

Panelists Bios

Thomas J. Yablonsky

Thomas J. Yablonsky has 28 years of experience in management, community development, and economic development finance. He has founded or helped initiate three historic preservation development programs, including the Warehouse District and Gateway Neighborhood in Downtown Cleveland. The third is a regional effort now known as The Ohio & Erie Canalway, which runs 110 miles from Tuscarawas County north to Downtown Cleveland .

Since 2001, Yablonsky has jointly held the position of Executive Director for the Historic Warehouse District Development Corporation and the Historic Gateway Neighborhood Corporation. Since August of 2006, he has also served as the Executive Vice President of the Downtown Cleveland Alliance. Previously, he was Director of Downtown Development for the Greater Cleveland Growth Association. Statewide he has been involved as a Board Member of Downtown Ohio and Heritage Ohio. He holds a graduate degree (MPA) from Indiana University- Bloomington and a BA degree from Cleveland State University, and he is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Brian A. Reilly

Brian A. Reilly, Director of the Department of Economic Development, joins the Jackson Administration with 15 years of experience in designing and launching public and nonprofit-sector programs and policies. He has particular expertise in land use and economic planning, construction and real estate, community engagement, and sustainable development. Here he will provide the leadership that will capitalize on Cleveland's economic strength by encouraging economic development and by providing programs for the City that will generate additional tax revenues, employment, and real property values.

Most recently Reilly used his skills as the Manager of Menomonee Valley Redevelopment at the Milwaukee Department of City Development in Wisconsin. For nearly seven years he led that city's efforts in remediating and redeveloping its largest and most successful industrial and mixed-use district.

Prior to that Reilly was a Program Officer for The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread in Racine, Wis. He created the foundation's program on sustainable development, served as its sustainability expert, and represented it at Sustainable Racine, a communitywide vision and action process.

Reilly's other experience includes a partnership in The Laurasian Institution, an entrepreneurial nonprofit focused on education in the Pacific Rim, located in Chicago. He was a principal in Doing Good, a Chicago-based consulting service that provides expertise to nonprofit organizations focused on social change. In addition, he served the country in the United States Navy on the USS Harry E. Yarnell (CG-17).

Passionate about his work, Reilly is a national speaker on economic development and sustainability. He was also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is a frequent lecturer at upper-Midwest colleges.

Reilly earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in American studies and a Master of Arts degree in international peace studies from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He also attended the Surface Warfare Officers School, and he is a Senior Fellow at the National Environmental Leadership Program in Washington, D.C.