Sharmain Matlock-Turner

Sharmain Matlock-Turner is the first woman CEO of the Urban Affairs Coalition. The Coalition, formerly GPUAC, links government, business, neighborhood and individual initiatives to improve quality of life, build wealth and tackle pressing local issues in urban areas. Since 1999, Matlock-Turner has led massive efforts to identify common goals and to weave together disparate entities to support poverty reduction and expand the middle class. The focus of this work is in four areas: improving life chances for youth and young adults; building wealth in low-income communities; forging strategic partnerships; and strengthening the nonprofit sector through fiscal sponsorship. The organization has successfully raised and managed more than $1B in public and private funds over its 50+ year history. Ms. Matlock-Turner is co-founder and chair emeritus of the 24-year-old West Oak Lane Charter School. In addition, she serves on a long list of boards and committees, including the Philadelphia Equity Alliance, the Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia and Public Citizens for Children and Youth Advisory Council. She has received numerous awards including the Philadelphia Inquirer’s Diversity and Inclusion Award and the Philadelphia Business Journal’s Most Admired CEO Award. She holds a BS degree in Education from Temple University and, in 2005, she was one of three Philadelphia nonprofit leaders selected to receive a scholarship to the Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management. She is a Senior Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute for Government.