

Lauren Caldarera has dedicated her career to cultivating partnerships with non-profit organizations, academic institutions, start-ups, and local governments both in the United States and internationally. In her role as the Director of Economic Vitality for Connect



Community, Lauren focuses on devising placemaking, education, and workforce strategies aimed at enhancing economic opportunities in the Gulfton/Sharpstown neighborhood of Houston.

During her tenure as the Development Director at TXRX, Lauren played a pivotal role in securing \$29 million in public funding to establish the East End MakerHub—a multi-tenant manufacturing space in Houston. Prior to her involvement with TXRX, Lauren gained valuable experience developing global programs and partnerships at 2- and 4-year academic institutions. Her efforts were centered around capacity building and experiential learning initiatives in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Lauren's academic background includes a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Trinity

University, as well as a Masters in Public Administration and a Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management from the University of Oregon. In addition to her professional pursuits, Lauren embraces her role as a mom with a zest for exploration. She delights in outdoor adventures, with a passion for hiking and biking, and finds joy in the quest for the perfect chocolate chip cookie.