

Maura Shenker

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Professional Summary

I am a passionate leader dedicated to closing the racial wealth gap, advancing equity, and creating economic opportunities in communities that have been historically overlooked and underestimated. With experience across the public, private, government, and academic sectors, I thrive on building connections, breaking down barriers, and fostering access to resources that empower individuals and organizations. My work focuses on dismantling institutional obstacles to entrepreneurship and designing inclusive programs and policies that drive meaningful change. A recognized thought leader in social, racial, and economic justice, I have contributed insights to organizations such as the Clinton Foundation, the PEW Research Center, and the Brookings Institution. I am deeply committed to creating pathways for economic mobility and ensuring that communities have the tools, knowledge, and support to thrive.

Professional Experience

AllHold Capital

Founder | 2025 – Present

- Launching an impact investment fund to transition small businesses and their real estate into permanent employee ownership.
- Designing a \$25M trust-based model blending Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) conversions with real estate acquisition to stabilize jobs and prevent displacement.
- Building a pipeline of \$1M–\$10M anchor businesses and aligning transactions with values-driven sellers.
- Cultivating partnerships with mission-aligned investors, CDFIs, and foundations to secure catalytic and program-related investments (PRIs).
- Positioning AllHold Capital as a national voice for community wealth through investor relations and thought leadership.

Maura Shenker Solutions, LLC

Principal & Founder | 2024 – Present

Strategic consulting for national organizations focused on program scaling, partnership development, and capacity building.

Select Multi-Entity & Capacity Building Engagements:

- Make Startups Executive Fellowship – Program Director: Led 6-month national program training ecosystem builders to access federal workforce funding; managed full program P&L, curriculum design, and participant outcomes across multiple states
- Prosperity Now – Stakeholder Engagement Consultant: Designed marketing strategy doubling program enrollment; launched new platform with 100+ users; secured national conference partnerships

U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Investment and Innovation

Innovation & Investment Impact Fellow | 2022 – 2024

Senior executive role managing federal programs and building strategic partnerships across multi-entity innovation ecosystems.

- Program Management: Oversaw \$7M Growth Accelerator Fund Competition, quadrupling applicant pool while achieving equity-centered outcomes
- Cross-Agency Collaboration: Co-chaired Community of Practice for Inclusive Ecosystem Building; served on Lab-to-Market subcommittee developing standardized metrics for federal initiatives
- Policy Development: Created evaluation frameworks and strategic recommendations for underserved community participation in federal programs
- Stakeholder Engagement: Represented SBA at national industry events, cultivating partnerships with multi-entity organizations and state-based power-building groups

Temple University, Fox School of Business – Small Business Development Center

Director | 2018 – 2022

Led comprehensive organizational transformation, building scalable programs and managing complex multi-stakeholder initiatives.

- Team Leadership: Scaled team from 3 to 21 professionals while maintaining operational excellence and program quality standards
- Program Expansion: Created 2 Centers of Excellence focused on underserved communities; secured over \$4M in new funding through strategic partnerships
- State & Local Partnerships: Built revenue-generating alliances with financial institutions, city government, and community organizations
- Digital Transformation: Successfully pivoted to virtual operations during COVID-19, maintaining service delivery while expanding reach to 7,500+ annual participants

- Impact Delivery: Facilitated access to \$21M+ in capital for small businesses; supported creation/retention of 5,000+ jobs in 2021

FINANTA (Community Development Financial Institution)

Vice President of Development | 2015 – 2016

Led capital mobilization and strategic partnership development for multi-entity CDFI serving diverse communities.

- Capital Raising: Secured \$100M+ in funding through relationship building with financial institutions and federal agencies
- Compliance & Risk Management: Increased SBA technical assistance funding by 81% through strategic program positioning and regulatory navigation
- Multi-Entity Product Development: Created integrated financial literacy and business development programs across organizational structures
- Institutional Partnerships: Cultivated relationships with banks, foundations, and government agencies to scale programs

Saint Joseph's University, Haub School of Business

Director, Professional Development & Food Marketing Centers | 2016 – 2018

Managed revenue-generating programs serving Fortune 500 companies and executive audiences.

- Program Innovation: Developed award-winning leadership programs recognized as "Best New Program" by CMED (2017)
- Revenue Growth: Led creation of custom programs, growing division revenue by 20%
- Partnership Management: Built and maintained strategic relationships with corporate clients ensuring program sustainability

Education & Professional Development

After more than a decade of boots-on-the-ground community and economic development work, I started my Ph.D. in political science to explore the barriers to direct participation by marginalized communities. What I learned is that the institutional systems that discourage participation in political systems are almost identical to the barriers to economic participation. My research focuses on how institutions can create programs and policies that can encourage active participation in the legitimate economy and political activism, agency, and advocacy in historically disenfranchised communities – race and gender.

Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), Political Science – Temple University

Focus: Political Economy, Economic Mobility, Institutional Equity

M.A., Political Science – Temple University

Concentration: Policy Analysis, Institutional Design, Economic Governance

M.S., Organization Development – Saint Joseph's University

Focus: Leadership, Systems Change, Team Management

Professional Certifications & Training:

- Wharton Public Policy Certificate Program – University of Pennsylvania (2024)
- Persuasive Communications: Narrative, Evidence & Impact – Harvard Kennedy School (2022)
- Behavioral Insights and Public Policy – Harvard Kennedy School (2022)
- Mixed Methods Research – ICPSR, University of Michigan (2021)
- ICF-Certified Executive Coaching Program – Saint Joseph's University (2017)

Industry Leadership & External Relations

National Platform Engagement:

- Clinton Global Initiative – Panelist, Inclusive Economic Development
- Pew & Brookings Institution – Expert Contributor on community development finance and systemic barriers
- InBIA 2024 – Presenter, National Ecosystem Collaboration Panel
- National SBA & CDFI Forums – Featured Speaker on innovation finance and partnership development

Areas of Expertise:

- Building complex partnerships with financial institutions and philanthropic organizations
- Revenue generation through strategic program design and stakeholder engagement
- P&L management and financial performance optimization for mission-driven organizations
- Business development team leadership and coaching in community development contexts