



Laurie A. Vignaud
President & CEO
LiftFund



Laurie A. Vignaud is the President and CEO of LiftFund, a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides funding and business education to small business owners and entrepreneurs. With over 35 years of executive and senior leadership in banking and community development, Laurie has proven success elevating companies, strengthening operations, and developing strategic collaborations to drive communities forward.

Prior to joining LiftFund, Laurie served as President & CEO of InclusivBank (in organization), a mission-driven, digital Minority Depository Institution committed to bridging financial disparities for underserved consumers and small business owners who are often overlooked and underbanked. She led the development of a sound, profitable capital and strategic business plan with a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Laurie also served as the inaugural female President & CEO of Unity National Bank of Houston, pioneering a transformative revival from three years of adversity. During Laurie's tenure, Unity National Bank's assets surged from \$104 million to \$247 million. Her collaborative approach nurtured and secured partnerships with corporate giants like Google, Walmart, Pfizer, Microsoft, and the NFL, and financial institutions like Citi, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, and Amegy.

A dedicated advocate of community empowerment, Laurie secured millions in grant financing to catalyze the development of community development and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) initiatives. This support resulted in the construction of thousands of affordable single-family homes and tangible resources for small business owners across Texas and Louisiana. She received national recognition for her efforts, which transformed the economies of low- and moderate-income families.

Laurie's active engagement with advisory councils and boards underscores her commitment to multifaceted community advancement. She is a former member of the OCC Minority Depository Institution Advisory Council, the Dallas Federal Reserve Community Depository Institution Advisory Council, and the NAACP Texas State Corporate Advisory Board. She currently serves on the Texas Southern University Business School Advisory Board, the Houston Area Urban League Board of Directors, and is a member of the Missouri City Chapter of the LINKs. Recently, Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner re-appointed her to serve on the Board of the Houston Land Bank where she Chairs the Finance Committee. She has received countless recognitions including Laurie Vignaud Day by the Mayor of Houston, U.S. Congress, and the State of Texas.

Laurie was invited to join the Texas Bankers Association Board of Directors as their first African American Banker to serve in this capacity while President of Unity National Bank. She is considered a subject matter expert and often interviewed by Bloomberg, Houston Chronicle, Houston Business Journal, the U.S. Democratic Caucus and Financial Services Committee.

Laurie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of New Orleans, complemented by advanced studies in Social Welfare at Southern University of New Orleans. She received a graduate degree in Banking from Southwest Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas Texas. She recently completed and received certification from the RMA/Wharton Advanced Risk Management Program at Wharton University of Pennsylvania's Executive Education Program, and is a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum Class of LXI.