



CANTON REGIONAL CHAMBER  
**STARK FORUM**

PRESENTED BY  **AULTCARE**

**STARK FORUM:  
WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CIVIC CENTER?**

**TUESDAY, DEC. 10 • 8-9:30 AM**

at the Canton Memorial Civic Center  
McKinley Room





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**The Stark Forum is a periodic event series presented by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. Each forum brings together regional leaders to address key public interest issues shaping Stark County's future and fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration.**

# STARK FORUM | DECEMBER 2024



## Moderator

**Jeff Dafler**  
**President & CEO, CRCC**

Jeff Dafler is President and CEO of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. He leads a dedicated team of professionals serving the Chamber's nearly 1,900 members and cultivating economic growth and community vitality across the greater Canton region. Before being named President and CEO by the Board of Directors, he served for three years as the organization's Vice-President—Economic Development and Public Policy.

Prior to joining the Canton Regional Chamber team, he founded The Dafler Company, providing strategy, policy, and communication consulting services to help clients navigate an increasingly complex public landscape. He previously worked in corporate leadership roles at The Timken Company and NCR Corporation and served as a U.S. diplomat in postings overseas and in Washington, D.C.

Dafler holds bachelor's degrees in international studies and French from Miami University, along with a master's degree in communication from the University of Dayton. He serves on several community and nonprofit boards, including as vice chair of the CommQuest Services board.

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## The Panel

**Maureen "MO" Ater**  
**President & CEO, ArtsinStark**

Maureen "Mo" Ater serves as the President and CEO of ArtsinStark, the driving force behind Stark County's vibrant arts scene. She leads initiatives that bring public art, grantmaking, and community events to life, while overseeing the operations of the Cultural Center for the Arts and region's Campaign for the Arts.

Mo earned degrees from Ashland University and West Virginia University College of Creative Arts and Media.

She has held executive leadership roles with United Way, The Repository/GateHouse Ohio Media and Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio.

Mo is a graduate of Leadership Stark County and the Stokes Fellows program at the Cleveland Leadership Center. She currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the YMCA of Central Stark County and is a Board member with the Stark Education Partnership, Visit Canton, Downtown Canton Partnership, My Community Health Clinic and Stark Library Foundation.

She has been recognized with Canton Jaycees Distinguished Service Award, the 20 Under 40 Award, NSME Outstanding Executive Award and induction into the YWCA Stark County Women's Hall of Fame. Mo and her husband, Patrick, are both lifelong residents of Stark County, where they raise their three daughters—Audrey, Grace, and Evelyn.

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CIVIC CENTER?



## The Panel

**Christopher Goff, J.D., M.A.**  
**Chairman, President & CEO, Employers Health**

In his role as Chairman, President and CEO at Employers Health, Chris guides the organization's overall strategy to assist more than 400 large, self-insured clients domiciled in 41 states. Under his leadership, Employers Health has grown to a \$4 billion PBM GPO. Chris taught health law and covered such topics as the ACA, ERISA, HIPAA, Antitrust, mergers and acquisitions, tax-exempt health care organizations and managed care. Chris is currently teaching Health Care Policy and Economics at Northeast Ohio Medical University. He served as the United Way of Greater Stark County's 2020 Campaign Chairman and in 2022 was presented United Way's Gold Key Award, recognizing the highest degree of personal dedication and service as a volunteer.

He currently serves on the following boards: Chairman of ArtsinStark, Vice Chairman of United Way of Greater Stark County, Senior Vice Chairman of The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Stark Economic Development Board, The Health Foundation of Greater Massillon, The Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, The University of Akron Foundation, President of University of Akron School of Law Alumni Boards and President of the Jackson Local Board of Education. Chris earned his undergraduate degree in business administration, with a major in finance, from Ohio Northern University, a Master's degree in political science from The University of Akron and a Juris Doctor from The University of Akron School of Law. Chris is a member of the American Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association and the Stark County Bar Association, where he serves as chair of the health law committee.



## The Panel

### **Blake Schilling, General Manager Canton Memorial Civic Center**

Blake Schilling, a 22-year veteran with ASM Global, has served as General Manager of the Canton Memorial Civic Center since November of 2012. Prior to arriving in Canton, Blake was Assistant General Manager / Director of Event Services at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, OH. At Nationwide Arena, home of the NHL Columbus Blue Jackets, Blake led the event and guest service efforts for all arena events. Prior to his time in Columbus, Blake handled various arena operations, event and guest service roles at Mellon Arena in Pittsburgh, PA, the former home of the NHL Pittsburgh Penguins.

During Blake's career, he's had the opportunity to advance, coordinate and execute concerts for some of the biggest names in the music industry such as the Rolling Stones, Billy Joel, Elton John, Prince, The Eagles, George Strait, Justin Timberlake, Fleetwood Mac, Taylor Swift and many more. Other notable events include The Bassmaster Classic, The Arnold Sports Festival, NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and several UFC events.

Born and raised in Ellwood City, PA, Blake attended Penn State University – Beaver Campus before graduating from Slippery Rock University with a B.A. in Sport Management. At Penn State, Blake was a two-time NJCAA All-American baseball player and played in the 1999 NJCAA World Series. While at Slippery Rock, Blake played in the 2001 NCAA Division II World Series. Blake, his wife Kati and daughter Bella reside in Alliance, OH.

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CIVIC CENTER?



## The Panel

### **Mayor William V. Sherer II** **Mayor, City of Canton**

William V. Sherer II was elected Mayor of the City of Canton in 2023 and started his term on January 1, 2024. A lifelong resident of Stark County and having been born in Canton, Mayor Sherer graduated from McKinley High School in 1988 and the Ironworkers Local 550 Apprenticeship Training Program in 1992.

Since 1989, Mayor Sherer's career began with the Ironworkers Local 550, where he served various elected and appointed positions, including Executive Training Director, Vice President, President, Business Agent, and Business Manager - the position he held until his election as Mayor. Prior to being elected Mayor, he also served the City of Canton as a member of the Income Tax Review Board, the Canton Community Improvement Corporation (CCIC) Board, and was the Canton City Council President from 2018 until his election as Mayor. Other positions held include serving as President of the Ohio Ironworkers Association, Board Member for the J. Babe Stearn Community Center, Vice Chairman of the Stark County Democratic Party, and Board Member of the Stark County United Way. He is also a member of the Jefferson Jackson Democratic Club and Canton Ex-Newsboys Association.

Mayor Sherer and his wife, Carrie, are proud of their three daughters and two grandchildren.



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## **MISSION**

**To serve our diverse members with valued programs and cultivate economic growth and community vitality through regional collaboration.**



## **VISION**

**A dynamic, thriving business community building prosperity in an interconnected region.**



## **VALUES**

**SERVICE:** We exist to serve our members and regional communities.

**TEAM:** We support each other, celebrate our successes, learn from adversity, and foster an inclusive culture where everyone feels valued and respected.

**COLLABORATION:** We build enduring relationships and make critical connections to achieve more together.

**INNOVATION:** We envision new approaches to inspire a brighter future.

**INTEGRITY:** We deliver on our promises and conduct ourselves with honesty, kindness, and respect for all.



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