

Damian C. Buchman

Wauwatosa, WI

Public Speaker and mission driven social entrepreneur, with a passion for advancing adaptive fitness, athletics, recreation & play opportunities for people impacted by disABILITIES.

I am a social entrepreneur with nearly 10 years in sports facility management, in addition to over a decade in the nonprofit sector. I pride myself in being a problem solver and a sustainable idea generator, with the ability to envision a project from A to Z. A leader in the adaptive sports & recreation industry, I have founded two charitable endeavors aimed at delivering a greater quality of life for all abilities and valued opportunity in fitness, athletics, recreation and play. I've delivered a vision for the future, transformed a community's recreation, and oversaw the merger and collaboration of five charities.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Nonprofit Management & Start-up
 - Social Entrepreneurship
 - Public Speaking
 - Universal & Inclusive Design
 - Adaptive Recreation
 - Sport Facility & Program Management
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AFAR, Inc. dba The Ability Center (TAC): Milwaukee, WI **2008 - Present**
Founded this 501(c)3 nonprofit, charitable organization in 2008 and lead the design and program of a universally inclusive fitness and athletic center for those impacted by disabilities.

Founder & CEO **2008 - Present**
Current role: Oversee the implementation of our community adaptive recreation movement and partnerships through TAC's: RampUp: Universal Community, Open Gym: Adaptive Programs, and ASAP: Inclusive Education programs while leading the development of Wisconsin's first inclusive recreation center in collaboration with the organization's Board of Directors, community foundations, partners, and philanthropists.

Selected Accomplishments:

- **Consultant:** Henry W. Maier Festival Park, [Northwestern Mutual Community Park](#), November, 2020
- **Leader** of the RampUp movement that opened [America's most accessible beach](#) at Milwaukee County's, Bradford Beach, July, 2020.
- **Featured:** "Thrivers," [Cancer Wellness Magazine](#), May, 2020
- **Recipient** of the Donald Driver Foundation's, Driven to Achieve Award, 2019.
- **Recognized** as one of the Milwaukee Business Journal's, 40 Under 40, 2017.
- **Adaptive** Consultant with Sports Facilities Advisory, 2016.
- In collaboration with Milwaukee County Parks we "opened" four parks to ALL abilities through our RampUpMKE initiative, 2015-Present.
- Partnered &/or Collaborated with the: Metropolitan Milwaukee YMCA, Milwaukee County Parks, Harry & Samson Family Jewish Community Center, & Bublr Bikes.
- **Featured:** [Athletic Business Magazine](#), June, 2013.
- **Featured:** [Men's Health](#), Everyday Heroes, November, 2013.
- **Winner:** [Marquette University's Business Plan competition](#), Social Plan, 2011.
- **Nonprofit:** Developed AFAR, Inc's 501c(3), Board of Directors, Business Model.
- **Designed:** Comprehensive inclusive fitness center's with Technogym, Precor, Direct Fitness Solutions and aDDdVantage Creations, Inc.

Wisconsin Adaptive Sports Association (WASA): Milwaukee, WI **2013 - 2016**
WASA is Wisconsin's first full service adaptive sports organization, in which AFAR, Inc. set the original bylaws, collaborative standards, and vision for.

Founder, Interim Executive Director & Board Secretary **2013 - 2016**

Selected Accomplishments:

- Identified, organized, led, and funded the collaboration of five independent adaptive sport related nonprofits to create a single association.
- Amended the state and federal filings of a former 501c3 to create WASA.
- Organized the country's largest wheelchair basketball club, securing the sponsorship of the Milwaukee Bucks.
- WASA serves over 100 athletes per week, from 6-60+ years of age.
- Organized WASA's original Board of Directors.

Center Court Sports Complex: Waukesha, WI

2000 - 2008

A 54,000 square foot athletic facility, Center Court Sports Complex features: five basketball courts, eight volleyball courts, nine outdoor sand volleyball courts, a banquet hall, and a pub/grill. Over my years with the facility, Center Court changed management, names, and/or ownership hands five times – I remained the only constant.

Axis Athletics, Owner

2006 - 2008

Facility Director, Center Court Sports Complex

2004 - 2006

Program Director, Pilgrim Community Center

2001- 2004

Volleyball Director, Epicenter

2000 - 2001

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee / Milwaukee, WI

Undergraduate Student, 1997-1999

Brookfield East High School / Brookfield, WI

Diploma

Continuing Education

- Nonprofit Management Certificate / University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, & Inclusion Committee, Wisconsin Department of Tourism

January, 2021 - Present

Committee Member

Office of Outdoor Recreation Committee, Wisconsin Department of Tourism

December, 2020 - Present

Committee Member

Milwaukee Parks Foundation

December, 2020 - Present

Advisory Board, Member

Wisconsin Policy Forum, Milwaukee County Parks

December, 2020 - Present

Workgroup Member

Commission for People with Disabilities, Milwaukee County

June, 2018 - Present

Commissioner, Three year appointment

Committee for Citizens with Disabilities, City of Wauwatosa

June, 2018 - Present

Member, Three year appointment

Diversity, inclusion, Global & Equity (DIG) Taskforce, YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

May, 2018 - Present

Taskforce Member

City of Milwaukee Pilot Adaptive Bike Program

May, 2018

Advisor

Children's Oncology Services, Inc. (COSI)

1998 - 2009

Program Director, Program Leader, Camp Counselor