

## **Guest Bio:**

### **Debra Campbell, City Manager, City of Asheville**

Debra Campbell has served as the City Manager of Asheville, NC since December 2018. In this role, she leads the implementation of policies and priorities set by the Mayor and City Council, overseeing 16 City departments and more than 1,200 full-time employees.

Prior to her tenure in Asheville, Debra was an Assistant City Manager for the City of Charlotte, where she provided technical and managerial support to various departments, including planning, economic development, transit, aviation, and neighborhood services. She also served as Planning Director for over a decade, leading the then Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department.

With nearly 40 years of experience, Debra has held key roles in city management, administration, planning, and economic and neighborhood development. Her career includes positions with nonprofit and public agencies, such as serving as a Consultant for Neighborhood Enterprise, a nonprofit housing organization, and as a Planner with both the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and the Tennessee State Planning Office.

Debra earned a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning from Middle Tennessee State University. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Asheville.

### **Membership/Affiliation**

International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

American Planning Association (APA)

Urban Land Institute (ULI)

National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA)

Leadership Charlotte, Class XX

Leadership Development Institute Class X

### **Awards**

2024 Robert E. Shepherd Excellence in Local Government Award

2019 ULI Women's Leadership Initiative Champions in Real Estate

2018 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Outstanding Civic Leader

2013 Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Person of the Year

2013 Mecklenburg Times 50 Most Influential Women

2010 Willie J. Stratford Sr. YMCA Diversity Award

2007 Governing Magazine Public Official of the Year

2007 Outstanding Achievement Southern Piedmont Chapter of COMTO and National Forum for Black Public Administrators

2005 A Child's Place First Ladies of Charlotte

2005 Business and Professional Women's Club Achievement