

# Ryan M. Donahue

417 13<sup>th</sup> Ave E, Seattle, WA 98102 | ryan@rmdonahue.com | (206) 488-2322

Expert in regional economic development and the design and management of complex, cross-sector strategic planning processes. Experience providing research and strategy guidance for more than 30 city, regional, and state economic development agencies across the U.S.

## Professional Experience

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### RM Donahue Consulting

*Principal*

May 2015 - Current

Consult with public and private entities in cities, regions, and states on economic development research, strategy, and implementation. Emphasis on cross-sector efforts to catalyze inclusive and innovation-oriented growth. Key recent projects include:

- Elevate Akron: market assessment, regional strategy, and implementation plan to guide joint efforts of City of Akron, Summit County, and Greater Akron Chamber.
- Prosper Portland (city agency): framework for inclusive traded sector growth, guidance on metrics and structural changes, cluster-level implementation plans.
- TEDCO (state of Maryland agency): nationwide assessment of models for technology commercialization and entrepreneurship services, guidance for local implementation.
- Upstate Alliance (South Carolina): five-year strategic plan, focus on integrating cluster development and innovation functions with traditional regional EDO roles.
- Business Oregon (state agency): research support for creation of five-year strategic plan for state-wide economic development policy and investments.

### Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program

*Nonresident Fellow*

February 2019 - Current

Collaborate with Brookings scholars on applied research on the structure and function of economic development agencies, with emphasis on catalyzing new partnerships with community development organizations, skills and workforce entities, and planning agencies.

- Birmingham Prosperity Partnership: project manager for a multi-year partnership between Brookings and Birmingham designed to create a more inclusive economy.

*Project Analyst (Contract)*

May 2015 – February 2019

Managed research and strategy development for numerous high-profile local engagements.

- Inclusive Economic Development Lab: guided the creation of research-driven narrative and “business case” for inclusive growth practices in Indianapolis, Nashville, and San Diego.
- Global Cities Initiative: co-led development of peer-learning process for integrating new approaches to FDI into economic development practice in 20+ U.S. metro areas.
- Portland Economic Value Atlas: provided research and guidance on integrating economic development metrics into an interactive tool designed to shape planning decisions.

Senior Policy/Research Assistant

August 2012 – May 2015

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- Global Cities Initiative: identified and codified innovative practices, programs, funding mechanisms, and organizational structures to catalyze replication across metro areas.
- Research assistance: led data collection and analysis for numerous internal and external projects, including training local researchers on interpretation of Brookings data.

## **The Trust for Public Land**

Senior Program Associate, Center for City Park Excellence

November 2010 – August 2012

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- Managed the Center’s research portfolio, working with cities and TPL staff nationwide to analyze trends and codify best practices in financing and creating city park systems.
- Developed methodology for and led quantitative analyses, including a GIS-based assessment of the quality and accessibility of 50 U.S. urban park systems and a study of job creation impacts of park agency spending using IMPLAN software.

## **Education**

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University of Puget Sound, B.A. in International Political Economy, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2010
Georgetown University, Certificate in Data Analytics	2015

## **Selected Publications**

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- Brookings Institution, 2018: Rethinking Cluster Initiatives (with Joe Parilla and Brad McDearman)
- Brookings Institution, 2017: Committing to Inclusive Growth – Lessons from the Inclusive Economic Development Lab (with Rachel Barker and Brad McDearman)
- Brookings Institution, 2015: Ten Lessons from Global Trade and Investment Planning in U.S. Metro Areas (with Brad McDearman)
- Brookings Institution, 2013: Export Nation – U.S. Growth Post-Recession (with Brad McDearman and Nick Marchio)
- *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, 2014: “The Bay Area Park Squeeze” (with Peter Harnik)
- *Planning*, 2011: “Turning Brownfields into Parks” (with Peter Harnik)