

UNA WIRKEBAU

Building Partnerships. Strengthening Communities. Delivering Results.

EXECUTIVE LEADER | REGIONAL STRATEGIST | COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Executive leader and regional strategist with more than 30 years of experience translating complex community priorities into funded, implementable initiatives. Trusted by public agencies, tribal governments, nonprofits, businesses, healthcare organizations, and regional coalitions to build alignment, navigate change, and advance housing, workforce, tourism, infrastructure, and economic development. Combines public-sector leadership, entrepreneurship, facilitation, and hands-on delivery across the western United States and internationally.

30+ Years of leadership	\$500M+ Investment advanced	65 Regional stakeholders	4 Counties Housing strategy
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SELECTED EXECUTIVE IMPACT

- **Regional Housing Strategy:** Led a four-county initiative across Southeast Utah, convening partners, developing a regional housing toolbox, and designing a housing foundation/CDFI concept to expand delivery and financing for residents to access livable spaces in the region.
- **Federal Investment & Workforce:** Managed cross-jurisdiction planning with 65 stakeholders across two Washington counties for a \$35 million EDA Recompete initiative involving tribes, governments, colleges, ports, transportation, and workforce partners.
- **Infrastructure Funding:** Helped assemble partnerships and action plans supporting \$90 million in federal and state commitments for levee repair in Winslow, Arizona.
- **Economic Development & Business Growth:** Created shovel-ready project capacity, advanced business attraction and expansion, launched entrepreneurship programming, and convened more than 200 state and local leaders in Arizona.
- **Resource Development:** Helped secure or advance more than \$500 million in public, private, and philanthropic investment for infrastructure, workforce, housing, economic development, and revitalization in a number of locations in the USA and abroad.
- **Executive & Entrepreneurial Leadership:** Founded and operated businesses in Colorado, Washington, and Alaska; guided strategy, organizational transition, tourism, housing, and regional development work in the United States and internationally.

CORE LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

• Public-Private Partnerships • Housing & Community Development • Grant & Funding Strategy • Rural & Tribal Development • Tourism & Place-Based Development	• Regional Economic Development • Workforce Strategy • Stakeholder Engagement • Organizational Transformation • Board & Executive Facilitation
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Economic Recovery Corps Fellow Southeast Utah	2025–Present
• Convened public, private, nonprofit, healthcare, and community partners across Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan Counties to build a coordinated response to rural housing constraints.	

- Developed a regional housing toolbox to improve access to consumer and developer information and strengthen local implementation capacity.
- Researched the feasibility of a regional housing foundation and CDFI to expand mortgage access, down-payment and rental assistance, developer leverage, grant writing, and technical assistance.

Founder & CEO | Wirkebau Consulting

1999–Present

- Advise communities, public agencies, nonprofits, tribal partners, healthcare organizations, and businesses on economic development, housing, tourism, sustainability, stakeholder engagement, funding, and implementation.
- Lead public-private partnership development, strategic planning, grant strategy, communications, and organizational change across rural, urban, and international settings.
- Translate complex community priorities into actionable roadmaps, funding narratives, governance structures, and measurable next steps.

Recompete Plan Manager | Olympic Peninsula, Washington

2024–2025

- Managed regional workforce and economic development planning across Clallam and Jefferson Counties with 65 governmental, tribal, education, port, transportation, nonprofit, and economic development stakeholders.
- Led project design, research, compliance, financial oversight, process improvement, and deliverable accountability for a \$35 million EDA Recompete strategy.
- Served as liaison among county leadership, federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, education partners, and external stakeholders while identifying additional funding pathways.

Economic Development Director | City of Winslow, Arizona

2021–2023

- Developed shovel-ready opportunities, business attraction and retention strategies, tourism initiatives, grant applications, strategic communications, and implementation programs.
- Convened the first Rural Prosperity Conference, drawing more than 200 leaders over three days, and partnered with Moonshot AZ on entrepreneurial education and funding.
- Advised city leadership and served as a public-facing ombudsman; helped coordinate the levee-repair partnership and funding strategy.

Economic Development / Strategic Planning Manager | Mendocino County, California

2018–2021

- Built public-private resource networks supporting business retention, expansion, attraction, workforce alignment, and regional economic resilience.
- Used quantitative and qualitative insights to develop strategy roadmaps and priorities around tourism, agriculture, sustainability, and economic equity.

Executive Director | Monroe Chamber of Commerce | Monroe, Washington

2013–2016

- Built collaboration among city officials, businesses, property owners, and community partners to strengthen downtown economic vitality.
- Facilitated grants and partnerships for sidewalks, bulb-outs, bollards, public-realm improvements, and community-led revitalization.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

University of East London — MBA Program Admission (Deferred) | **University of Oregon** — Business & Marketing Studies
Economic Recovery Corps Fellow • IEDC and executive leadership training • Housing, tourism, grant strategy, facilitation, and economic development training

SELECTED BOARD LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION

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| • Economic Developer of the Year, 2023 (EDDE) | • Washington Tourism Alliance Board |
| • Cascade Loop Association Board | • Snohomish County Lodging Association Chair |
| • MOVE2030 Steering Committee Chair | • Redwood Coast Resiliency Coalition Chair |
| • National League of Cities Small Cities Council | • Workforce Development Advisor, Olympic Peninsula |