GAPBRIDGE STRATEGIES

Michigan | Headquartered at Michigan Central in Detroit

MICHIGAN'S CIVIC CONNECTOR

I connect the people, partners, and resources that move Michigan forward.

Bridging gaps. Building systems. Moving communities forward.

About GapBridge

GapBridge Strategies is an ecosystem architecture and partnership development firm based in Detroit and serving Michigan. I bring employers, public agencies, schools, nonprofits, funders, and founders to the same table, then build the partnerships and systems that turn those relationships into measurable outcomes.

The gap I bridge

Talent, ambitious organizations, and resources often move in the same direction without ever connecting. Every organization is working hard, but no single one can build those links alone. GapBridge is the connective tissue that makes coordinated action possible.

15 years
building employer, government, and education partnerships

$70M+
in new business built across government, education, and industry

11
states of public sector and education partnerships led

100+
partnerships built across 7 industries

What makes GapBridge different

Tied to outcomes

Not tied to one industry or initiative. Wherever there is a gap, I build what closes it.

Fluent in every sector

I know how employers, government, schools, and funders each decide, fund, and commit.

Built to hand off

I stand systems up, then hand them off, so partners keep the relationships and the momentum.

THE MISSION

To connect leaders, institutions, and communities through systems-level collaboration that drives coordinated action and meaningful regional impact.

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What I do

I help organizations connect the right people, build the right partnerships, and create the right opportunities for growth. Every engagement is time-boxed with a clear handoff, and built around one question: what relationships and systems will move this work forward?

01 Strategic Advisory

An outside thought partner on retainer for leaders at nonprofits, cultural institutions, and growing startups.

- Priorities, positioning, messaging, and growth roadmaps
- Weekly working sessions with on-call support

02 Business Development and Funding Strategy

Aligning public dollars, philanthropy, and corporate investment behind shared goals.

- Revenue, partnership, and funding opportunities
- Funder connections and a stronger, sharper ask

03 Workforce and Employer Partnership Strategy

Employer-aligned pipelines that turn training and education into real jobs.

- Employer hiring commitments
- Skills-first pathways matched to real demand

04 Partnership and Ecosystem Building

The connective tissue between institutions, agencies, nonprofits, and companies.

- Partner and stakeholder maps, plus who to engage and when
- Convenings and events that turn "coming to Detroit" into "Detroit is fully behind this"

FEATURED WORK

Rise With Tech

Funded and led by Rocket Community Fund, in partnership with GapBridge Strategies, Detroit at Work, and Black Tech Saturdays. Rise With Tech connects Detroit residents to real IT careers with local employers. Instead of creating another training program, it links the employers, training providers, community networks, and workforce systems already in place.

450

Detroit residents on IT career pathways. The goal, by 2028.

Who I work with

- Corporate employers
- Cities and public agencies
- Colleges and universities
- Workforce boards
- Foundations and funders
- Nonprofits and cultural institutions
- Startups and founders
- Event organizers

Organizations Christina has partnered with

GOVERNMENT United States Government · FEMA · State of Illinois · City of Chicago · Detroit at Work

AUTOMOTIVE General Motors · Ford · Stellantis · Toyota **TECHNOLOGY** Comcast · Bird **PHILANTHROPY** Rocket Community Fund

EDUCATION Ferris State University · Wayne State University · Central Michigan University · Oakland Community College · Detroit Public Schools

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How I work

01
Discover Gaps
Map the ecosystem and surface the disconnects holding the work back.

02
Align Stakeholders
Convene key voices around a shared definition of success.

03
Design Pathways
Build the frameworks, partnerships, and structures.

04
Accelerate Outcomes
Move to measurable action, then hand a working system to your team.

Call GapBridge when

- Your program trains people, but they are not getting hired
- You received funding and need partners to deliver on it
- You are growing in Michigan and need the right doors opened
- You need employers at the table and lack the relationships
- Several groups are tackling the same problem in silos
- You are bringing a major event to Detroit

Ways to work together

Strategy Session
A focused working session on one challenge: a partnership, a pitch, or a plan. You leave with clear next steps.

Project Engagement
A scoped, time-boxed project with defined deliverables, like an ecosystem map, a partnership plan, or a business development strategy.

Advisory Retainer
Ongoing strategic support, starting with 90 days of weekly working sessions and on-call access in between.



MEET THE FOUNDER

Christina Ware

Founder and Chief Ecosystem Architect

Christina spent 15 years with Allegis Group building employer, government, and education partnerships, most recently leading state, local, and education partnerships across 11 states. She founded GapBridge to build the links between talent, organizations, and resources that no single organization can build alone.

Boards and service: Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan, Board of Directors; Detroit ToolBank, Board of Directors; Michigan Pride Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chair; Athletech Academy, Board of Directors; DAPCEP, proud alum, volunteer, and supporter.

Recognition: 2026 Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Future Leaders, 2026 Corp! Magazine Michigan Inspiring Leader, 2026 Michigan Chronicle 40 Under 40, 2025 Crain's Detroit Business 40 Under 40.

Speaking: panels, podcasts, and keynotes on cross-sector collaboration and workforce ecosystems. As heard on Serious Lady Business.

Let's build what's next.

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