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Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition names Dario Anselmo as new president to lead urban revitalization efforts



Image: Bethany Jackson Photography

Dario Anselmo is president of the Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition.

Bethany Jackson Photography

The Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition, a public-private partnership aimed at revitalizing the city's urban core in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, has a new top leader.

Dario Anselmo, a former legislator and former owner of the Fine Line music venue in downtown Minneapolis, confirmed he has taken over as president of the group, overseeing day-to-day operations of the coalition.

He replaces Erin Fitzgerald, [who founded the Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition two years ago](#). The leadership transition occurred earlier this month.

Fitzgerald, who will remain involved with the coalition as a co-chair of its steering committee, said she stepped back to instead focus on her family and business, [Edina-based commercial real estate investment firm Willow Peak](#).



Erin Fitzgerald founded the Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition.
Nancy Kuehn | MSPBJ

The Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition is a group of over 150 individuals from the public and private sectors that aim to revitalize

downtown Minneapolis. Some of the entities involved in the group include the city of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Downtown Council, Onward Investors, Sherman Associates Inc., Bridgewater Bank and the Minneapolis Foundation, [according to the group's website](#).

Some of group's main initiatives and ideas have focused on advocating for ways to reinvent unused office spaces to restore vibrancy and transforming the Warehouse District into an entertainment hub.

"In just two years, we've lit a spark," Fitzgerald said in a statement. "The Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition has brought new energy, fresh ideas and meaningful momentum to downtown. This next phase ensures that the work continues with greater stability, resources and influence."

It's working to solidify an overall vision for the Warehouse District; facilitate the creation of a skate park, dog park and performance park in the core; and encourage more large-scale outdoor art, like murals and billboards among other mid- and long-term initiatives.



The Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition plans to solidify its vision for the future of the Warehouse District of downtown Minneapolis. It worked with Confluence to come up with this rendering for what the future could look like.

Anselmo takes over after having just [sold the property containing the Fine Line music venue](#) and adjacent office building, called The Consortium, this past summer. [He sold the Fine Line business years earlier](#) but had held onto the real estate.

"When I look at the Warehouse District, I see a blank canvas with tremendous potential," Anselmo said at the time of the sale, mentioning that his greater focus would be the Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition. **"We're at a critical juncture where thoughtful, coordinated development can transform this into the vibrant district it's meant to be. The pieces are there – now we need leadership willing to move at the pace this opportunity demands."**

Anselmo previously held the position of vice president and treasurer for the coalition.

The other members of the Minneapolis Renaissance Coalition's executive committee are:

- Kristen Anderson, Hempel Real Estate (who serves as vice president of the coalition)
- Alyssa Carlson, Metropolitan Airports Commission
- Randy Larson, Shinebox
- Nathan Evans, GBBN
- Nancy Aleksuk, Swervo Development Corp. (who serves as treasurer of the coalition)

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