



Consultant Directory

Published June 16, 2026

Company name: Ascend Cardinal Trade

Name: Alia Abbas

Role: CEO

Contact information: alia.abbas@consultingwithalia.com

Website: www.consultingwithalia.com

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Business description: Alia Abbas, an accomplished and recognized economic development professional based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, holds a Master of Arts degree in Geography specializing in Local Economic Development from York University. She has received international recognition for her exceptional work, including the prestigious 2023 Top 40 Under 40 award by DCI and Jorgen Consulting at the International Economic Development Council Leadership Summit. Additionally, she was honored with the bright ideas award from the Economic Developers Council of Ontario for her outstanding performance measurement metrics report, which has significantly aided economic recovery efforts post-COVID.

Company Name: Barefield and Associates

Name: Alan Barefield

Type : National/International

Contact Information: 662-312-0874; abarefield@gmail.com

Location: Starkville, MS

Business Description: Alan Barefield has worked with communities and non-profit organizations in a variety of economic development areas for over 31 years. He has been internationally recognized for his work in business retention and expansion by Business Retention and Expansion International. Other areas of expertise include economic impact and contribution analysis; organization and firm feasibility analysis and management audits; strategic planning; evaluation of economic and fiscal programs; and public utility rate pricing and management. The methodology for each project is customized to fit the community's or organization's specific needs and he works closely with project coordinators/directors to assure that delivered outputs meet clients' expectations and needs. Barefield holds a B.S.B. in Business Economics and an M.S. in Economics and Finance from Murray State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics with concentrations in Finance and Policy from Texas A&M University. Services provided include:

- BR&E program design, implementation and evaluation
- Economic impact and contribution analysis
- Feasibility and market studies
- Public utility rate setting and management
- Demographic and economic data and analysis including
- Industry metric analysis
- Occupational data analysis
- Business retention/attraction gap, cluster, and competitiveness analysis

Company name: Blutot

Name: Sophia Zheng

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: sophia@bludot.io

Website: <https://www.bludot.io>

Location: Silicon Valley, California

Business description: At Blutot, we are a group of tech builders, product fanatics, problem solvers, and most importantly, believers of two things: the power of technology tools to maximize each person's impact in their work; and the power of local economies no matter the

community's size. Our biggest value is prioritizing your success. We take supporting our customers so seriously (and proudly) that we need to dedicate a section just for this. When cities tell us we have resolved their problem, that we "brought a smile" to their face, and a simple "you are the best", are the highlights of our days.

Company Name: Buchanan Advisors

Name: Ruth A. Buchanan, MBA, CEcD

Role: Principal, Co-Founder

Contact information: hello@buchananadvisors.net

Website: www.BuchananAdvisors.net

Location: Florida, and Southeast US

Business description:

Helping communities, companies, and developers move from strategy to results. Whether you're a city revitalizing a downtown district, a county competing for investment, a developer navigating public-private opportunities, or a second-stage company preparing for growth, success requires more than a plan.

It requires practical leadership, access to the right resources, and the ability to bring people together to get things done.

That's where Buchanan Advisors come in. Led by economic development professional and growth strategist Ruth Buchanan, Buchanan Advisors help organizations identify opportunities, solve complex challenges, access capital, and accelerate growth.

Services provided:

- Community Growth and Development
- Business Growth and Executive Advisory
- Capital, Incentives, and Funding Strategy
- Decision Makers Virtual Roundtables

Company name: Deloitte

Name: Chris Bandak

Role: Managing Director, Economic Advisory

Contact information: cbandak@deloitte.ca , 416-607-3793

Website: <https://www2.deloitte.com/ca/en/profiles/chris-bandak.html>

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Business description: As a market research and strategy specialist, Chris provides valuable insights that help communities and companies to succeed. With expertise in customer/citizen/business satisfaction, pricing, branding, advertising, media, and polling, he has delivered hundreds of projects and research programs for both public and private sector clients. This breadth of experience gives Chris a deep background in the technical aspects of research and a focus on providing clear and actionable results to clients.

Chris has a bachelor of science (honours) in business with a minor in economics, is a member of the MRIA, and holds the CMRP designation.

Company name: Camoin Associates

Name: Christam Franzl

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: christa@camoinassociates.com

Website: <https://www.camoinassociates.com>

Location: Saratoga Springs, New York

Business description: OUR SERVICES

We custom design each and every one of our economic development projects, leveraging the breadth and depth of our expertise to deliver a holistic solution that meets your unique needs.

