



Jessica B. Wallace

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Dear RTA Board Members,

While attending Case Western Reserve University from 2002 to 2004, I quickly realized that Cleveland was where I needed to be. Growing up in Geneva, Ohio, I did not have access to public transportation. If I had wanted to obtain my goal of living independently, I would need to rely on public transportation. With a physical disability, I depend on a wheelchair for mobility. Upon graduating from Case in 2004, I set off in search of employment in downtown Cleveland where I would have access to what I consider one of the best accessible transportation systems in the country.

I am now an experienced daily rider of 13 years. The sole reason I moved to Cleveland was because of RTA. Without this transportation system, I would not be able to get back and forth to work every day. I would not be able to get to doctor appointments or grocery shopping. I depend on RTA to take me to University Circle where I enjoy visiting the museums where I am a member. During the summer on Wednesdays I spend the evening at the Cleveland Botanical Garden taking photographs while listening to the live music playing in Wade Oval. On some weekends, I take the 32 to meet my friend at the Cedar Lee Theater to catch a movie and lunch. My goal of living independently is made possible by RTA.

Throughout my years as a rider, I have become an advocate not only for myself, but also for other riders with accessibility needs. My home is near Shaker Square and for several years I have been an active voice on how inefficient the mechanical lifts are at this station. Ramps would be so much better. I have built a positive reputation within the RTA community. Most operators, supervisors and staff members know me by name and many of them look out for me and help me, which I appreciate beyond measure. Whenever I run into an issue, I message RTA on Twitter and someone gets back to me in a timely manner. If the matter is not urgent, I will stop by the main desk in Tower City as I'm passing through to make them aware of the situation. Everyone has always been so kind and willing to help me and for that I am truly grateful.

I can offer a very necessary and unique perspective that other riders have not experienced. Whenever I see riders getting upset about a late train or a bus that is too full, I wish that they had a day to ride in my shoes. Sometimes I have to wait 40 minutes for the next bus because the one I needed to get on didn't have an operating ramp. Other times, operators will forget I am on the train and pass up my stop. At least two times I have gotten stuck inside a mechanical lift that quit working while I was using it. A late train or a packed bus is a minor inconvenience when you consider what riders with accessibility needs go through daily. However, I not only want to advocate for riders with accessibility needs, I want to represent all riders equally. Without an experienced daily rider on the board, RTA is doing a huge disservice not only to the community, but also to itself as a reputable organization.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wallace

JESS WALLACE

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am an accounting systems manager seeking a full-time position with an organization in Downtown Cleveland where I will continue to build a safe, livable and sustainable community in the city that has captured my heart. I have fifteen years of experience in office management, bookkeeping and payroll taxes as well as two and a half years of experience in community development and engagement, fundraising and event planning by virtue of my continued volunteer efforts with two Downtown Cleveland non-profit organizations.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Accounting Systems Manager

Story & Company, L.L.C. (July 2005 - Present)

Office Management:

- Independently manage Downtown Cleveland office location
- Handle confidential client information daily
- Prioritize and multi-task to meet strict deadlines in fast-paced environment
- Answer and direct telephone calls with professional etiquette
- Copy, fax, scan and email confidential documents
- View to improve and correct financial statements and other outgoing documents
- Process all individual, corporate, partnership and trust income tax returns
- Developed more efficient system to process all tax returns

Bookkeeping:

- Prepare invoices, receive payments and post deposits for clients
- Reconcile accounts receivable
- Prepare and process payables on a weekly basis
- Reconcile monthly bank statements
- File clients' monthly sales tax returns on the Ohio Business Gateway
- Prepare weekly, bi-weekly, monthly and commission payrolls
- Prepare and process quarterly, monthly and annual payroll tax returns and Forms 1099
- Execute other relevant bookkeeping activities to maintain accuracy of records
- Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor

Tutor

Case Western Reserve University (September 2002 - May 2004)

- Acquired excellent interpersonal communication skills teaching English to international students
- Developed leadership skills while advising new tutors
- Designed tutoring handbook for future tutors entering the program

Tutor

Kent State University, Ashtabula Campus (October 2000 - May 2002)

