300 million in public and private investment in Sandusky](#) over a five-year period and culminated in Sandusky being named "[America's Best Coastal Small Town](#)" by USA Today in 2019;
- Launched the [Sandusky Neighborhood Initiative](#), which utilized community engagement and cross-departmental planning to create programs for neighborhood infrastructure including parks, streets, trees, and walkability, as well as targeting investments into housing, blight elimination, community policing, code enforcement, and expanded recreation and programming;
- Created a more connected and publicly accessible waterfront through the transformation of the [Jackson Street Pier](#), [Shoreline Drive](#), and planning of the [Sandusky Bay Pathway and Landing Park](#) by overseeing community planning, public financing, and project implementation;
- Forged public-private partnerships including but not limited to the revitalization of three vacant historic buildings into a [new City Hall](#), the creation of [Bowling Green State University's Cedar Fair School of Resort and Attraction Management](#) in Downtown Sandusky, and the creation of the [Cedar Point Sports Center](#) at an abandoned county airport at the eastern gateway to Sandusky;

- Received [national attention](#) in 2019 for managing the swap of Columbus Day as an observed municipal holiday to Federal Election Day, one of several initiatives designed to make Sandusky a more welcoming and inclusive community;
- Assisted in creating a [statewide reputation](#) for Sandusky as a symbol of the revitalization of post-industrial cities, as evidenced by the Ohio Governor selecting Sandusky as the location of his [2017 State of the State Address](#);
- Developed [programs](#) and funding for [public art](#), cultural programming, [placemaking and wayfinding](#), and an enhanced social media presence and video campaign designed to enhance community engagement; and
- Partnered with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on the [Sandusky Bay Initiative](#) and successfully applied for several Great Lakes Restoration Initiative federal grants as part of larger efforts to protect and enhance the environmental quality of Lake Erie
- Weathering public health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on City of Sandusky by [raising awareness of Sandusky's unique position](#) based on its reliance on revenues generated by tourism in order to generate support for economic stimulus while also taking steps to resolve budget challenges and ensure community safety

[Ohio City Incorporated](#), Cleveland, OH, *Executive Director, 2009-2014*

Led community development corporation with staff of 11 and annual budget over \$1.2 million dedicated to [revitalizing Ohio City](#), a historic Cleveland neighborhood that is home to over 12,000 diverse residents, 200 businesses and 50 nonprofit organizations and institutions

- Developed and adopted successful 2010-2013 and 2014-2016 strategic plans in partnership with elected Board of Trustees and recruited strong staff for plan implementation;
- Doubled annual budget from under \$600,000 in 2009 to over \$1.2 million by attracting increased project support, building revenue-generating programs, and diversifying funding;
- Leveraged \$100 million in public and private investment in neighborhood over four-year period through assisting in expansion of existing businesses and attraction of over 70 local businesses;
- Partnered with City of Cleveland to celebrate the [West Side Market Centennial](#) and to leverage the centennial with an [award winning Market District Vision Plan](#) that included legacy projects such as the restoration of [Market Square Park](#), the launching of the [Charter One Growing Communities Initiative](#), attracting the [International Public Markets Conference](#), Community Programming, and more;
- Developed and managed the [Ohio City Farm](#), one of the largest urban farms in the country, in collaboration with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Refugee Response, Great Lakes Brewing Company as part of the Ohio City Fresh Food Collaborative;
- Created [youth recreation program](#) serving the Near West Side of Cleveland that started as a tee ball league and has grown to engage over 1,000 youth annually in [year-round recreational and cultural programming](#); and
- Developed corridor and [transit-oriented development plans](#) for Lorain Avenue that included [Cleveland's first protected bike lane](#)

City of Cleveland, Office of the Mayor, Cleveland, OH, *Special Projects Manager, 2006-2009*

- Implemented and managed Five-Year Capital Improvement Program, ensuring that \$1.6 billion in planned capital investments reflected Mayoral and Council policy goals and strategic initiatives
 - Led process to identify and align capital project priorities of departments and line agencies, city councilmembers, community organizations, and citywide plan;
 - Coordinated with Finance Department and bond counsel to identify financial capacity for general fund capital improvements (approximately \$40m annually for general fund) and structure general obligation bonds and restricted income tax expenditures; and

- Coordinated with Geographic Information Systems Division in creation of database and mapping capabilities for all planned capital projects
- Managed development of several innovative capital projects that involved public and private partners including but not limited to planning for the creation of a [new skateboard park on Cleveland's riverfront](#) and construction of a [downtown commuter bike facility](#); and
- Reported to Chief of Staff, advising on policy, communications, infrastructure, & development issues

Cleveland Executive Fellowship-A CORO Program, Cleveland, OH, *Fellow*, 2005-2006

University of Michigan, Office of the General Counsel, Ann Arbor, MI, *Law Clerk*, 2003-2004

City Year Cleveland- an Americorps Program, Cleveland, OH, *Corps Member*, 2001-2002

Education

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI, Juris Doctor, May 2005

Ohio University, Athens, OH, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, March 2002

Civic Involvement

- [Cleveland Municipal School District](#), Board of Education, 2011-2013
- Congress for the New Urbanism-Midwest Chapter, Board of Directors, 2020-Present
- Erie County Community Foundation, Board of Directors, 2015-Present
- Lake Erie Shores & Islands, Board of Directors, 2016-Present
- Sandusky State Theater, Board of Directors, 2020-Present
- [Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar](#), 2017
- Adjunct Professor, Bowling Green State University-Firelands Campus, Introduction to Political Science, Spring Semester 2016
- Leadership Erie County, Class of 2015, Distinguished Leader Award, 2017
- Downtown Cleveland Alliance, Board of Directors, 2010-2014, Co-Chair, 2014 Strategic Plan
- [Marshall Memorial Fellow](#), a Program of the German Marshall Fund, 2013
- Greater Cleveland Film Commission, Board of Directors, 2007-2010
- 36th Cleveland International Film Festival, Jurist, Short Film Competition, 2012
- Crain's Cleveland Business, "Power 150," [2012](#), [2014](#)
- Leadership Cleveland, Class of 2013
- [City Year Comcast Leadership Award](#), 2010
- Crain's Cleveland Business, "[20 in their 20s](#)," 2007
- Ohio State Bar, Admitted to Practice Law, 2005

Commentary

- Plain Dealer, Sunday Forum Section, [Cleveland Artisans Craft their own Economic Force](#), 2011
- Plain Dealer, Sunday Forum Section, [A New Picture for the Future of Cleveland](#), 2013 (co-author with Richey Piiparinen)
- City Club of Cleveland, Friday Forum, [Small City Solutions](#), 2020
- Sandusky Register, Op-Ed in Weekend Edition, [We Must Do Better](#), 2020

References Available Upon Request