

Andre M. Porter – Executive Director

Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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Professional Profile: 20+ years of economic development and commercial real estate experience.

Bio: Andre M. Porter has been managing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (OSBE) since May of 2008. As Executive Director, he is responsible for planning, developing, managing, coordinating and monitoring the state's overall small and micro business development efforts. He is also responsible for developing ideas and legislation to improve small business competitiveness and for monitoring legislative and administrative policy changes for potential impact to small businesses. The primary objective of OSBE is to successfully assist businesses to create, maintain, and relocate jobs to Massachusetts.

Prior to his current position, Andre Porter spent eight years as the Deputy Director of the City of Boston's Office of Business Development. In this position he was responsible for the Boston Main Streets Program which funds 19 commercial districts across the City; small business lending; commercial real estate and business development finance; technical assistance for entrepreneurs and small business owners; and numerous resources and services that encouraged neighborhood and business development across the City.

Some of the achievements of the Office of Business Development under Andre Porter's leadership include the financing of over 53 commercial real estate projects totaling more than \$400 million in development costs; funded and provided design assistance to over 300 façade improvement projects totaling more than \$25 million in construction costs; assisted over 80 restaurant projects through the Neighborhood Restaurant Initiative, resulting in more than 500 new jobs; developed and launched the Boston Hotel Loan Fund which brought in more than \$6.5 million in fee income; developed and launched the Community Change Card program, a technology-based customer loyalty card for small neighborhood retail businesses across the City.

Prior to working for the City of Boston, Mr. Porter spent fourteen years in the banking industry where he was a commercial real estate lender, asset manager, and workout specialist for several Boston-based banks. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Tufts University.