- Independently tutored two chemistry courses and four math courses
- Received "Student of the Year Award" in May 2002 for my contributions to tutoring program and community

SKILLS

- Attention to Detail
- Leadership
- Organization
- Problem Solving
- Quick Learner
- Trustworthy

EXPERTISE

- Bookkeeping
- Client-Confidentiality
- Office Administration
- Payroll Tax
- QuickBooks Pro Advisor
- Self-management

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, May 2004

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

Kent State University, Ashtabula, Ohio

VOLUNTEERING

Digital Marketing Co-Chair

Downtown Cleveland Residents (August 2020 - Present)

- Procure and post content to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media accounts, with a combined audience of more than 11,000 residents and stakeholders
- Monitor and maintain social media accounts and reply to inquiries or concerns as needed
- Curate and publish bi-monthly e-newsletter via MailChimp
- Strategize social media campaigns to better engage the audience and to attract more followers
- Create diverse content using Canva

Safety Chair

Downtown Cleveland Residents (November 2018 - Present)

- Serve as point-of-contact for Downtown Cleveland residents with safety concerns or suggestions
- Act as primary liaison between residents and Third District Division of Police to communicate all safety related concerns
- Promptly respond to emails and phone calls from residents and stakeholders
- Regularly attend monthly Third District Division of Police safety meetings
- Build and maintain relationships with Third District Commander and Community Engagement Officers
- Work closely with the City of Cleveland, Vision Zero, Bike Cleveland and Spin to promote pedestrian safety downtown
- Share updates on safety matters with board members and residents

Forum Committee Member

Downtown Cleveland Residents (August 2018 - Present)

- Assisted in spearheading the monthly Community Forums that have remained active since October 2018
- Attended Community of Practice training session at Neighborhood Connections to master empowering a more engaging, productive and actionable conversation between residents and stakeholders
- Presented at the Cleveland Leadership Center Accelerate 2020 pitch competition in an effort to obtain funding for the Community Forums
- Facilitate segments of the Community Forums under the Community of Practice format in front of audiences averaging over 50 people
- Email downtown residential buildings monthly flyers advertising the Community Forums
- Monitor and record attendance to the Community Forums

Events Chair

Downtown Cleveland Alliance City Advocates Young Professionals Board (January 2020 - Present)

- Build ways to adapt to completely virtual fundraising setting due to COVID-19
- Lead Events Committee through virtual Zoom meetings and email discussions
- Research and approach downtown businesses to serve as host for a virtual fundraiser
- Initiate planning of "Brews for a Cause" virtual fundraiser to raise funds for the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, generating a successful turnout of 36 participants and \$428.40 in funds raised

City Advocate

Downtown Cleveland Alliance (March 2018 - December 2019)

- Contacted local businesses to negotiate a donated space for workforce engagement networking events
- Emailed downtown workforce to encourage attendance to the networking events
- Reached out to local businesses to request donations for three diverse fundraisers focused on raising funds to bring the first playground to Downtown Cleveland, resulting in the project becoming fully funded
- Orchestrated "Pooches for a Playground" fundraising event to not only raise funds, but to also bring awareness to this project
- Actively promoted and supported all events on my personal social media pages

Jeffrey Sleasman is Director of Strategic Partnerships for Compass Biomedical. He oversees strategic development, commercialization of internal assets, and program management for the firm. Prior to joining Compass (formerly Arteriocyte, Inc.), Jeff worked in research administration at The Ohio State University. He holds undergraduate degrees from Miami University and an MBA from Fisher College of Business at OSU. Jeff lives carless in Cleveland and has been a dedicated transit rider for 30 years while living in four cities on two continents.

Jeff's reasons for serving to improve mobility in Cleveland are threefold: economics, equity, and future planning. He believes the method for achieving these goals is to provide transportation alternatives that are not the privately-owned, single-occupancy vehicle.

1) **Economics.** According to AAA and APTA, the average cost to own and operate a private vehicle is almost [\\$9,000 a year](#). Families that choose to own one car instead of two—or zero instead of one—are freed from these costs. They are then able to invest in the community, their families, and their futures. Even families that do not forego ownership can save drastically by reducing the miles they spend commuting in private vehicles.

