

**Ben Levine**

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**EXPERIENCE**

**MetroLab Network, Washington, D.C.**

*Executive Director, October 2016 – Present*

*Interim Director, October 2015 – October 2016*

Lead all aspects of activity at MetroLab, an international collaborative of 30+ local governments and 30+ universities focused on civic research and innovation on matters including infrastructure, transportation, climate mitigation, social service delivery, urban planning, and civic engagement. Responsibilities include strategic planning, program development and execution, fundraising, budgeting and financial planning, engagement with Board of Directors, hiring and human resources, and membership planning and engagement.

*Organizational Leadership*

- Manage relationships with 75 member institutions comprised of universities, cities, and counties in the U.S., U.K., and Canada, including with Mayors, university Presidents/Provosts, local government Chief Data, Innovation, and Technology Officers, and senior-level university administrators
- Raised more than \$4.5 million from government, philanthropic, industry, and academic sources to support activities
- Designed programs in partnership with federal agencies that directed millions of dollars in federal funding to more than 50 sites across the U.S., in 30 states/territories
- Lead financial management of MetroLab, including the development and execution of an annual budget of approximately \$1 million
- Lead all human resources and management of the organization, including the management of a team of 3 full-time staff and 3 part-time consultants and fellows
- Authored strategic plan for the organization, which guides all programs and activities
- Lead all governance aspects of the organization, including managing a 7-person Board of Directors
- Frequent role as keynote speaker, panelist, panel moderator, grant and award reviewer, writer, and policy expert on matters in civic research and innovation domain.

*Civic Innovation Challenge*

- Led the development of the Civic Innovation Challenge, an \$11 million “research and action” competition supported by the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, focused on mobility and resilience priorities, targeting projects undertaken by partners from research institutions and civic entities (states, local governments, community organizations).
- Cultivated DOE and DHS as joint-funders of the Civic Innovation Challenge, leading to an approximately \$5 million contribution from those agencies, to match NSF’s approximately \$6 million in funding for the competition.
- Led the design of a two-year, two-stage national competition, aimed at building team cohesion and collaboration across teams to enable scaling and replication of approaches.
- Led Stage 1 of the competition in Q1/Q2 of 2021, which involved engaging 52 awardee teams through virtual programming and connections to more than 50 national experts on topics like mobility, resilience, data science, and civic engagement
- Serve as Principal Investigator on more than \$1.8 million of NSF awards, including a cooperative agreement to support the Civic Innovation Challenge, and a “high-risk, high-reward” grant to design and scope the effort, both of which involve managing relationships with several NSF program officers, NSF leadership, partners from DOE and DHS, and all project strategic planning, programming, and execution.

*Projects and Initiatives*

- Serve as Principal Investigator on nearly \$2 million in philanthropic awards from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, all aimed at promoting MetroLab’s core activities related to civic-university collaboration, development of best practices, and exploration of the intersection of data and technology with public sector and civic priorities.
- Lead programming and fundraising for MetroLab’s Annual Summit, which convenes 200 leaders from the civic research and innovation ecosystem for a 2-3 day event at one of MetroLab’s member sites.

*Membership Model*

- Developed a membership model for more than 30 civic-university partnerships in the U.S., U.K., and Canada, creating a sustainable revenue source, while forging alignment between members and the MetroLab’s core activities.

*Organizational Development*

- Transitioned MetroLab from an agreement-in-concept as part of a White House convening to a full-scale organization with an approximately \$1 million annual budget.
- Spun MetroLab out of Carnegie Mellon University into a standalone non-profit after an incubation period of 3 years, which involved development of non-profit governance, budgeting, accounting, and human resources.
- Recruited an Advisory Council, chaired by former Maryland Governor and Baltimore Mayor Martin O’Malley, that includes former mayors, and leaders from academia, non-profit, and industry.

**United States Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C.**

*Policy Advisor, Office of State and Local Finance, May 2014 – September 2015*

*Policy Advisor / Analyst, Office of Capital Markets, September 2012 – May 2014*

Advised senior officials at the Treasury Department, White House, and other agencies on public policy matters pertaining to state and local finance and infrastructure policy.

**Infrastructure Policy**

- Led coordination of Treasury staff for the Build America Investment Initiative, an inter-agency federal policy effort co-chaired by the Secretaries of Treasury and Transportation focused on increasing investment in U.S. infrastructure and expanding the use of public-private partnership financing arrangements.
- Helped develop several infrastructure-related tax incentive policy proposals featured in the President's FY2016 budget, including Qualified Public Infrastructure Bonds, a bond finance tool that offers tax-exempt financing for public-private partnerships. Provided technical assistance to Senate staff on related proposals. Provided briefings to industry stakeholders on the budget proposals.

**State and Local Finance**

- Supported the development of policy foundation that led to the creation of the Office of State & Local Finance at Treasury, which focuses on the municipal market, infrastructure, distressed municipalities, public pensions, budget and fiscal issues.

**Smart Cities**

- In collaboration with the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy, led the development of MetroLab Network, including gathering commitments from Mayors and University Presidents, planning workshops and events, and developing initial governance and organizational frameworks

**Distressed Entities**

- Supported the Administration's response to the financial crisis in Puerto Rico, including debt sustainability modeling, liquidity forecasting, and economic development strategies.
- Represented Treasury on matters related to Detroit's economic recovery, including development of a partnership between the Detroit Land Bank Authority, Home Depot, and Rock Ventures to renovate and sell vacant properties to increase comparable real estate prices and spur bank lending.

**Morgan Stanley, New York, NY**

*Analyst, Public Finance, June 2010 – July 2012*

- Served as analytical lead and financial modeler for hundreds of millions of dollars of municipal bond transactions
- Provided investment banking services, including quantitative analysis to clients, new capitalization opportunities, refinancing alternatives, and market analysis to municipal and state-level public sector clients.
- Responsible for analytic and execution support for hundreds of millions of dollars of bond financings, supporting new infrastructure projects.
- Responsible for the management of several client relationships with city and county-level elected officials in Western Pennsylvania.

**Congressional Oversight Panel for TARP, Washington, D.C.**

*Intern, July 2009-August 2009*

- Served as an intern for the panel chaired by Elizabeth Warren tasked with auditing the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Drafted a portion of COP's September 2009 report to Congress and Treasury on the bailout of GM and Chrysler.

**United States Senate, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Washington, D.C.**

*Intern, June 2009-July 2009*

- Researched issues relevant to legislation modernizing the banking regulatory system and provided logistical support for the committee on behalf of Chairman Christopher Dodd.

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**EDUCATION****The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

*Cum Laude, Bachelor's of Science in Economics, Class of 2010*

**Taylor Allderdice High School Alumni, Pittsburgh, PA**