



Mark Barbash Biography

Mark Barbash has over 30 years of economic development experience, having served with public and private sector economic development and investment banking firms, focusing on real estate and business development, and development financing. In his career, he has had senior level leadership and management responsibilities, served in national association leadership positions, created new development financing programs, as well as working “on the ground” to move projects forward to completion.

Mark Barbash is currently the **founder and Director of the Ohio Economic Development Institute**, which is the professional development program for the Ohio Economic Development Association. The Institute provides education and training in real estate development, finance and incentives, site selection, business retention and expansion and workforce & talent, along with a range of on-site and webinar elective courses, such as economic and fiscal impact analysis, utilities and economic development, and broadband. In this role he manages the Institute as well as teaches courses.

Mark Barbash is a **Lecturer** at the **John Glenn College of Public Affairs** at The Ohio State University. He teaches Public Budgeting and Public Finance for the College, which is a public policy and management school at The Ohio State University. The Glenn College offers undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs in public affairs. The Glenn College provides research, training and technical assistance to state, public and nonprofit organizations

Through his continuing **economic development consulting firm**, Mark has provided project financing, strategic planning, keynoting, and training services to many of public, private, and non-profit organizations.

Mark’s other professional experience also includes:

- 2014-2017: Senior Advisor to the **Council of Development Finance Agencies**, the national association for private, public, governmental, and nonprofit development finance organizations. CDFAs provide extensive training, education, and advocacy to support and advance development financing organizations and programs.
- 2011- 2014: Executive Vice President of **Finance Fund, a CDFI providing financing for community development projects** through New Markets Tax Credits, SBA Community Advantage lending, along with investment from banks, foundations, and communities. Mark’s work at Finance Fund was to create new financing tools for small businesses, including establishment of the Ohio Healthy Food Financing Program.
- 2008-2011: **Chief Economic Development Officer for the Ohio Department of Development**, where he was responsible for strategic initiatives, day to day management of the department. In this role, he served as the chief state negotiator for major state economic development incentives.
- 2000-2007: **Director of Development for Columbus, Ohio under Mayor Michael B. Coleman**. In this position, he managed the 200-person Department of Development, which included economic development financing and incentives, neighborhood, and code enforcement, building services, planning, historic preservation, and housing. As the Mayor’s chief development strategist, he represented city government in negotiating major real estate development projects in downtown, growth areas, and with other political jurisdictions.
- Prior to 2000, Mark was **Executive Director of Community Capital Development Corporation**, a nonprofit small business lender, Vice President of **Miller and Schroeder Investment Banking** (specializing in business and municipal financing), **Deputy Director for Business Financing for the Ohio Department of Development**, and Vice President for the **National Development Council**, a New York based nonprofit economic development consulting firm.

- Mark's background also includes government and Congressional experience, having worked for a United States Senator, Congressman and Governor from Wisconsin

Mark is a ***nationally recognized economic development practitioner and trainer, developing and teaching a wide range of professional development courses***, including business and real estate financing, entrepreneurship, and brownfield redevelopment. Mark has taught for many organizations, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Ohio Economic Development Association / Ohio Economic Development Institute (2006 – Current)
- International Economic Development Council (2003 – Current)
- The Ohio State University John Glenn College of Public Affairs (2018 – Current)
- Ohio Community Development Corporation
- The National Development Council
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- NASA
- Economic Development Institute

Mark Barbash has **served on the Boards of many organizations**, including the International Economic Development Council and the Ohio Economic Development Association, the National Association of Development Companies, Central Ohio Community Research Partners, and the CATCO Equity Theater Company (where he served as Board President). In 2007, he was designated a "Fellow Member" of IEDC in recognition for career contributions to economic development, and previously recognized as SBA's Small Business Financial Advocate of the Year.

Mark Barbash is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, holding a B.A. in Political Science.