

Catherine Smith, JD

Partner, CityWorks/President, Collaborative Services, Inc.



What is your role within CityWorks?

As a founding partner in the firm, my role is to be involved in its management, marketing, and projects. In that role, I listen to my team and help them solve the problems our clients and communities need solved. I develop creative solutions to community involvement, facilitation, and public awareness programs that are based on our clients' political climate, economics, community, and goals. And, I coordinate the involvement services with our planning team to integrate the community's ideas with the design and technical team's expertise.

Can you briefly summarize the projects that you are currently involved in?

Currently, I am working on a variety of community involvement efforts, from long range community planning to construction of public improvements to public awareness campaigns for water conservation and watershed protection. Daily, I am fortunate to work with SANDAG, Caltrans, the County and City of San Diego, as well as with independent water districts in San Diego and Riverside Counties.

What motivates you and keeps you engaged in your work?

Every day I know that our firm does something significant towards building trust between government and the community it serves. Over time, our clients and their communities have come to respect our dedication to trust-building. That is hugely gratifying, as is seeing our team develop solutions that are truly unique.

What have been your most significant professional and personal accomplishments?

Finishing law school and starting my business instead of becoming a practicing attorney is my most significant professional accomplishment. The business has a great team, great projects, and a great reputation for our services and ethics. Personally, my greatest accomplishment is still being friends with the folks I went to kindergarten with.

What makes you laugh?

Finger puppets.

Please tell me a quirky fact about yourself.

I used to be in a mariachi band.

"It could be good."

Education:

Juris Doctorate, 1997
University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California
Bachelor of Arts, English, 1989
University of California, Berkeley, California