

# KENNETH C. STAPLETON

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With over 20 years of urban revitalization and economic development experience, Ken currently serves as Senior Economic Development Advisor to the President and Executive Director of the University Park Alliance for The University of Akron. Reporting directly to University President Luis M. Proenza, Ken is responsible for the revitalization of the neighborhoods surrounding this prominent urban university. He also provides strategic guidance for UA's local and regional economic development initiatives.

Under Ken's leadership, UPA has facilitated the investment of more than \$200 million of private development projects in University Park. The program also attracted the single largest grant ever given by the Knight Foundation at the time, \$10 million. Another \$300 million of investment is predicted over the next five years in this rapidly transforming and vibrant Akron neighborhood.

Previously, Ken served as a Sr. Vice President for the Downtown Cleveland Partnership where he initiated and led their efforts to revitalize Euclid Avenue, Cleveland's Main Street, resulting in over \$400 million in real estate investment in only six years. Ken's other projects at DCP included the implementation of the first system of wayfinding kiosks in the U.S. financed entirely with advertising revenues, and management of DCP's advocacy efforts on over \$1 billion in major infrastructure projects.

Prior to his accomplishments in Cleveland, Ken worked as a redevelopment expert in several South Florida cities, including work in Downtown Miami and South Beach. He is also an expert in urban safety programs and holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois.

Ken is a 2004 University of Miami Fellow of the Knight Program in Community Building, a graduate of Leadership Akron Class XX, a Board member of the Urban Land Institute Cleveland District Council, a member of the Congress for New Urbanism, a member of the International Economic Development Council and a member of CEOs for Cities.