

Paula Robinson

Paula Robinson is the President of the Bronzeville Community Development Partnership, a private non profit community development corporation (CDC) revitalizing Chicago's historic African American community as an international tourism destination for more than two decades. Robinson holds a Community Economic Development Professional Certificate from NeighborWorks as well as a certificate from the Minority Business Executive Program, Amos Tuck School of Business Administration, Dartmouth College. She has been asked to present community economic development strategies in Beloit, Wisconsin, Durham, North Carolina and Cleveland, Ohio and has been a speaker at the Microgrid Knowledge Conference, the Community Broadband Conference, the Illinois Governor's Conference on Tourism, the Association of African American Museums and the National Trust Conference on Historic Preservation. She provides a annual State of the Community address at the Bronzeville International Summit.

She holds a B.S. in Communication Arts from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and has completed all required coursework at DePaul University for an MS from the School of New Learning focusing on Heritage Tourism as a Sustainable Development Strategy for Urban Markets. In 2012 she became a Co-founder of the Urban Innovation Center, an incubator supporting social enterprise and civic entrepreneurship in Tourism, Technology and Transportation. She is a consultant for small businesses and nonprofit organizations on urban marketing, branding, and placemaking. Robinson was successful in securing a resolution from the Illinois General Assembly to commemorate the 2016 Centennial of The Great Migration. Her civic activities includes serving as the President of the Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission, their advocacy lead to the completion of a feasibility study and a legislative nomination to the National Park Service for congressional designation.

Robinson a marketing communications veteran operated her own firm BR&R Communications Inc. for more than ten years; she has been recognized with numerous industry awards. A fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago, Robinson is advisor emeritus to the national board of advisors for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and serves on the Calumet Collaborative Steering Committee transforming the southeast Chicago lakefront and northern Indiana region. The BCDP is a collaborative partner with the Chicago Park District and Chicago Field Museum for the Burnham Wildlife Corridor rails to trails conservancy, Roots & Routes to Grow, with initiatives for nature trails, outdoor gathering spaces, public art and youth conservation. She chairs the economic development committee for the Morgan Park Civic League and serves on the committee for trail-oriented development and community wellness around the Major Taylor Trail.