

JILL FERRARI

INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY IN COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

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Jill has over thirty years of experience in sustainable commercial real estate development. Her background includes private real estate development, private law practice, consulting and community development. She has owned and managed complex brownfield redevelopment projects in multiple states and has held the position of Chief Executive Officer for multi-million-dollar organizations focused on affordable housing and social governance. She is an award-winning champion of women in commercial real estate and a current member of the National Advisory Board for the Urban Land Institute Terwilliger Center for Housing. The development company she founded was named “Developer of the Year” by Michigan RE Journals in 2025.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, 2001
Wayne State University Law School
Detroit, MI
BS in Environmental Health, 1998
Oakland University
Rochester, MI
Certificates in ISO Management, Hazardous
Materials Management, Organizational
Management

EXPERTISE

Brownfield Redevelopment
Property Technology
Sustainable Development
Real Estate Financing
Private Equity Fundraising
Equitable Development
Organizational Management
Women’s Leadership

EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder

Renovare Development | May 2019 - Present

- Own and manage a commercial real estate development company focused on sustainable and transformational mixed-use real estate development projects throughout Michigan;
- Responsible for representing the organization in a leadership capacity;
- Responsible for providing expertise on sustainability and brownfield redevelopment;
- Responsible for representing the organization in public speaking engagements and technical panels, as well as publishing subject matter articles;
- Responsible for sourcing new projects and identifying funding for all projects;
- Oversees all organizational operations, including accounting, marketing, and business development; and
- Responsible for managing contractors, professional service providers and consultants.

EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Chief Executive Officer

Shelborne Development | August 2017 – May 2019

- Managed a 100 million dollar portfolio of affordable housing developments and annual operating budget of 5 million dollars;
- Responsible for representing the organization in a leadership capacity;
- Responsible for overseeing all operations, marketing, and staffing;
- Responsible for identifying new opportunities in neighborhood and mixed-use development;
- Responsible for overseeing the packaging of financing for real estate development projects; and
- Responsible for overseeing all project management including acquisition, predevelopment, and construction.

Chief Executive Officer

Michigan Community Resources | August 2013 – August 2017

- Led a statewide nonprofit focused on providing economic development technical assistance and legal services to community groups;
- Managed an annual operating budget of 2.5 million dollars;
- Responsible for overseeing all operations, marketing, technical services, legal services and staffing;
- Responsible for designing programming to support sustainable and equitable development initiatives in low-income communities throughout Michigan.
- Responsible for the launch of “Neighborhood Exchange,” an online property technology platform connecting neighborhood groups across low-income communities to resources, peer-based education and technical assistance;

Director of Community Development

Wayne County, Michigan | January 2008 - August 2013

- Managed an annual operating budget of over 6 million dollars;
- Responsible for representing the department in a leadership capacity;
- Oversaw the investment of over 100 million in federal funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to sustainable and equitable community development projects throughout Wayne County, Michigan resulting in over 50,000 units of affordable housing, 10,000 demolitions, and 20 new community facilities; and
- Responsible for the design and implementation of various creative community development programs

Founder and Principal

Redevelopment and Restoration Consultants | April 2004 – January 2008

- Founded a company providing consulting services related to brownfield redevelopment projects; and
- Oversaw the assemblage, entitlements and financing for a 100-acre development in Las Vegas, including a 200 million dollar incentive package and the expansion of the Las Vegas Boulevard gaming district.

S O C I A L M E D I A

AWARDS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- 2025 – “Developer of the Year” - Winner, Renovare Development –Michigan RE Journals
- 2024 – “Pioneer of the Year” – Nominee – DBusiness Magazine
- 2024 to Present – Chair of Mission Advancement of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Michigan District Council
- 2018-2024 – Co-Chair of the Executive Board – ULI Michigan District Council
- 2023 – “Woman of the Year” – Detroit Women’s Leadership Network
- 2022 – “Woman of Influence” - GlobeSt Magazine award for commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- 2022 – “Notable Executives in Real Estate” - Crain’s Detroit Business
- 2022 – Founding Board Member of Women’s Sustainable Development Initiative, Inc. (WSDI) a nonprofit promoting emerging female developers working in low-income communities
- 2020 to Present - Member of the Women's Development Collaborative, an international group of women real estate developers focused on empowering and connecting women in real estate
- 2017 – “Woman of Distinction” - Wayne State University Council on the Status of Women
- 2016 to 2019 - Vice Chairman of the Executive Board – Urban Land Institute Michigan District Council
- 2016 - “Melvin Simon Award” – International Council of Shopping Centers Foundation
- 2014 - Co Founder pf the Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) for ULI Michigan
- 2013 to 2014 - Member of the Board of Directors – CREW Detroit
- 2011 to 2013- Volunteer Judge for the Annual Real Estate Impact Awards – CREW Detroit
- 2011 to 2012 - Member - Site Development Advisory Committee - The Heidelberg Project - Detroit
- 2008 to 2011 - Co-Founder – Colin Hubbell Memorial Fund, providing Community Development grants in Midtown, Detroit
- 2008 to 2009 - Chairman of the Board – CreateDetroit, Inc., a non-profit promoting the creative class in Detroit
- 2005 to 2009 - Fundraising Event Planning Committee - Detroit Opera House, BravoBravo!
- 2002 to Present - Member, State Bar of Michigan
- 2001 to 2003 - Member of the Board of Directors, Commercial Real Estate Women - CREW Detroit. CREW Network exists to transform the commercial real estate industry by advancing women globally. Founded the annual golf outing fundraiser
- 1997 to Present- Member, Urban Land Institute. The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide