



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

LEAH FREMOUW

CEO, Bridging Virginia

BIOGRAPHY

Leah Fremouw is a familiar face in the economic development community and has a rich background stemming from multiple sectors. She currently serves as Bridging Virginia's CEO; Bridging Virginia is a newly established community development loan fund. In this role, she partners with businesses, nonprofits, and localities in a variety of industries and growth stages to support their capital needs and movement to the next level. In 2020, she led the relaunch of the Richmond region's small business development center (SBDC) and in 2021 helped secure \$10 million from the General Assembly to establish and fund the new VA Small Business Resiliency Fund (CDFI Fund). Additionally, Leah founded and leads the newly formed VA CDFI Coalition.

Prior to leading Bridging Virginia, Leah spent six years as SVP and Director of Community Innovation at Virginia Community Capital, a community development financial institution (CDFI) that provides loans and advisory services to communities in all regions of the Commonwealth. She led talent management and cultural initiatives for CarLotz, a fast-growing Richmond business, served as an organizational development consultant with the Performance Management Group at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and for three years worked in the Richmond's public housing communities.

Leah's commitment to her community brings her out of the office and into initiatives moving the greater region and state forward. She sits on the boards of the nonprofits ChamberRVA and is a member of the Hive Movement Board. Leah launched a nationally known podcast, Renegade Capital in 2021, helped lead TEDxRVA, the innovative speaker series from 2012-2017, and served as Chair for Impact 100 Richmond from 2014-2016, where she supported strategies to raise large grant funds for local nonprofits. Leah earned her Bachelor and Master degrees at VCU, where she was twice recognized as an L. Douglas Wilder Graduate Scholar (2008-2010). In 2019, Leah was a recipient of the VCU Top 10 Under 10 award and was appointed by Governor Ralph Northam to the state-wide Growth and Opportunity Virginia (GO Virginia) Board. She was reappointed to the GO Virginia board in 2021 and will serve four more years.