



STEPHEN SHAFF

Social Entrepreneur | Community Developer & Activist | Policy & Advocacy Strategist

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY:

- Accomplished social entrepreneur, community organizer, affordable housing developer and economic equality advocate with 35+ years of experience designing, financing, and managing community-impact and economic equality initiatives.
- Founder/co-founder of multiple Benefit LLCs and nonprofit organizations focused on sustainable development, social enterprise, community arts, green economy and economic and social equality.
- Demonstrated expertise in affordable housing, community arts and green economy innovation, and organizational strategy—backed by a record of measurable community outcomes and national policy engagement.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Affordable Housing, Economic & Real Estate Development
- Community & Economic Revitalization Strategies
- Social Enterprise & Green Economy Initiatives
- Creative/Arts Economic Development
- Strategic Planning & Organizational Development
- Political & Policy Advocacy & Activism (local/national)
- Fundraising & Resource Development
- Multi-sector Coalition Building
- Leadership, Mediation & Stakeholder Engagement
- Cross Sector Network Development (local/nationwide)
- Leadership and Management Consulting
- Organizational/Operations Development

REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Real Estate/Affordable Housing Development & Community Organizing

- **Community Finance Academy**, *Co-Founder, President; community wealth training & strategies*

- **Community-Vision Solutions, Benefit LLC:** *Founder:* social enterprise consulting/services
- **Community-Vision Partners, Benefit LLC:** *Founder:* affordable housing/social solutions, initiatives, consultation & organizing (2014 - 2021)
- **Community-Vision Consultants,** *Founder:* community-impact affordable housing and real estate development (1999 - 2010)
- **Community Organizer/Advocate/Strategist:** organized in various underserved communities to eradicate severe crime and drug blight while simultaneously developing green affordable housing, and other community revitalization initiatives (1989 – present)
- **Creative/Economic Developer:** provided pro bono strategic, development and real estate services to found and/or expand various community-based arts and green economy initiatives (1997 – present)
- **Green Economic Business Developer:** strategic and business development consultant for green jobs and business development initiatives (ongoing)
- **Community Redevelopment:** organized community stakeholders, secured funding and redeveloped affordable home ownership housing in inner-city DC communities (1987 – 1995; 2001 –present)
- **Organizational Development:** founded, co-founded, or assisted in the expansion and funding of several for-profit, non-profit, political and community renewal organizations (1988 – present)
- **Resource Development:** raised or directly contributed financial resources and pro bono services to support the development and/or founding of several community renewal and political advocacy organizations (ongoing)

Political Advocacy, Strategies and Activism

- **Congressional Progressive Caucus Center,** *Advisory Board Member* (2020 - current)
- **Congressional Progressive Caucus Center,** *Founding Board Member; U.S. Congress Progressive Caucus, C-3 Foundation* (2006 – 2019)
- **People Demanding Action,** *Founding Board Member; grassroots organizing, lobbying, policy C 4,* (2015 - present)
- **Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council,** *Founder:* green business advocacy, policy and organizing C-3 (2014-2018)
- **Progressive Democrats of America,** *Vice-Chair Emeritus; social justice PAC* (2005 –2012)
- **Congressional Lobbying/Advocacy,** social and economic justice priorities advocacy
- **Grassroots Political Organizer/Activist,** local, State (MD) and national political activist initiatives and strategies (1990 – present)
- **Resource Development/Fundraiser,** various political, nonprofit and community initiatives (1990 –present)

Social Advocacy & Civic Service

Partial List of Non-profit Boards of Directors/Civic Service:

- **Alliance for Regional Cooperation;** *Founding Board Member* (2017 - present)
- **Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council,** *Founding Board Member/Exec Dir* (2014 - 2018)
- **Emergence Community Arts Collaborative,** *Founding Board Member* (2002 –2019)
- **DC Region Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club,** 1997 – 2012 (*Board Chair, 2010 – 2012*)
- **Coalition of Nonprofit Housing and Economic Developers,** *Task Force: Affordable Housing Preservation & Home Purchase Assistance Program, member* (2007 - 09)
- **World Arts Focus/Joe’s Movement Emporium,** *President Emeritus* (1997-2004)
- **Gateway Community Development Corporation,** *Founding Board Member* (1997 – 2000)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERTISE

Real Estate, Social Enterprise & Business Development

- **Affordable Housing Development:** Acquired secured financing and managed all phases of construction, sales and/or property management of \$100M+ inner-city Washington, DC real estate portfolio and projects
 - Involved with developing over 400,000 square feet of affordable housing and commercial development projects
 - Facilitated and/or developed 400+ affordable home purchase opportunities (1988 -94; 2003-2010)
- **Mortgage Banking:** Provided residential and commercial mortgage financing services and consultation
 - Developed a Financial Literacy Programs designed to educate and protect consumers from abusive subprime lending traps
 - Acted as consultant for various housing and economic development community development corporations

Strategist/ Management/Organizational & Policy Development

- **Community Alliance Project (CAP),** *creator and strategist*
- **Business Preservation Assistance Program (BPAP),** *co-creator*
- **Business development** (30+ years) initiating and executing all organizational functions



necessary to conceive, finance, develop, manage staffing and infrastructure growth

- Raised and managed \$10+ million in investment/project funding
- Founded 2 for-profit community development companies resulting in \$10s of millions of economic activity
- Founded/co-founded several political and community-renewal organizations
- Provided considerable strategic planning and policy development services for various organizations

Community Advocacy/Organizing

- Organized blighted, drug/crime-infested neighborhood stakeholders and redeveloped an entire city block; created 225+ affordable homeowners opportunities
- Served as an Officer/Board of Director of several youth, arts, community and political organizations.
- Founded or co-founded various arts and community revitalization organizations.
- Provided significant strategic planning and other pro bono services to nonprofits that support housing, workforce development, anti-poverty, community arts and underserved-youth agendas.

Political Consultation/Organizing

- **Strategic Planning:** provided consultation on several political advocacy campaigns
- **Organizational Development:** assisted in founding and structuring political nonprofits
- **Resource Development:** development strategic planning and implementation
- **Organizing:** generated considerable credibility and relationships within multiple sectors (sustainable businesses, progressives, environmentalists, Labor, community & arts activists, social justice movement)
- **Mediator:** often called upon to resolve or mitigate disruptive organizational or personnel disputes

EDUCATION

- **University of Maryland**, European Division, Germany (honors)
 - Earned 62 credits during 3 year Army Service (1977 - 1979)
- **West Chester University**, West Chester, PA – BA, 1983, Psychology (Honors)
 - Senior Paper: *The Effects of Television Violence on America's Children*
- **George Washington University**, Wash, DC – PhD Candidate, Political/Social Psych

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