

Alex Wan

Atlanta City Council Member, Council District 6

Biography



Atlanta City Council Member Alex Wan has been proudly serving as a Council Member since 2010, but his record of public service didn't begin there. Educated at Georgia Institute of Technology, he earned a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering there in 1988. In 1993, he went on to attend the prestigious Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania where he earned a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Finance. He wasn't done with schooling even then, furthering himself while attending the Minority Business Executive Program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in 2001.

After attending Georgia Tech, Council Member Wan began his very prolific and successful career with the Prudential Investment Corporation's Corporate Finance Group living in Newark, New Jersey from 1988-1989. In 1990, he relocated to Atlanta and joined Prudential's Real Estate and Acquisitions team as an Investment Analyst. From 1993-2009 he served as President of Optima, Inc., an architecture-engineering consulting firm. Since 2009, he has served as Director of Development for Jerusalem House, Inc., one of Atlanta's oldest housing providers to homeless and low income families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Council Member Wan's public service hardly began with his election as the representative of District 6 in 2010. There were sparks of this service from the beginning of his life that formally took shape as he grew in to a man. Two causes that have always been particularly close to his heart are disadvantaged children and the community affected by largely invasive illnesses such as cancer and HIV/AIDS. Council Member Wan is a man who lends his talent and time to eradicating these illnesses and easing the burden on the families and children affected by them.

As early as 1994 Council Member Wan began showing his passion for helping others when he volunteered with Project Open Hand, which provides meals for those living with a chronic disease. From 1995-1997 Council Member Wan served as the Board Secretary for Our House, Inc., a daycare center for homeless children. From 1997-2003 Council Member Wan served on the Joining Hearts Host Committee which produces an important fundraiser for people living with HIV/AIDS. In 2003, Council Member Wan formed For the Kid in All of Us, Inc., which hosts an annual toy and school supply drives for socio-economically disadvantaged children in Georgia.

Over his lifetime and career, Council Member Wan realized that we must be the driving force behind the changes we hope to see in this world. To that end, he decided to be a leader, serving as an example for all those that may someday aspire to further causes such as those he believes in. How could he best do that? He felt it his duty to get politically involved. He began working with Leadership DeKalb, serving twice as Board Secretary (1995-1997 and 2002-2003), and Chair-Elect (1998) and Chair (1999). In 2003, he served Leadership Atlanta as part of Asian Latino Task Force and the Program Committee. In addition to all of the above memberships, he has been an active member of many Asian leadership groups included but not limited to: National Association of Chinese Americans, Asian American Heritage Foundation, and the Asian America Coalition Board of Directors.

Council Member Wan has been presented with numerous awards for his service including: Outstanding Federal Club Co-Chair Team of a Large Federal Club, Human Rights Campaign (2008), Georgia Asian Times "25 Most Influential Asian Americans in Georgia (2007, 2010-2011)", and Best Up & Coming Activist, Southern Voice Best of Gay Atlanta (2004). Georgia Trend Magazine's "Forty Under 40" named him as a rising star in 1997. In 2005, he was given the Philip Rush Award by YouthPride for his exemplary support of youth in Georgia.