



Presley L. Gillespie is the inaugural President of Neighborhood Allies, a multifaceted community development catalyst that uses its financial resources, expertise and technical assistance to transform distressed neighborhoods into communities of opportunity. He is responsible for working collaboratively with the Board of Directors, the community, key funders and staff and has ultimate responsibility for the overall management of the organization including, but not limited to operations, fundraising, financial management, hiring and personnel management, board and external relations, vendor management, grant making/strategic investments and evaluation/outcomes/quality assurance.

Since taking the helm, Presley has been elevating Neighborhood Allies' value as a trusted community development partner that is unlike any other organization in Pittsburgh, serving as an investor, thought leader, and

catalyst for innovative approaches in order to solve challenges in under-resourced neighborhoods. He has injected new energy into the local community development system, and has built a forward-thinking, solutions-oriented community development organization that brings hope, fresh ideas, expertise and resources to distressed and transitional neighborhoods.

Under Presley's leadership the organization has grown by more than 300%, from an annual budget of \$2.1 million, with \$4 million in assets, to a dynamic entity and an annual budget of over \$6 million, with \$15 million in assets. Additional accomplishments include:

- Launching the first of its kind, Centralized Real Estate Accelerator, a revolutionary community-based real estate development initiative, designed to accelerate, scale and sustain a more strategic, effective, and equitable real estate system in Pittsburgh;
- Creating five multi-sector, multi-disciplinary networks to support and build greater alignment, capacity and performance in the community investment system;
- Increasing and diversifying revenue sources from four funding sources to more than 45 funders, including securing a permanent Endowment Fund.

Presley's background spans corporate and nonprofit leadership. He is a nationally recognized leader in the field of community and economic development and was most recently the founding Executive Director of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC), the first city-wide community development corporation in Youngstown, OH. Presley came to the non-profit sector after a successful 18 year banking career, primarily focused on community development lending and community revitalization. Previously, he served as Vice President for KeyBank where he was responsible for identifying, structuring and closing community development/commercial real estate loans that ultimately led to the creation of affordable housing, economic development and job creation.

His prior banking experience includes, Vice President, Middle Market Commercial Banking for a \$15-billion-dollar banking institution, where he managed a \$50-million-dollar commercial lending portfolio. Prior to that assignment, he was Vice President, Community Development Manager for a \$2-billion-dollar banking institution, where he managed the community development banking division. In that role, he led the corporation's business development efforts related to affordable housing, commercial real estate in urban markets, and community investments. Presley has structured more than \$60 million dollars in community development lending, including real estate developers, non-profit corporations, and corporate banking clients.

Presley serves on numerous boards locally and nationally, including the Board of Directors of the Center for Community Progress, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Community Advisory Council. In 2017 Presley received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Youngstown State

University, and was selected by the Smart 50 Awards, which recognizes the top executives of the 50 smartest companies in the Greater Pittsburgh region.

Presley holds a B.A. in organizational communication and management from Youngstown State University. He resided for 18 years in Youngstown, Ohio with his wife Nora and their two children and relocated to Pittsburgh in 2014.