

angela blanchard

President and CEO BakerRipley

Angela Blanchard is a globally recognized expert practitioner in community development, disaster recovery, and effective long-term integration for immigrants and refugees. Blanchard's breakthrough strategies have successfully revitalized neighborhoods by leveraging Houston's diversity, while providing a powerful model for cities across the globe facing the complex challenges of community transformation.

Blanchard's genuine reverence for people and her unique ability to bring them together in unprecedented ways have played a pivotal role in the growth and impact of BakerRipley, formerly known as Neighborhood Centers Inc. Her innovative, strength-based framework—Appreciative Community Building—has set the new standard for integrating diverse populations into thriving communities. She has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fast Company* magazine and was recently appointed as a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Centennial Scholar Initiative at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Frequently sought out by international nonprofit organizations and government leaders, Blanchard provides context and clarity for those looking to bring about local and regional change. Blanchard has remained consistently energized to tackle issues that matter most to communities.

Professional Highlights

As President and CEO, Blanchard has provided the leadership for this internationally recognized organization since 1995. Ranking in the top 1% of charitable groups nationwide, BakerRipley is the largest community development organization in Texas. It serves more than half a million people in 48 counties and operates with an annual budget of \$250 million.

Blanchard leads the organization in leveraging private financial support to augment 37 public funding streams. Her ability to collaborate and form strategic partnerships with individual donors, philanthropic groups, government agencies, and other nonprofits has been instrumental in keeping the organization agile and prepared to meet emerging needs.

Agency growth during Blanchard's tenure includes an increase in revenues from \$47 million (1995) to \$278 million (2015) and a jump in net assets from \$9.6 million (1995) to \$70.2 million (2015). Over that same period, the number of employees grew from 325 to more than 1,200.

Milestone accomplishments include:

- Led three major capital campaigns totaling more than \$63 million to support the agency's expansion for Agency headquarters and three new community centers, Ripley House, Baker-Ripley and the Economic Opportunity Center in East Aldine.
- Led the development of ASPIRE- a public-private collaborative initiative designed as a constructive response to address the region's skills gap in workforce.
- Established the first Endowment Fund for BakerRipley that has increased currently to \$25.6 million.
- Steered the development of nationally recognized Baker-Ripley community center to accommodate newly arrived individuals and families in Houston's most diverse neighborhood in the nation's most diverse city.

- Led the advocacy and message for the region's documented and undocumented immigrants and refugees. Set the stage for others in the city to address immigration as a critical factor to Houston's future and the largest contributor to the city's robust economy.
- Positioned BakerRipley as one of Texas' official five agencies for disaster case management and recovery efforts. Led the organization's efforts to become the center and vanguard for the long term recovery of New Orleans migrants to Houston.

Blanchard's leadership role in community has guided the organization's focus to tackle issues that matter most to the region and our communities. Her involvement in Houston's major leadership groups includes: Greater Houston Partnership Board, Executive Women's Partnership, UpSkill Houston, JP Morgan Chase National Community Advisory Board, Building Healthy Places Network National Advisory Council and the Texas Workforce Investment Council, appointed by Governor George W. Bush.

Since Houston is now the most ethnically diverse, fastest-growing city in the U.S., Blanchard is already developing solutions for the community challenges that the rest of our country will face in the next decade. For those cities (and even nations) that will be tasked with meeting the multi-layered demands of integrating a diverse population into thriving communities, Blanchard's insightful strategies are blazing a trail for the future.

Blanchard's breakthrough achievements in community revitalization have received numerous accolades: elite awards from top institutions, three invitations to the White House, and extensive press coverage.

Press Highlights

New York Times: [*What Do The Poor Need? Try Asking Them*](#)

Fast Company: [*What Gardening Can Teach You about Being an Effective Leader*](#)

The Atlantic: [*How Asking About Their Needs Connects People in Houston*](#)

National Public Radio: [*How One Nonprofit is Working with Houston Immigrants*](#)

CNN: [*Where America Works: A Closer Look at Houston*](#)

Places Journal: [*Houston's Quiet Revolution*](#)

Die Welt (Germany): [*The World Should Know What Germany is Doing*](#)

Houston Chronicle: [*5 People Who Could Shape Houston's Future*](#)

Publications Featuring Angela's Work

Brookings Institution: [*The Metropolitan Revolution*](#)

Brookings Institution: [*Confronting Suburban Poverty in America*](#)