2) **Equity.** 25% of people in the City of Cleveland do not have access to a private vehicle. This figure rises to 40% in many neighborhoods on the historically marginalized east side. Public transit is the principal means of mobility among these communities. Also, the previously-noted high cost to own and operate a private vehicle is a heavy burden among lower-income Clevelanders whose financial situation only marginally enables them to purchase a car. It will most likely not be a reliable vehicle and the costs of ownership and operation will drain a significantly higher percentage of their household income than higher-income Clevelanders. In addition, a disproportionate percentage of transit users are residents with disabilities. Not everyone is able to operate an automobile, but everyone deserves to be mobile.

3) **The future.** With good policy, good planning, quality community investments, and some good fortune, Cleveland may once again see population growth and broad revitalization in our neighborhoods. We have already seen this in areas such as Downtown, Tremont, Ohio City, University Circle, and Detroit Shoreway. Without quality transit and planning for walkable, accessible neighborhoods, we cannot expect or sustain revitalization. The sheer volume of land area required to move and store cars will limit all options. Valuable land in Downtown and Ohio City is currently locked up in inefficient use as surface parking lots. That land could be repurposed for housing, offices, or parks. The artificial scarcity of land created by this poor use drives up leasing costs for residents, companies, and retail establishments. If we are to expect thousands of new residents in these neighborhoods in coming years (and the office and retail jobs that will accompany them), we will need the efficiency of transit for urban mobility.

Jeffrey Weston Sleasman

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15+ years' experience in Strategy and Program Management. Excellent analytical, organizational, and communication skills with expertise strategic planning, compliance, budget/financial/project management, feasibility analysis, and resource allocation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Strategic Partnerships

2014 – Present

Compass Biomedical (previously Arteriocyte, Inc.) | Cleveland, OH

Corporate strategy, partnership management, and financial management for leader in blood component products and biologic solutions for cell culture, tissue repair, wound care, and ophthalmic therapies.

- Established and managed new strategic business opportunities, initiatives, and partnerships for projects that meet the Compass's scientific, business, and partnership objectives. Raise capital for product commercialization.
- Contract management and compliance for over \$30m in grants and contracts, including \$15m+ award from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).

Senior Sponsored Program Officer

2007 – 2014

The Ohio State University | Office of Sponsored Programs | Columbus, OH

Assistant Program Coordinator

2006 – 2007

The Services Group, Inc. | Arlington, VA

- NOTE: The Services Group, Inc. is now a part of AECOM International.

Program Assistant

2005 – 2006

Counterpart International | Washington, DC

Project Assistant

2004 – 2005

Community Refugee & Immigration Services | Columbus, OH

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. 2011

MBA, Strategy & Entrepreneurship

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. 2004

BA, International Studies. BA, History. BA, Spanish. BA, Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs

Minors: Latin American Studies; Black World Studies

Certified Associate in Project Management (**CAPM**)

Certified Research Administrator (**CRA**)

Projects and Other Studies

Technology and Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Academy. 2011-2012

Research Commercialization and SBIR Center. May 2012.

Emerging Markets – Microfinance. Winter 2011. Cusco, Peru

Language Skills

Native English; Fluent Spanish.

Roberta Duarte, is a native of Paraguay and a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, where she focused on Global and Public Health Sciences with a concentration in Social Behavioral Sciences. Roberta is known for her broad range, technical research, and her depth of understanding in advising her clients, with respect to culturally and linguistically appropriate services and challenges.

Roberta has worked locally and abroad, primarily resolving strategic issues related to outreach and resource access. In 2016, Roberta moved back to Cleveland to be part of the inaugural cohort of the Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellowship. Roberta served as a Community and Public Health Fellow at The MetroHealth System, where Roberta worked closely with senior leadership and a cross-functional implementation team on a variety of population health initiatives within Cuyahoga County. Roberta also previously worked for Esperanza, Inc., an organization focused on supporting the Latinx community on Cleveland's near west side.

