

Thomas Link

Thomas Link directs the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh's (URA) Business Solutions Department, Neighborhood Action, and Business Expansion and Attraction functions. Tom's team executes the URA's work to encourage business startup, expansion and attraction for the city of Pittsburgh, with a goal of ensuring inclusion and equity across this work.

Tom has nearly 17 years of economic development professional experience with the URA. Having worked with a range of economic development financing mechanisms, including direct business and commercial real estate lending, New Markets Tax Credits, PA Tax Credit programs, tax diversion tools and more.

With Tom's leadership, the URA established a strong record of small business investing that has had broad impact across Pittsburgh. Programs such as the URA's Micro Enterprise Loan program bolsters the URA's strategy to promote opportunities for historically disadvantaged populations who have not had ready access to business startup and expansion capital, including minority and women entrepreneurs. This program received the Market Confidence Award from Neighborhood Allies at the 2nd Annual Healthy Neighborhoods Celebration in November 2018.

With the URA's reimagining, Tom is broadening his role at the URA as Director of Business Solutions and Neighborhood Action. In this role, Tom is leading efforts to provide broader, holistic support to business expansion including business education, neighborhood business district investments, site location support, outreach and advocacy, and workforce development.

Additionally, Tom provides principal support to the URA's business expansion and attraction efforts. Tom coordinates frequently with regional stakeholders, including the City of Pittsburgh, InnovatePGH, local universities (including Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh), the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, Allegheny County Economic Development, the Governor's Action Team, and others on direct customer engagement services for businesses seeking to expand and locate in the city of Pittsburgh. Tom was among a core team of economic development professionals who led Pittsburgh's bid for the Amazon HQ2 opportunity (Pittsburgh's proposal was ultimately short-listed by Amazon).

Tom serves as Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Pittsburgh Urban Initiatives (a URA affiliate New Markets Tax Credit Community Development Entity), is a member of the InvestPGH's (URA sponsored emerging CDFI) Board of Directors, and is a member of the Northside Community Development Fund's Loan Review Committee. Tom has volunteered on the mock boards of Directors for Management Game Theory classes at the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business and the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University.

Tom is an adjunct instructor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Public Policy, teaching real estate development in the School of Public Policy and Management.

Tom holds a master of business administration degree from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business and a master of science degree in public policy management from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Public Policy. Tom lives in the Highland Park neighborhood of Pittsburgh with his wife Jocelyn and two children.