Services:

- Strategic Planning
- Workforce Development and Talent Retention
- Real Estate Development Analytics and Advisory
- Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis
- Measuring the impact and telling the full story
- Prospecting and Business Attraction
- Industry Analytics and Strategy
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Company name: EDOiQ

Name: Colby Nate

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: cnate@edo-iq.com

Website: <https://edo-iq.com>

Location: Rockwall, Texas

Business description: EDOiQ is a complete software solution designed by economic developers for planning, managing, collaboration, and reporting on credits and incentives projects throughout their lifecycle. It is an all-inclusive toolset for organizations to track projects of all sizes and to manage the relationships that drive maximum return.

Company name: Hickey Global

Name: Barry Matherly

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: bmatherly@hickeyglobal.com

Website: <https://www.hickeyglobal.com/about-us>

Location: New York City, New York

Business description:

As part of the Hickey Family of global advisory companies, Hickey Global has access to the leading location advisory talent, robust technical resources and cutting-edge data analytics worldwide. With 25 offices worldwide and location projects on six continents, Hickey understands the complexity of a global economy.

Hickey Global creates custom, bespoke solutions to help communities prosper by creating and identifying opportunities for new investment and job growth. We work directly with our clients to understand the situation and the desired outcomes, and then strive to exceed expectations.

With implementation and execution in mind, final deliverables are developed as innovative and practical solutions. You work in a globally connected environment; you need a global firm

Company name: LeScot Enterprises

Name: Arthur L. Brown, MBA, CEcD, CMC

Role: President and Owner

Contact information: 770.732.9392, art@lescot.com

Website: http://www.lescot.com/PGE_Biography.htm

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Business description:

Art established LeScot Enterprises, Inc. in 2002. He serves as owner and President. He is responsible for all operations including management, marketing, business development, financial and principal service provider. When service delivery goes beyond his capability and time available, he draws upon a cadre of consultants that he can utilize for service delivery. Art has developed a premier approach to using the internet for procurement opportunities. Use of internet tools for researching, identifying and displaying business opportunities by governments and corporations allow easier access by their suppliers and vendors. Governmental organizations and corporations are reducing personnel and are directing suppliers/vendors to their website to register and to determine requirements for doing business. However, business owners must know what tools exist and understand how they work to utilize effectively. As a result, suppliers and vendors must now navigate electronic media to identify opportunities for their business.

Services:

- Business Development Assistance

Assistance involves helping businesses with business plans, marketing plans, procurement and market development, strategic planning, sales development strategies and other business development services.

- Economic Development Expertise

Assistance involves working with economic development organizations to promote business retention and expansion for their local community by surveying local businesses and developing retention and expansion strategies,

- Technology Development Expertise

Offers assistance to business and economic development organizations to enhance their capability by implementing technology through a variety of software and internet resources. Efforts are targeted to firms to bolster their business development opportunities and as a cost reduction tool.

- Global/International Development

Assistance involves helping domestic businesses develop strategic plans to enter the global economy by identifying export and import trade opportunities. Also, experience includes working with international businesses to expand their small business capabilities.

- Market Development and Representation

Works with large and small businesses to help identify and develop corporate and government sector procurement opportunities for their business.

- Training, Seminars and Other Communication Services

Delivers a wide range of seminars to business and economic development professionals focused on the five core areas of expertise listed above. Also, experienced in contract and grant writing and other technical writing services. Able to deliver training using Adobe Acrobat/Zoom and other virtual training/meeting

Company name: Mentor Manage Consulting

Name: Charles Botts III

Role: Founder

Contact Information: <https://www.mentormanage.biz/contact> (Contact Card)

Website: <https://www.mentormanage.biz/about>

Location: Hartford, Connecticut

Business description:

Our mission is to assist our partners in the process of identifying hidden greatness and untapped potential. At Mentor Manage our firm's core competencies include Youth Services, with an emphasis on serving Youth living with a disability, DEIB, Career Pathways, Career Coaching Strategies, Inter-generational Workforce Development, and Strategic