Roberta is currently a Project Manager at JumpStart Inc. For the past two years, Roberta has connected with a wide range of multigenerational community leaders, community organizations and entrepreneurs throughout JumpStart's markets. Roberta has been heightening JumpStart's understanding to better serve Cleveland's MNTI neighborhoods, and become an inclusive community resource and partner organization.

In order to achieve a long-term economic development and entrepreneurship impact, Roberta has developed an equitable service pipeline that provides intentional services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic needs. Roberta's equitable pipeline is an opportunity for JumpStart to:

- Value fairness, and ensure all underestimated entrepreneurs/clients are treated equally;
- Align current and future JS Latinx focused programs in the tech, non-tech/Core City and workforce development space;
- Fulfill part of JS's mission in supporting diverse entrepreneurs and communities;
- Lead systematic change in the NEO (and potentially the NWO) entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Roberta has also played an integral role supporting the Chief of Inclusion and Outreach, guiding Latinx change management process and best practices that has led to positive changes internally and through the various JS markets.

In 2019, Roberta founded Areko Consulting, responsible for leading culturally competent initiatives with a global and public health approach in projects like 25Connects / 25Conecta for The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. Roberta has participated in various leadership and career development programs such as the Venture Capital University national cohort presented by Startup@BerkeleyLaw, and was recently selected for the Cleveland Leadership Center's Bridge Builder Class of 2021.

Roberta serves as The Young Latino Network Vice President, Hathaway Brown Alumnae Council member, LatinUs Theater Company board member and a MetroHealth Executive N.E.T. committee member. She is also a Hispanic Start Ambassador—Cleveland Hub—led by the We Are All Human Foundation, and a mentor for Latinx students in college.

Roberta Duarte

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/maria-roberta-duarte/>

EDUCATION

Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

Bachelors of Arts, May 2016

Special Major: Global and Public Health Sciences | Concentration: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Magna Cum Laude

Venture Capital University | VC Certification, April 2019

Cohort #4 presented by Startup@BerkeleyLaw, the National Venture Capital Association, and Venture Forward

EXPERIENCE

Program Manager, JumpStart Inc. | Cleveland, OH, July 2018-Present

- Designs and leads economic development and entrepreneurship cultural competence initiatives (to support JS's markets in Cleveland neighborhoods i.e. Clark-Fulton and throughout the state of ohio) through the Services and Inclusion division.

Founder, Areko Consulting | Cleveland, OH, November 2019-Present

- Strengthening and advancing organizations, entrepreneurs and communities through tailored engagement initiatives with a holistic global and public health approach.

Mentoring and ImpACT Program Coordinator, Esperanza, Inc. | Cleveland, OH, November 2017-July 9, 2018

- Recruited and developed intergenerational programming for several outreach initiatives within the Cleveland Latinx community.

Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellow, The Cleveland Foundation - Community and Public Health Fellow, The MetroHealth System | Cleveland, OH, August 2016-September 2017

- Developed and coordinated programs designed to promote the organization and its services within the MetroHealth community.

Public Health Project Coordinator, Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare-SENEPA | Asunción, Paraguay, June 2015-July 2015

- Assisted in the development, implementation, and evaluation of infection control policies throughout the organization.

Environmental Division Summer Intern, Cleveland Department of Public Health | Cleveland, OH, August 2014

- Updated the City of Cleveland Bureau of Environmental Health Services Inspection and Procedure protocol, which was implemented citywide.

- Reviewed all the designs and plans submitted for new food locations in the city of Cleveland.

Public Health Intern, Clínica Monteverde - ATAP | Monteverde, Costa Rica, January 2013-March 2013

- Assisted ATAP Nurses with patient treatment, refilled and organized supplies, filed patient charts.

City Year Corps Member and Resource Engagement Coordinator, City Year Cleveland / AmeriCorps | Cleveland, OH, August 2011-May 2012

- Provided full classroom support throughout the day by mentoring and tutoring students, and organized collaborator-driven after school programs and community events.

SKILLS

Technical

- Efficiently and effectively conducts independent and group qualitative research sample sets.
- Effective in harnessing teams/networks of expertise or other resources.
- Effective in multiple presentation formats, including written, in-person, and virtual settings.

