



GREG CLAY, MPA

With a passion for empowering people, Greg utilizes his life experiences, professional triumphs, and lessons in leadership to inspire others to seize opportunities while leading a life of service. As a civic thought-leader, Greg's advocacy and perspective on public policy, civic engagement, and government operations started from his experience as a government practitioner, working for six municipalities across three states. This foundation in public service enabled Greg to work extensively with political and community leaders, diverse business communities, and other organizations on projects and programs benefitting various stakeholders. As the Chief Engagement Officer for the EMPOWRD app, consultant and advisor, he utilizes the application and tech-platform to foster civic engagement between citizens, elected officials, businesses and organizations.

As a civic leader he serves on numerous boards focused on youth development, education, innovation, and workforce development. He is the founder and spokesperson for the Atlanta Speaks Initiative which has recruited over 1,200 professional speakers—impacting over 21,000 students across metropolitan Atlanta. Through his work, Greg has received numerous awards recognizing his service. Recently, he was honored as one of Atlanta's 2020 Top 40 Under Forty by the Atlanta Business Chronicle, and acknowledged with the 30 for 30 Alumni Award by 21st Century Leaders, recognizing the organization's top alumni in its 30 year history out of over 14,000 participants across Georgia. Among other awards, Greg is the recipient of the esteemed 2018 Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America-Atlanta Area Council, and the Presidential MLK Drum Major for Service Award (Obama).

As an Atlanta native and Atlanta Public Schools graduate, he is a proud alumnus of LEAD Atlanta, Outstanding Atlanta, and the New Leaders Council Atlanta Chapter. He serves as the President of the Benjamin E. Mays High School Alumni Association, and is also Vice Chair of the schools GO Team. He chairs the governance board of Skyview High School in South Fulton County, Ga., serves on the advisory board for Atlanta's KIPP WAYS, and advocates for education through the Men of B.O.O.K (Better Outcomes for Our Kids). As a supporter of youth development, he is the district chair for Southwest Atlanta, serving the Atlanta Area Council of Boy Scouts of America. As a proponent of workforce development he is also the immediate past chair of the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) District-wide CTAE Advisory Board, and former appointee to Atlanta Board of Education Equity Taskforce, where he worked with elected leaders to adopt their first Equity Policy. He is a graduate of Florida A & M University, serving as an executive board member of the Friends of FAM Inc., supporting other students from Atlanta that attend the school, and received his Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas. He is a requested speaker, panelist, and moderator on the topics of civic engagement, millennial leadership and youth empowerment. He lives in the city of Atlanta, with his wife Shani, and is a member of 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.

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