

Kerry Sheldon, Founder

Kerry Sheldon founded Bridgeport Consulting in 2010 with a mission to help individuals, organizations, and communities become the best they can be. This broad mission gestures toward the three levels of scale at which Kerry works: ranging from one-on-one coaching, to strategic planning and organizational change, to whole-scale community initiatives.

An experienced facilitator, trainer, and strategic planner, Kerry has worked with over 70 clients, including public libraries, local municipalities, private non-profits, institutions of higher education, and foundations with national reach. In recent years, Kerry has also developed a niche practice serving the Jewish communal/social entrepreneurship field.

Kerry takes particular delight in designing and facilitating retreats for Boards of Directors, staff, and/or other organizational stakeholders, often as one component of a broader strategic planning process. While the design of a retreat is dependent on one's presenting needs, a primary driver is often an interest in building consensus around a set of strategically important initiatives. Kerry has deep expertise in the successful delivery of this outcome.

Kerry entered the consulting profession at the invitation of her mentor, Francine Alexander, in 2009. Previous to that experience, Kerry worked in local government in Washtenaw County, Michigan for nearly a decade. She created the County's first Energy Program, deploying a \$6.2M energy efficiency and renewable energy project that generated sufficient operational savings to offset the project's capital costs. Next, Kerry occupied an analyst post with the Administration that equipped her with a broader policy purview and afforded her the opportunity to build relationships within the local non-profit ecosystem.

Education

Kerry graduated *cum laude* from Kenyon College (Gambier, OH) with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a concentration in Environmental Studies.

Experience

Kerry has served as faculty with the University of Michigan's Advanced Leadership Program and as a presenter with the national Upstart Collaboratory; she also facilitates the Covenant Foundation's annual Project Directors' meeting. Since 2018, Kerry and her colleagues at Bridgeport have served as the third-party facilitation team charged with supporting a healthy and productive working relationship between the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), one of the largest utilities in the nation, and GLWA's 127 member communities in southeast Michigan.