Brookings Institution: [*How Can a Metro Embrace and Build on the Strengths of Its Immigrant Communities?*](#)

White House: [*Building Neighborhoods of Opportunity*](#)

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco: [*Investing What Works for America's Communities*](#)

Urban Institute: [*Expanding Access to Economic Opportunity in Fast-Growing Metropolitan Areas*](#)

Urban Institute: [*Tackling Persistent Poverty in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods*](#)

Robert Wood Johnson Frost: [Commission to Build a Healthier America](#)

Building Healthy Places Network: [Community Close Up- Baker Ripley Neighborhood Centers](#)

Keynotes, Presentations and Strategy Sessions

Executive Leadership Academy (2011-Present)

Brisbane, Australia

Multi-year engagement with Executive Leadership Academy. Facilitated strategy sessions with Australian business, non-profit and government leaders to shape their strategies and create program designs for community change that are strength-based and welcoming.

Forum Flüchtlingshilfe (Refugee Assistance Forum) (2016)

Hamburg, Germany

At the invitation of the Mayor of Hamburg and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Family and Integration, delivered keynote to 1,500 attendees at European Refugee Assistance Forum.

World Appreciative Inquiry Conference (2016)

Johannesburg, South Africa

Led sessions on appreciative inquiry in disaster recovery and asset-based community development at international conference.

Bromford Annual Conference (2016)

Birmingham, England

Delivered keynote to 1,000 attendees at annual housing conference centered around the story of Neighborhood Centers and working with immigrant communities to build Baker Ripley.

White House Salon Meeting – Building Ladders of Opportunity (2013)

Washington, DC

Invited by: Barack Obama, former President of the United States of America
Attendees: Senior White House Officials and 13 community development leaders and researchers.

Met with former President of the United States to provide insight and offer advice on programs such as the President's Promise Zone Initiative. Building Ladders of Opportunity works to ensure that all families, no matter where they live, have ladders of opportunity to the middle class.

The President's Promise Zone Initiative (2013)

Washington, D.C.

Invited by: Shaun Donovan, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Senior White House Officials and a small group of fellow community development leaders and researchers met to provide White House officials with advice and discuss the implementation challenges of the President's Promise Zone Initiative.

White House Social Enterprise & Opportunity Series (2012)

Washington, D.C.

Invited to present at the White House Forum on Urban Innovation along with 12 other public, private and non-profit transformational leaders. The leaders spoke about successes in transforming urban communities, commented on

effective urban policy and offered examples of positive leadership and best practices to the representatives of 100 leading community development organizations.

p4 Conference (2016)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Invited by: Heinz Endowments and City of Pittsburgh

Keynote and session participant at conference which tapped the expertise of leaders from across the country. Speakers included government officials, nonprofit innovators and policy consultants who joined 600 local civic and community leaders in discussing ways to transform Pittsburgh into a sustainable city.

Ohio Housing Conference (2016)

Columbus, OH

Delivered keynote to 1,700 affordable housing advocates from 27 states during annual housing conference.

Kresge Foundation – Inequality in America’s City (2016)

Invited by the Kresge Foundation to participate in panel discussion on solving inequality in America’s City.

Investing What Works for America’s Communities, Federal Reserve Bank Policy Forums (2012)

Washington, D.C. / Dallas, TX

Delivered keynote on people transforming communities and shared best practices for community development to philanthropists and non-profit leaders.

Clinton Global Initiative: Community Investing Work Group (2013)

New York, NY

Served as an expert on innovative investment approaches that grow local economies, promote thriving neighborhoods, and expand opportunities for financial and social returns. Attendees included mainstream investors and national and community financial institutions with foundations, nonprofits, and government representatives identifying actionable approaches that can transform and catalyze the community investing market.

Brookings Metropolitan Opportunity Series (2012)

Washington, D.C. / Houston, TX

Participated in a two-part convening of the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Opportunity Series. Brookings experts set out to discuss metro opportunity framework and study key research findings. Identified innovations in community development and shared how these innovations can be scaled in other metro regions. Attendees included David Erickson, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Joe Neri, CEO of IFF, Robin Snyderman, Metropolitan Planning Council.

