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TRANSFORMATION**
Reimagine, Grow, Sustain

RHONDA MCFARLAND

Rhonda McFarland has served as QCDC's Executive Director since September 2016. Under her leadership, the agency has successfully moved through a critical organizational, financial, and programming transition period and is stronger today. Ms. McFarland's leadership style has increased institutional grant support, secured a team of experienced professionals, improved the agency's fiscal health, and increased the delivery of community and economic development programming services by more than 15% each year. QCDC's reputation as a leading community development corporation continues to grow, with a senior City of Chicago official recently quoted as saying, "QCDC is one of the leading and premium small business service providers in Chicago."

Ms. McFarland has dedicated nearly 30 years of her professional career to the field of economic development and expanding financial opportunities for African Americans and Women. In the financial services industry, she served as a VP of lending, specializing in financing affordable housing and mixed-use commercial real estate in urban areas throughout the Midwest.

For five years, she held the title of VP of Lending with a Chicago-based Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) where she established lending programs and guidelines, portfolio and risk management systems, client-focused technical assistance education, and led the partnership with the City of Chicago as part of the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program. As an independent consultant, Rhonda has provided advisory, finance management, and interim executive leadership, deal structuring, and corporation negotiation, as well as project management services to a diverse client base. Having served on many not-for-profit boards and advisory committees, and as a professional volunteer, she is considered one of the most dedicated and effective community-focused and based professionals in Chicago.

Rhonda is a graduate of Texas Southern University in Houston, TX, an HBCU institution. She is a proud product of Dayton, Ohio, and currently resides in the North Kenwood neighborhood within the Quad Communities on Chicago's South Side with Ladybug the Austrian Shepherd.