My life's mission is to help us all live together in a friendly way that values each other's differences. I live this out as an entrepreneur, as a pastor, as a civic leader and as a father. Mentor Manage was built to provide custom solutions for individuals and organizations. We all have something special to offer. It is our honor to help our partners bring that something into the world. We are a custom solutions consulting firm specializing in training and development. Our business is built on the notion that solutions can be found through creativity, patience and sacrifice. We have deep experience in workforce development, content creation, curriculum design, facilitation and consulting. At Mentor Manage Consulting, we were built to meet your need

Services:

- Custom training for youth living with a disability
- Provide inclusion and accommodation solutions for businesses
- Inspiration vs Motivation Leadership Paradigm
- Asynchronous training content
- Labor Market and Faith-Based influence

Company name: Odessa Development Corporation

Name: Tracy Shepard Jones

Role: Director, Business Retention & Expansion

Contact information: PO Box 3626

Odessa, Texas 79760

432/333-7886

432/638-7634 – cell

tracyj@odessaecodev.com

Website: <https://www.odessatex.com/about/our-team/p/item/3122/tracy-jones>

Location: Odessa, Texas

Business description:

We match customized solutions with specific needs and ultimately delegating the implementation of our recommended solutions to our partners. Owning the implementation

process means our partners can move forward in a way that is most appropriate for them based on our recommend solutions.

Services:

Assist local companies with expansion projects through grant funding, city permitting, and other services as required. Partner development.

Company name: People In Place Economics (PIPE Consulting)

Name: Kamesha “Kay” West

Role: Principal Consultant

Contact information: Phone: 318734.8068

Website: www.pipeconsultingllc.com

Location: Remote/National

Business Description

People in Place Economics Consulting (PIPE Consulting) is a community and economic development consulting firm dedicated to helping organizations and communities reach their full potential. We believe that thriving economies are built by investing in people, strengthening institutions, and aligning resources with opportunities. People In Place Economic blends data-driven analysis, innovative program design, and hands-on implementation support. We partner with local governments, economic development organizations, nonprofits, and businesses to create strategies that address today’s challenges while preparing for tomorrow’s opportunities. PIPE Consulting provides expertise in areas such as feasibility studies, board governance, entrepreneurship program design, and economic impact analysis, while also serving as **a technical assistance provider delivering capacity-building, training, and advisory support for community and economic development organizations, small businesses, and nonprofits.** By combining expertise in both nonprofit and economic development sectors, PIPE Consulting equips clients with practical solutions, measurable outcomes, and the leadership capacity needed to grow, sustain, and succeed in an evolving global landscape.

Company name: TEDC

Name: Amy Swank

Role: BREI Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: amy@texasedc.org

512-480-8432

Website: <https://texasedc.org/membership/post-an-rfp>

Location: Austin, Texas

Business description: The Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) is an Austin-based professional association for economic developers across the state of Texas. We are the largest state association of economic development professionals, volunteers, and elected officials. Our membership consists of over 1,000 individuals, representing more than 630 public and private economic development organizations, including more than 400 communities. Our diverse and expansive membership shares a common goal -- bringing new investment and jobs to Texas by developing strategies that promote a positive business climate in our state.

The TEDC is dedicated to the development of economic and employment opportunities in Texas through our many programs and services such as: conferences, educational programs, mentorship and leadership programs, resources, publications, advocacy, and much more.

Company name: Ohio Sea Grant College Program

Name: Joe Lucente

Role: Associate Professor, Community Development, BRE Consultant

Contact information: 419-574-098, lucente.6@osu.edu

Website: <https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/about/people/joseph-lucente>

Location: Toledo, Ohio

Business description: For more than 40 years, Ohio Sea Grant has worked to protect the environment of Lake Erie and the Great Lakes. With a strong combination of research, education and outreach efforts, as well as partnerships with academia, governmental agencies and the private sector, Ohio Sea Grant works with the Lake Erie community to solve the region's most important environmental and economic issues. Sea Grant's education and outreach facility on Lake Erie and part of The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), serves scientists from across the Great Lakes region, offering lab facilities, field work equipment, research vessels and housing for researchers studying Lake Erie. Together, Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab provide the science behind informed policy and management decisions on science education, the Lake Erie ecosystem and its economic impact on the region.

Company Name: Render Developments

Name: Joel Davies

Type: National/International

Contact Information: 416-220-7680; joel.davies@renderdevelopments.com

Website: RenderDevelopments.com

Location: Ontario, Canada

Business Description: Joel Davies is the CEO of Render Developments, an award-winning organization that works with municipalities to help generate interest and investment in their communities. Founded in 2019, Render Developments specializes in creating future visualizations and virtual tours that help communities showcase development opportunities and communicate their vision to prospective investors, developers, and other stakeholders. Davies holds a B.A. in Urban Planning and is a Durham Region Home Builders' Association award winner. He has years of experience working with municipalities and real estate developers to develop compelling visual tools that bring future development concepts to life.

Services provided include:

- Future development visualizations
- Virtual tours
- Municipal economic development marketing
- Investment attraction support
- Community and development opportunity visualization
- Real estate development visualization
- Visual tools for site selection and investment promotion
- Community development and planning support

Company name: Ernst & Young

Name: Brian Kelsey

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: brian.kelsey@ey.com

Website: https://www.ey.com/en_us

Location: They have over 700 offices in 150 countries. The three geographic regions these locations are divided into are the Americas; Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA); and Asia-Pacific.

Business description: At EY, our purpose is Building a better working world. The insights and quality services we provide help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

Company name: Freese and Nichols

Name: Caitlin Admire

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: caitlin.admire@freese.com

Website: <https://www.freese.com/>

Location: Fort Worth, Texas (Headquarters)

Business description:

Freese and Nichols is a privately owned engineering, planning and consulting firm serving clients across the United States. Founded in 1894, we offer stability as a long-term trusted advisor and use our national expertise to meet contemporary challenges. As the first engineering/architecture firm to earn the [Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award](#), we consistently deliver award-winning solutions backed by superior client-focused support. Freese and Nichols plans, designs and manages infrastructure projects with client service and continuous improvement in mind. Our vision is to simply be the firm of choice for clients and employees.

Company name: The Montrose Group

Name: David Robinson

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: drobinson@montrosegroupllc.com

Website: <https://montrosegroupllc.com>

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Business description: Dave Robinson provides corporate site location, economic development planning and lobbying consulting services for public and private sector clients based upon 30 years of experience. Prior to forming the Montrose Group, Mr. Robinson managed law firm government relations practices, was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, executive at Ameritech; senior staff for Columbus Mayor Greg Lashutka, and general counsel of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. He served as Adjunct Professor at the Ohio State University and is author of Economic Development from the State & Local Perspective, and The Energy Economy, published by Palgrave. Mr. Robinson has represented nearly 50 clients before the state of Ohio and local governments, substantial economic development strategy experience including co-researching and drafting the 30 economic development strategic plans and infrastructure and incentive strategies, and negotiated \$150 M in local, state and federal financing for economic development projects through corporate site location and site development projects.

Company name: Chmura Economics & Analytics

Name: Francesco Renna

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: francesco.renna@chmura.com

Website: <https://www.chmuraecon.com>

Location: Richmond, Virginia

Business description:

Chmura combines economic consulting expertise with JobsEQ labor market software to provide cutting-edge insights and analyses to businesses, policymakers, institutions, and organizations worldwide.

Company name: Chmura Economics & Analytics

Name: Mike Chmura

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: mike.chmura@chmura.com

Website: <https://www.chmuraecon.com>

Location: Richmond, Virginia

Business description: Chmura combines economic consulting expertise with JobsEQ labor market software to provide cutting-edge insights and analyses to businesses, policymakers, institutions, and organizations worldwide. The advantage to working with Chmura

Reliable, timely software

JobsEQ by Chmura aggregates data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the US Census Bureau, O*NET, National Center for Education Statistics, and more — so it's more robust than anything you'll pull from individual sources. Plus, it's updated nightly, so you're always working with current, accurate data.

Company name: TIP Strategies

Name: Rachel Wise

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: rfp@tipstrategies.com

Website: <https://tipstrategies.com>

Location: Austin, Texas

Business description: We are a team of experienced and creative professionals dedicated to inspiring and engaging our clients. Our work with public and private sector organizations focuses

on solutions that unlock the full potential of their local economy and the people they serve. We believe the most successful and sustainable strategies build pathways and create economic opportunity across a broad spectrum of skills and wealth. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central propositions in our client relationships, in our planning process, and in our firm. We value team members who remain curious about the world around them and who seek to make a difference through their work.

