

## **Benno Martens**

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### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2017 – present **Lorain County Community Development** Economic Development Specialist

- Provide grant application writing, program management, and financial administration and oversight for county's CDBG and CHIP programs, funding housing development and rehabilitation, fair housing compliance, public infrastructure and facilities improvements, community service delivery, and historic downtown reclamation.
- Serve as County's fair housing contact and liaison to County's Fair Housing Board.
- Assist Lorain County Metropolitan Housing Authority as external reviewer for Project Based Voucher Proposal Review Board.

2010 – 2015 **City of South Euclid** Housing Programs Coordinator

- Managed housing projects and programs involving vacant property rehabilitation, new green housing construction, green retrofit housing rehabilitation, the creation of community gardens and pocket parks, foreclosure mitigation, rental property maintenance, nuisance abatement and demolition, and owner-occupied property improvements.
- Provided research and staffing support to City's Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals as requested.
- Served as first point of public contact for the Housing Department, handling large volume of inquiries from residents, developers, contractors, realtors, title agents, and government agency representatives.

2009 – 2010 **Wallick-Hendy Development Co.**, Development Assistant

- Application production and compliance reporting for Low Income Housing Tax Credit, HUD Green Retrofit, HUD Mark-to-Market, and Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects.

2008 – 2010 **Greater Linden Development Corporation**, Community Development Associate

- Managed the community's Vacant Property Initiative, identifying redevelopment opportunities and communicating with city code enforcement officials to expedite nuisance abatement procedures.
- Contributed to compliance reporting efforts in conjunction with CDBG and other grant funding sources, as well as to proposals for grant funding.
- Managed several community development projects and programs, including a community beautification program, Block Watch, annual National Night Out Against Crime event, summer community building fellowship program, and end-of-year community awards banquet.
- Wrote articles for the organization's community newspaper (published 6 times per year) and website, and wrote copy and created graphics for program and event marketing materials.

## **EDUCATION**

2008 - 2010 **The Ohio State University** Knowlton School of Architecture, Columbus, OH

- Master of City and Regional Planning in June 2010.
- Coursework included neighborhood development, proposal writing, data analysis and forecasting, research methods, and physical development.
- Culminated program by passing comprehensive examinations with distinction and receiving degree with academic honors.

2000 - 2003 **Baldwin-Wallace College**, Berea, OH

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in May 2003.
- Coursework included urban policy management, public administration, advanced writing, quantitative analysis, and economics.
- Received degree with academic honors.

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

- Microsoft Office Suite, including Access, Excel, Outlook, Power Point, Publisher, and Word
- CWRU's NEOCANDO system
- State of Ohio's OCEAN and OAKS systems
- Oracle accounting program
- HDS and BDS housing/building department software systems