Rockefeller Foundation/ Bridgespan Group Roundtable on Suburban Poverty (2013)

New York, New York

Participate in a roundtable to address the issue of suburban poverty. The convening brought together high impact leaders to explore questions of suburban poverty, the causes and drivers of poverty, and potential solutions and interventions, and long term outcomes. Angela Blanchard’s contributions to the discussion led to an external document published by the Rockefeller Foundation on suburban poverty, feeding into long-term funding decisions for the foundation.

The Business Innovation Factory Summit (2011 & 2013)

Providence, RI

As part of the 10th anniversary of the Business Innovation Factory, delivered talk to more than 200 influential attendees on community being defined by its strengths, resources, achievements and hopes – not its degree of “brokenness”.

PolicyLink Equity Summit (2011)

Detroit, MI

In a presentation on “Communities of Opportunity: Innovations in Place-Based Development,” hundreds of attendees focused on ways in which comprehensive reform has sparked significant change across the entire country.

City Lab: Urban Solutions to Global Challenges (2013)

New York, NY

Participated in discussions around urban ideas and innovations that are shaping metro centers around the world. Attendees included global city leaders, mayors and government officials, urban theorists, scholars, artists, and other key voices, in a series of conversations hosted by The Aspen Institute, The Atlantic, and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville (2015)

Charlottesville, North Carolina

Facilitated a three-day learning journey with CEO, Board, community residents to envision how their agency can embrace strengths-based change in the revitalization of the community of Southwood.

Habitat for Humanity International (2015)

Houston, TX

Worked with senior leaders from the Neighborhood Revitalization initiative to strategize on effective ways to apply appreciative community building with HFH affiliates across the country.

Civic Leader and Nonprofit Collaborative (2016)

Portland, Oregon

Worked with nonprofit leaders, the business community, and civic leaders to strategize on how the various sectors in Portland can work together to address regional challenges and shift perspectives related to community transformation projects.

Health and Wellness Alliance for Children (2016)

Dallas, Texas

Led strategy discussions with nonprofit collaborative group to leverage partnerships and facilitated discussion on utilizing strength-based approaches for healthy communities initiative.

Innovating to End Urban Poverty, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy (2014)

Los Angeles, CA

Discussed impact of racially concentrated areas of poverty, economic development, and public safety.

Combating Poverty through Community Quarterbacks at Social Capital Markets (2014)

San Francisco, CA

Participated in panel discussion on strategies for developing healthy communities.

Alliance for Strong Families & Communities National Conference (2013)

Minneapolis, MN

Participated in roundtable discussion on leadership within complex nonprofit organizations, leadership across sectors, and addressed how other nonprofit leaders can serve as a voice for community centers at the national level.

USC Executive Master Leadership Program (2014)

Los Angeles, CA

Served as a daylong lecturer to students in the Master of Leadership program at University of Southern California.

CORO Leadership Conference (2014)

San Francisco, CA

Delivered keynote to over 600 attendees, stressing the key principles of *Figure It Out Leadership*.

University of Houston (2011-2014)

Houston, TX

Guest Lecturer and Commencement Speaker at UH Graduate College of Social Work.

TEDx Houston (2011)

Houston, TX

Introduced Neighborhood Centers' community development philosophy to the 500 attendees at the TEDx Houston conference. The speech covered various Neighborhood Centers' projects and reiterated the maxim that "You can't build on broken," receiving the only standing ovation of the entire event.

Awards and Recognition

Generation Flux Leader: *Fast Company Magazine*

Named One of the Most Creative People in the Nation: *Fast Company Magazine*

Leadership Honoree: ARAMARK Building Community Innovation Award

Edward A. Smith Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership: The Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership at the University of Missouri (Kansas City)

Houston's 50 Most Influential Women: *Houston Women Magazine*

Leadership in Action Award: Leadership Houston

Hanna G. Solomon Award: National Council of Jewish Women

Julie & Ben Rodgers Ecumenism Award: Anti-Defamation League

Everyday Freedom Hero Award: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Executive Communicator of the Year: IABC

Person of the Year (Social Work): The University of Houston (Downtown)

Outstanding Woman of Achievement (Community Service Professional Award): YMCA

Dedication to Mankind Award: Harris County Housing Authority

Community Partner Award: India House

Compassion Award: Chinese Community Center

Shattered Glass Honoree: Harris County Women's Political Caucus

Education

Lamar University

Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting Major

Beaumont, Texas
1984

University of Texas

Plan II: Interdisciplinary Honors Program

Austin, Texas
1975-1978

Certified Public Accountant Certificate

1988