

**Candice Matthews Brackeen**

2900 Reading Road, Suite 260  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

Dynamic economic development leader and seasoned venture capital investor known for empowering tech ecosystems and fostering innovation-focused entrepreneurship. As CEO of Lightship Foundation and General Partner at Lightship Capital, Candice has successfully supported thousands of founders in securing over \$400 million in funding, reinforcing her prominent role in the investment community. Recognized for strategic vision, adeptness in identifying transformative ventures, and commitment to driving economic growth and inclusivity.

**Professional Experience****CEO, Lightship Foundation**

*2017 – Present*

- Leads strategic direction and execution of founder-focused programming including Lightship Accelerator, Lightship Bootcamp, and Black Tech Week, an internationally acclaimed innovation conference.
- Facilitated growth and funding for thousands of tech entrepreneurs, guiding companies to collectively raise over \$400M in capital.
- Expanded Lightship's national footprint through strategic partnerships with corporate, philanthropic, and governmental organizations.

**General Partner, Lightship Capital**

*2020 – Present*

- Manages venture capital investments with a keen focus on identifying high-potential startups and disruptive technologies, particularly within underserved and emerging markets.
- Provides strategic advisory and mentorship to portfolio companies, enabling significant market traction and accelerated growth.
- Regularly contributes thought leadership on investment trends, technology ecosystems, and inclusive venture capital practices.

**Education**

Bachelor of Arts, Economics – University of Cincinnati, 2004