Language

- Fluency in English, Spanish, Guarani, Portuguese; intermediate Modern Standard Arabic.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cleveland Bridge Builder, Cleveland Leadership Center, Class 2021

MetroHealth N.E.T., Member, The MetroHealth System, Cleveland, OH, January 2017-Present

Hathaway Brown School Alumni Association, Member, Shaker Heights, OH, July 2013- Present

LatinUs Theater, Board Member, Cleveland, OH, February 2020-Present

Hispanic Star - We Are All Human Foundation, Cleveland Ambassador, April 2020-Present

Young Latino Network, Vice President, Cleveland, OH, November 2018-Present

Hispanic Leadership Summit - Dallas, September 2019 and New York City, December 2019

Esperanza, Inc., Mentor for Cleveland Metropolitan School District high school students, December 2017-Present

City Year Cleveland Alumni Association, Member, Cleveland, OH, September 2012-Present

Be Heard! Next Gen Cleveland, Committee Member, February 2019

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The 25 Under 35 2020 Movers & Shakers Award, Cleveland, OH, February 2020

The Hispanic Alliance Leadership Development Initiative Special Recognition Award - Cohort VII, Cleveland, May 2019

The YLN 2019 Unidos Award, July 2019. Received as a result of impact JumpStart Inc. has had in the Latinx community.

Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP) Leadership in Cleveland, hosted by the Cleveland Foundation and HIP in December, 2018.

Mount Holyoke College Lynk-UAF Summer Fellowship Award - Dengue/Public Health research in Paraguay, May 2015.

Mount Holyoke College Community-Based Learning Fellowship, December 2014

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Travel Scholarship recipient, April 2014

AmeriCorps Alumni Spotlight, City Year Boston Blog, Boston, MA, March 2013

Mount Holyoke College Laurel Fellowship, Monteverde, Costa Rica, November 2013

Merrill Prize-Freshman recipient, Mount Holyoke College, MA, May 2012

ANGIE SCHMITT

AN EXPERT WITH A FOLLOWING AND A PASSION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY

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44102

Experience

Owner/Principal, 3MPH Planning and Consulting 2020 - Present
Founded and leads of Cleveland-based planning consultancy focused on pedestrian safety. Clients include the Urban Land Institute and University of Massachusetts.

Author, Island Press; Cleveland, Ohio (remote) 2019-2020
Wrote critically acclaimed book, *Right of Way: Race, Class and the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America*, named one of the best planning books of 2020.

Editor, Streetsblog USA; Cleveland, Ohio (remote) 2015—2020
Led daily coverage of national urban transportation news for an audience of 250,000 monthly readers. Built associated social media accounts to a combined 70,000 followers.

Reporter, Streetsblog Capitol Hill/Network; Cleveland, Ohio (remote) 2009-15
Assisted with Congressional reporting on two successive transportation bills.

Graduate Research Assistant, Levin College of Urban Affairs; Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio 2009–2010
Served as the research assistant to Dean of College of Urban Affairs.

Reporter, Toledo Blade; Toledo, Ohio 2007-2008
Covered municipal governments and local planning for Toledo's Pulitzer Prize-winning daily newspaper (circ: 119,000).

Reporter, Youngstown Vindicator; Youngstown, Ohio 2006-2007
General assignment reporter covering planning, local transit and City Hall (circ: 62,000).

Reporter, Suburban News Publications; Columbus, Ohio 2005-2006
Lead reporter for the now-defunct chain's largest subscription weekly: The Westerville News & Public Opinion (circ: 56,000).

Education

Master of Science: Urban Planning, 2010
Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs

Bachelor of Arts (with honors): Journalism/Political Science (dual major), 2005
Ohio State University

Freelance Clients (2010-2020)

The American Institute of Architects/Architect Magazine; GOOD; Momentum Magazine; Bicycling; Sojourners; In These Times, Bloomberg CityLab

Civic roles

- Near West Family Network, Board Member 2018-Present
 - Northeast Ohio Adoption Services Foster Mentor 2020-Present
 - Bike Cleveland, Founding Board Member, Advocacy Chair 2011–2014
-