

# The Power of Civic Entrepreneurs





## A Unique Take on Partnerships

Loudoun's business community is involved. It is a place where people who are busy running companies and organizations take time out to talk to one another. And we mean really talk. This isn't about networking over cocktails. This is about the serious work of continuing to move our county forward. It is about harnessing the collective time, energy, and brainpower of some of the smartest and most innovative leaders anywhere

We're building upon a spirit of collaboration in the community. To make the most of this willingness displayed by Loudoun's business leaders, we have formed several partnerships. Each group provides a forum for dialogue, debate and a free-flowing exchange of ideas that can spark innovative approaches to seemingly difficult problems. Every community has a problem set. We are lucky that ours are the problems of success.

These partnerships are already having a positive impact on this county. Talented people, who would typically be unaffordable or unavailable as consultants, are providing an invaluable service to their community. Created with a simple and flexible organizational structure, these partnerships are focused on doing important work that needs to be done to be a five star community.

## The Wisdom of Cabinets

Born rather quietly in 2002 as a way to engage talented leaders in building a successful community and region, our Cabinets were not officially chartered with by-laws and specific requirements. Instead, with a passionate leader from the private sector and the TLC of the Department of Economic Development, these partnerships developed a simple purpose statement, goals, a list of initial members and a meeting schedule. Today, Loudoun's three Cabinets are hothouses – cultivating ideas and relationships that are beginning to flower in our community.





## CEO Cabinet ° John Wood ° Chair

The CEO Cabinet is composed of public and private executives at the CEO and Chairman level. The goal of the Cabinet is to make Loudoun one of the top 20 best places in the country to live and work. They've investigated such issues as whether the local elected Board should be full or part-time, and have made recommendations that led to additional staff funding being approved to serve the Board. They are now focusing on eliminating virtual and physical congestion of our networks and roads and making our education system among the very best in America.

## Science & Technology Cabinet ° Leslie Platt ° Chair

This is Loudoun's key forum to encourage the development of the county and the region as a global center of science and technology. The Science & Technology Cabinet has helped to recruit several world-class scientists to the region's public university. It was instrumental in bringing the International Medical Automation Conference to Loudoun through 2011. The Cabinet's current work includes creating a tri-annual forum where "magic happens" among some of the regions best scientists and technologists. Such civic engagement is keeping Loudoun County at the forefront of scientific innovation.



## Design Cabinet ° Al Hansen ° Chair

The Design Cabinet is comprised of architects, planners, engineers, and graphic and industrial designers. It has created a "funky" design awards program to encourage design excellence in our community. The Cabinet regularly conducts charrettes, or brainstorming sessions, at the request of both the public and private sector. While there is no obligation to use the results of these brainstorming design sessions, several development projects have used them to improve their plans and show public officials new ways to think about these projects.



