

Louise J. Gissendaner

Biography

Ms. Gissendaner brings over 25 years of experience in the financial industry to her role as Akron City President and Director of Community Development for Fifth Third Bank and serves on the senior management team (Northeastern Ohio). Ms. Gissendaner has broken the glass ceiling throughout her career and has paved the way for many others to follow. She has the distinction of being the first African American female to be promoted to the title of vice president of a financial institution in the city of Akron, Ohio. She also was the first African American female to hold the officer positions of Senior Vice President and City President within the Fifth Third Bancorp.

She is a graduate of Kent State University, and has been responsible for numerous regional programs and initiatives focused on economic revitalization, financial literacy, community reinvestment and minority business development since joining the Bank in 1995. In her current position, Ms. Gissendaner is responsible for developing strategic partnerships and managing key relationships and initiatives within various cities and counties throughout Northeast Ohio. In the city of Cleveland, she was responsible for the development and implementation of Fifth Third Bank's Neighborhood Initiative. Since its inception 14 years ago, she has leveraged over \$1 Billion in community reinvestments within the city of Cleveland.

Throughout her career, Ms. Gissendaner has served in leadership positions and has volunteered for numerous community organization boards and committees. Through her leadership, she has been a strong advocate and catalyst in providing significant charitable contributions to many community and nonprofit organizations throughout Northeast Ohio.

She is the Co-Founder of Sankofa Fine Arts Plus, board chair emeritus of the Akron Urban League, member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governor's Consumer Advisory Council, and the Akron City Planning Commission. Her other board affiliations in the Akron and Cleveland area include: the Akron General Development Foundation, Akron Tomorrow, Center for Families and Children, Greater Cleveland Delta Foundation Life Development Center, Marcus Garvey Academy, Pine Forge Academy Foundation, United Way of Summit County, the Urquhart Memorial Foundation and the Women of Color Foundation.

For her dedication and hard work, Ms. Gissendaner has received numerous awards and accolades including the National Black MBA Association "Business Impact Award", the Black Pages Corporate Leadership Award, Crain's Cleveland Business "Woman of Note," Inside Business Magazine finalist for the ATHENA Award, Northern Ohio Live Magazine "Rainmaker Award" and was profiled as one of the "Women Making a Difference in Their Communities" by Kaleidoscope Magazine. In addition, the YWCA of Summit County honored her as a "Women of Achievement" and "100 Women of Distinction." She was also honored by the YWCA of Greater Cleveland as a "Woman of Professional Excellence. Recently, she received the National "Status of Women" Award at the Annual Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) National Conference, held here in Cleveland, Ohio.

Ms. Gissendaner is currently a member of the national chapter of the Urban Financial Services Coalition, the National Black MBA Association, Inc. and the Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In addition, she is a member of the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2006 and is affiliated with Leadership Akron and Stark County through their Alumni Advantage Program. She resides in Akron, Ohio.