

Biography of Marcus Betts,
Senior Director of Community and Corporate Relations, University of Illinois at Chicago

Marcus Betts grew up in the North Lawndale Community on Chicago's Westside. Mr. Betts developed his tenacious work ethic early in life as he worked his way up the ladder in his family's business; Elbo's BBQ House, located in and around the North Lawndale community.

Mr. Betts attended St. Joseph High School and graduated from Manley Career Academy High School then went on to graduate from Illinois State University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and was also a member of the Men's Basketball Team.

After graduating from a successful career in Corporate America, Mr. Betts founded The Marcus Chizm Group Inc.; a Boutique Experiential Marketing Firm based in the North Lawndale community on Chicago's Westside. He has worked with some the world's top brands and experiential events. Mr. Betts has been featured and recognized for his leadership and passion by the Chicago Sun-Times, Crain's Chicago Business and Chicago Tribune. He was also named as one of the Top 40 People under 40 by the Chicago Defender Newspaper.

Mr. Betts led the epic community effort to host the Obama Presidential Center on the Westside of Chicago. Mr. Betts has worked closely with President Obama's Senior Advisors, UIC senior leadership, Organizations, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and many other; elected officials, business leaders and faith leaders throughout the State of Illinois to develop strategies to build strong relationships and improve our community. Mr. Betts was fortunate enough to receive a special invitation to meet with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office where President Obama made reference to Mr. Betts' marketing ability.

Mr. Betts currently serves as the Senior Director of Community and Corporate Relations for the University of Illinois at Chicago. For Chicago's largest and only public research university in the City of Chicago; he is responsible for developing the overarching strategy for local, national and international engagement.

Mr. Betts has a beautiful nine year old daughter, Sophia; and in his spare time enjoys fishing, reading, traveling and is a self-proclaimed "foodie".