Company name: VisionFirst Advisors

Name: Nancy Blum-Heintz

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: Nancy.Heintz@visionfirstadvisors.com

Website: <https://visionfirstadvisors.com>

Location: Tallahassee, Florida

Business description: VisionFirst is more than a consulting business with connections. Our staff has experienced economic development at every level, both from the perspective of the local community and the corporate client. We develop tailored solutions that analyze conditions and chart a clear course to reach objectives. That process includes making sure the right team is in place for necessary execution. Finally, we act to deliver results that are clear, measurable and add undeniable value for our clients.

Company name: Market Street Services

Name: Mac Holladay

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: mholladay@marketstreetservices.com

Website: <https://www.marketstreetservices.com>

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Business description: Market Street Services, Inc. is a community and economic development firm headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. The firm was founded in 1997 by J. Mac Holladay as an alternative to the traditional economic development firm. Our clients range from individual cities to entire regions, and from chambers of commerce to publicly-held corporations. Our clients are as diverse as Austin, Texas, Watertown, South Dakota, and the South Shore of Massachusetts. In the past 19 years, the firm has worked in over 160 communities in 34 states.

Company name: Blutot

Name: Matt Maloney

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: matt@bludot.io

Website: <https://www.bludot.io>

Location: Silicon Valley, California

Business description: At Blutot, we are a group of tech builders, product fanatics, problem solvers, and most importantly, believers of two things: the power of technology tools to maximize each person's impact in their work; and the power of local economies no matter the community's size. Our biggest value is prioritizing your success. We take supporting our customers so seriously (and proudly) that we need to dedicate a section just for this.

When cities tell us we have resolved their problem, that we "brought a smile" to their face, and a simple "you are the best", are the highlights of our days.

Company name: AngelouEconomics

Name: Matt Patton

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: mpatton@angeloueconomics.com

Website: <https://angeloueconomics.com>

Location: Austin, Texas

Business description:

With an equal emphasis on implementation assistance, you can be sure that plans are implemented with successful results.

- Economic Strategy & Development
- Economic Development Strategy
- Market Analysis
- SWOT Analysis
- Retail Gap Analysis
- Target Industry Analysis

Company name: Fourth Economy

Name: Rich Overmoyer

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: rich.overmoyer@fourtheconomy.com

Website: <https://www.fourtheconomy.com>

Location: Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Business description:

About Fourth Economy

Fourth Economy Consulting offers services that advance economic strategy, resilience, and equity. We specialize in helping public and private sector clients take meaningful action to create innovative, equitable, and sustainable outcomes. We aim to create more prosperous and equitable communities and organizations by working in partnership with leaders in government, business, and the community.

Company name: Matt Tarleton

Name: Matt Tarleton

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Reg/Local

Contact information: matt@mtarleton.com

Website: <https://www.mtarleton.com>

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Business description: In every place we worked, we studied challenges, helped identify opportunities and worked with community and business leaders to develop strategies and tactics to support community improvement and organizational effectiveness. In partnership with our clients, we developed and refined programs, policies and investments influencing their region's economic future. Experiences in metropolitan areas like Atlanta, Austin, and Nashville were complemented by work in smaller communities that have been equally inspiring in their devotion to community improvement.

Company name: TPMA

Name: Niklas Tessmann

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: ntessmann@tpma-inc.com

Website: <https://www.tpma-inc.com/>

Location: Indianapolis, Indiana

Business description: We Are a Catalyst for Connection, Collaboration, and Innovation. We work with determined, future focused clients across the country who are moving the needle. Leveraging our team's combined decades of experience in workforce development, economic development, applied research, policy, and evaluation, we develop tailored, actionable strategies to help grow economies and prepare the workforce. As seasoned practitioners, we also assist with putting plans into action.

Company name: Sunstone Management

Name: Jayro Sandoval

Role: BRE Consultant

Type: Nat/Int'l

Contact information: jayro.sandoval@sunstoneinvestment.com

Website: <https://www.sunstoneinvestment.com/>

Location: Irvine, California

Business description: About Sunstone

Sunstone Management is a diversified private capital firm located in Southern California that invests in diverse early-stage technology entrepreneurs who seek to build great companies. We believe in the aspirational power of the American economy to attract and inspire investors and entrepreneurs from throughout the world. We deliver new and exciting opportunities for economic growth through the creation of innovative public-private partnerships, and our unique experience across government, education, and private sectors.