

About the Author: Gerald Deloney

A Legacy of Empowerment, Advocacy, and Community Transformation

Gerald Deloney is a beacon of leadership, advocacy, and youth empowerment. With a decades-long career, his unwavering dedication has profoundly shaped communities, spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives, and championed equity at every turn.

A Trailblazer in Youth Empowerment

From an early age, Gerald demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to uplifting his community. As a high school sophomore in Portland, Oregon, he pioneered and operated the state's first African-American-focused youth program under Model Cities in the early 1970s. This visionary initiative provided counseling, employment services, and enriching activities, laying the foundation for the city of Portland Bureau of Human Resources to establish a broader youth service center system. This achievement cemented Gerald's reputation as a transformative leader.

Driving Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities

For 15 years, Gerald played a pivotal role in training and employment initiatives with the Portland Human Resources Bureau and the Private Industry Council. He managed the city's most extensive summer youth employment program, providing opportunities for over 3,500 youth and securing approximately \$17 million annually in federal funding for workforce development. His ability to design and execute training contracts across multiple districts has impacted countless individuals' economic mobility.

Influential Work in Juvenile Justice

With 14 years dedicated to Multnomah County's Juvenile Justice system, Gerald worked at the forefront of rehabilitation and admissions processing, ensuring youth received proper guidance during pivotal moments. His contributions to night intake and detention services reinforced his commitment to systemic improvements within the justice sector.

Leadership at the Urban League & Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI)

Gerald's tenure at the Urban League of Portland was marked by managing a county-wide caseload of sex offenders and his instrumental role as the Director of the NE Youth Center. His leadership continued at SEI, where he dedicated 25 years as the Director of Program Advancement, overseeing proposal writing, contract compliance, and the development of comprehensive staff training manuals.

More notably, Gerald was the architect behind the Self-Enhancement Program, developing, writing, and securing funding to bring this transformative initiative to life. His strategic vision and relentless drive led to the program's replication in Miami, Florida, where he single-handedly directed the launch of the Overtown Youth Service Center, overseeing its construction, staffing, and operational framework. His ability to adapt and scale successful models nationally solidified his reputation as a pioneering leader in youth service programming.

Evaluations and National Expansion Efforts

A leader in program assessment, Gerald, participated in seven high-level evaluations, including the SEI Program and its Miami replication, an assessment by the Edna McConnell-Clark Foundation, and significant studies such as the CDC violence prevention project and Oregon's Byrne Grant. His expertise in assessing program efficacy and impact has helped guide policy and funding decisions at the highest levels.

Advocacy and Equity Leadership

Gerald's influence extends beyond program development—he has tirelessly advocated for racial equity and justice. Serving as Co-Chair of the Coalition of Communities of Color for three years and later as Chair for four years, he worked alongside esteemed evaluator Anne Curry-Stevens (PSU) on the groundbreaking "Unsettling Profile" research project, advocating for equity across Multnomah County and securing crucial funding for marginalized communities.

Published Works and Thought Leadership

Gerald Deloney's insights into social equity and culturally specific services have been instrumental in shaping discourse on race and policy. His co-authored publications include:

"Rethinking Services with Communities of Color: Why Culturally Specific Organizations Are the Preferred Service Delivery Model" (co-authored with Ann Curry-Stevens and Matt Morton)—a compelling analysis of racial disparities in social services and the value of culturally focused organizational structures.

"School of Social Work Faculty Publications and Presentations" (co-authored with Matt Morton, published in Sociology Mind)—an in-depth examination of racism in social services, cultural competency, and service evaluation.

A Vision for the Future, Gerald Deloney champions youth development, community empowerment, and racial equity, leaving an indelible mark on those he serves. His legacy is one of transformative actions, unwavering advocacy, and a steadfast belief in every individual's potential to shape a better, more just society.