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#### DIVERSITY - DISCUSSION - DEBATE

### State of Downtown: Has Downtown's Trajectory Changed? February 23, 2022

#### Michael Coleman

Partner and Director of Business and Government Strategies, Ice Miller LLP 

Michael B. Coleman is a partner in Ice Miller's Public Affairs and Government Law Group and he also

participates in the Internet of Things and Real Estate Development Groups. Coleman is the Firm's Director of Business and Government

Coleman served as Mayor of Columbus from 2000 to 2015. As Mayor, Coleman led a city of 825,000 residents and 9,000 employees and was responsible for managing all financial, budgetary and economic development matters and sourcing of private investments in support of urban development initiatives.

Prior to his term as Mayor, he was a partner with the law firm of Schottenstein Zox & Dunn LLP and also an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio. He also served on Columbus City Council from 1992 to 1999 and was its president from 1997 to 1999.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati and his Juris Doctor from the University of Dayton Law School.



### Marc Conte

Executive Director, Capital Crossroads and Discovery Special Improvement Districts

**■** DTCOLUMBUS

Marc Conte, who has been with the SIDs since 2008. was named Executive Director on November 1, 2021.

He oversees a combined budget of \$3 million and manages a staff of five as well as the ambassador and outreach operations that include another 26 positions.

Prior to his role as Executive Director, he served as the Deputy Director of Research, Planning, and Facilities. He tracked and analyzed Downtown development and the impact of revitalization projects. His research is featured in the SID's State of Downtown report. He also managed capital improvement projects in the Downtown right-of-way and oversees IT and Human Resources.

Conte earned a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's in critical cultural studies from The Ohio State University.



#### **Jeff Edwards**

President and CEO Edwards Companies Jeffrey Edwards serves as President of Edwards Companies.

Edwards Companies is a privately held conglomerate operating primarily in the real estate development and construction related fields in many parts of the United States.

Edwards is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio with a Bachelor's



Degree in Marketing.

#### Mark Ferenchik

Columbus Neighborhoods/Urban Issues Reporter, The Columbus Dispatch 

Mark Ferenchik is a Columbus neighborhoods/urban issues reporter for The Columbus Dispatch.

He's worked for The Dispatch for 22 years, covering Columbus City Hall and numerous issues in the city and central Ohio, including income inequality, the immigrant community, development and other issues facing Columbus neighborhoods, and poverty.

Thank you to our Table Hosts

The Columbus Dispatch Columbus Downtown Development Corporation Installed Building Products Marker, Inc. The Robert Weiler Company **Smoot Construction** 

> Special Improvements District United Way of Central Ohio

Audio assist headphones are available the AV table at the side of the room.

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### Organizational Leaders in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

Upcoming Forums

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

Questions for Ohio's Next

Governor

Featuring William Shkurti, Vice Presiden

for Business and Finance, Emeritus, The Ohio State University,

and Fran Stewart. Ph.D., Researcher and Writer, The Ohio

Manufacturing Institute, College of Engineering, The Ohio

State University, with host Thomas Suddes, Assistant Profes-

sor of Instruction, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio

University, and Member, Editorial Board, The Plain Dealer and

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Political Series

Cleveland.com.

Foundation

Featuring Anthony Wilson, Ph.D., Chief Diversity Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Jona Hilario, Ph.D., Statewide Co-Director, OPAWL - Building AAPI Feminist Leadership, and Angela Bretz. Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer, Nationwide, with host Ralph Smithers, Jr., AVP, Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Community

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### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

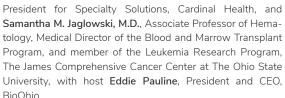
#### Central Ohio's Role in Cell and **Gene Therapy**

Unless otherwise noted, all forums are 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM at The Boat House at Confluence Park.

For ticket info, visit columbusmetroclub.org or call 614.464.3220 x4

**Optimal Health Series** 

Featuring Eli Phillips Jr., PharmD, Vic





Series presented by: OSU Wexner Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital

Sponsored by: Cardinal Health, BioOhio, Armatus Bio, Andelyn Biosciences, and **JobsOhio** 

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#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

#### Nonprofit Accountability

Featuring Michelle Heritage, Executive Director, Community Shelter Board, and Tom Schmid, President and CEO, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, with host Kerri



Sponsored by: Columbia Gas, Crane Group, and Community Shelter Board

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## Catch the Forum After the Forum

- WOSU Public Media, CMC's broadcast partner, televises CMC Forums on the WOSU Ohio digital channel and over-the-air on channel 34.2. The most recent Forums air on Mondays at 9:00 PM, Tuesdays at 5:00 AM, and Thursdays at noon.
- TV. Columbus Television, airs CMC Forums on Spectrum Channel 1024, WOW Channel 3, and AT&T Channel 99. You can also watch CTV over the air on WCIZ Channel 22.4.
- WCBE 90.5 Radio airs CMC Forums on Saturdays at 10:00 AM. CMC Forums are available on the WCBE Podcast Experience website at wcbe.org/programs/columbus-metropolitan-club.
- Forums can also be seen on the CMC website at columbusmetroclub.org/archive and on CMC's YouTube channel.

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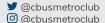
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