

Heather serves the City of Akron as the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Advocate in the Mayor's Office. She is the voice of entrepreneurs and business owners inside city hall, supporting existing and emerging efforts to bolster Akron's entrepreneurial ecosystem and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship throughout Akron. She serves as the City lead for Retail Revival, eBay's pilot program in partnership with the City of Akron, and as the liaison to Bounce, Akron's Innovation Hub.

Heather's career path includes a degree in opera and a number of years spent managing a \$400 million global footwear line for Nike before returning to her Northeast Ohio roots to work in nonprofit and now the public sector. Heather was a founding board member of PechaKucha Akron, and currently serves on the board of the Gay Community Endowment Fund, as well as advisory boards for ECDI, the University of Akron Institute for Leadership Advancement, and Stark State Business Management and Marketing Department . She was a 2016 recipient of the Greater Akron Chamber's 30 For the Future award.

Her vision is for Akron's streets to be alive with people and art, its storefronts full of thriving small businesses, and its tech as locally sourced as its food. When she's not actively working on this vision, she can be found on the trails of Cuyahoga Valley National Park training for an ultramarathon, wrangling her two precocious children, or drinking a microbrew with her small-business-owning husband.