

Jennifer M. Blackman

Whether it is protesting racism on her college campus or inventorying vacate properties on 79th street, **Jennifer M. Blackman** is a natural lifelong change agent and urban planner. She brings innovative thinking to impact communities by aligning available resources, building partnerships, and enhancing development. Jennifer is excited to bring that same energy and impact to her new role at South Shore Works.

Most recently, Jennifer served as the Managing Director of Save the Shrine, a historic preservation and community engagement organization that supports the restoration of the Shrine of Christ the King. Prior to Save the Shrine, Jennifer held the role of Executive Director for organizations including the Illinois Center for Civic Education and the Southeast Chicago Chamber of Commerce, where she helped develop the community's local economy, increase civic engagement and enhance public/private partnerships. Prior to her roles as executive director, Jennifer worked at number of non-profit organizations focusing on projects ranging from assisting property owners with property tax appeals in Humboldt Park with Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation or connecting schools to financial literacy resources with Junior Achievement of Chicago.

One thing is for sure, Jennifer demonstrates the leadership skills that enhances synergy and ignites engagement, which is amplified in her newest, personal service project, Do Nation. Do Nation is a non-profit organization that creates and collaborates on projects and programs that better individuals and their communities. She wants to ignite the “do-er” in everyone and show that a little “do-ing” can go a long way.

Jennifer received her Bachelor of Science for Political Science and Sociology from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She also graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois with a Master of Urban Planning and Policy specializing in economic development and youth development. She was born and raised in the Chatham community on the south side of Chicago and currently resides in South Shore with her son Jace and dog Jax.