

MCKENZIE PARKINS

Atlanta, GA

COMMUNITY IMPACT & PARTNERSHIPS STRATEGIST

I design community engagement programs that strengthen relationships between organizations and the communities they serve. I build cross-sector partnerships, manage stakeholder networks, and translate community insights into measurable social impact.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Murmuration

Senior Partnerships Manager

July 2021 – Present

Manage strategic partnerships with advocacy organizations nationwide to strengthen community engagement, civic participation, and policy impact.

- Lead relationship management and strategic support for a portfolio of national nonprofit partners, helping organizations implement data-driven engagement strategies.
- Co-designed and facilitated a Legislative Advocacy Fellowship supporting 40+ partner organizations and contributing to the development of 12 statewide policy initiatives.
- Develop toolkits, training programs, and engagement frameworks that enable partners to scale outreach, volunteer recruitment, and campaign effectiveness.
- Collaborate cross-functionally with product, data, and program teams to translate community engagement insights into platform improvements and partner resources.

Atlanta Public Schools

Public Policy Fellow - Governance Office, Stakeholder Management

2025 – Current

Design and support stakeholder engagement strategies that strengthen community participation in school governance and district initiatives.

- Develop tools and frameworks that enable over 700 school governance team members to build stronger relationships with school community stakeholders
- Facilitate engagement processes that capture community input and support inclusive decision-making within school governance teams.
- Conduct research and develop materials that translate policy priorities into accessible communication for families and community partners.

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA)

Policy Fellow – Community Coalition Liaison

2025 – Current

Support coalition efforts to advance equitable development and environmental justice initiatives across Atlanta communities.

- Collaborate with government, corporate, and nonprofit partners and community organizations to develop engagement strategies and policy recommendations.
- Conduct research and policy analysis to support anti-displacement strategies connected to major city development projects
- Produce public-facing reports and communications tools that translated complex policy issues for community audiences.
- Coordinate and manage volunteer outreach efforts

Grow Our Garden ATL

Founder & Director

2024 – Current

Founded a community initiative focused on environmental education, youth leadership, and sustainable neighborhood development in Atlanta.

- Designed community programs that connect youth and families to gardening, environmental education, and food access initiatives.
- Developed partnerships with schools, local businesses, and community organizations to support neighborhood-based sustainability programs.
- Lead workshops and community activations that promote environmental awareness and healthy community development.

Partnership for Southern Equity

Just Energy Academy Fellow

2024

- Completed a leadership fellowship focused on energy equity, climate justice, and racial equity in the South.
- Developed and led a community-based project addressing energy burden and environmental disparities in underserved communities.
- Engaged with regional leaders to explore solutions related to clean energy access, equitable development, and climate resilience.

Black Education For New Orleans (BE NOLA)

Policy Advocacy Program Manager

2019 – 2024

Led partnerships and community engagement initiatives focused on advancing equity in education policy.

- Built and managed partnerships with 16+ community organizations, developing a citywide advocacy series focused on Black educator sustainability and education justice.
- Coordinated community events and leadership programs, including the Black Brilliance Summit, amplifying community voices in education policy discussions.

EDUCATION

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Policy and Management
University of Georgia, Special Education