

Leta Obertacz, MPA

Senior Vice President, Advancement | The Cleveland Foundation



Leta Obertacz, a 20-year fundraising veteran joined The Cleveland Foundation this September. In her new role as Senior Vice President of Advancement she is leading her team of 20 in creating new strategies to bring in new support while retaining long term relationships with loyal supporters. She most recently served as director of advancement for the Cleveland Zoo Society, where she led numerous highly successful fundraising campaigns dedicated to the best quality animal care, education and meaningful guest experiences, including the Daniel Maltz Rhino Reserve; Bear Hollow; and the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Auditorium. This year under Leta's leadership, her team launched

the Primate Forest campaign, which, when complete, will result in a 140,000-square-foot world-class destination that will transform and significantly expand the zoo's rainforest.

Prior to her work at the Zoo Society, Leta spent several years as a fundraising and marketing executive at Career Gear, a nonprofit whose mission is to provide the formerly incarcerated, homeless and veterans with the tools and skills they need to successfully achieve reentry and financial independence.

Leta earned a BA in history with honors from Brown University and an MPA, Pi Alpha Alpha, from Baruch College. She is a co-VP of activities and class officer at Brown. She is also a dedicated community volunteer, serving as the co-VP and advancement chair for EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute and the founding board president for Motogo, a nonprofit that teaches students how to solve problems and build confidence through working on motorcycles.

Over the course of her career, Leta has participated in a number of leadership and professional development programs. She completed Cleveland Leadership Center's Bridge Builders and Civic Leadership Institute programs and recently participated in the Cleveland Foundation's Foundations for Philanthropy program. Just this spring, she was recognized as one of Cleveland Magazine's Women of Distinction.

Leta had the unique opportunity to tour the country as a professional performer with a variety of artists and groups, including the NBA for the Nets. In conjunction, she served as a national dance judge and presented on navigating the performer's life and living in NYC. She resides in Shaker Heights with her husband Mike and two young sons.