

Richard Trent Bio

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Messengers matter. Richard Trent knows that who delivers the message can shape whether it's heard, understood, and acted upon. That belief has guided his work as an organizer and advocate for economic fairness and small business empowerment.

For over 13 years, Richard has worked at the intersection of conscious capitalism and social movements, driving transformative change from education to prison reform to economic justice.

With Higher Achievement and Reach Out and Read, he fought for equitable education access for historically disadvantaged youth. At Friends of Island Academy, he brought together a powerful coalition of prison reform advocates and institutional funders to help power the *Raise the Age* movement—leading to the end of youth detention at Rikers Island. As the Founding Executive Director of Friends of Anacostia Park, he partnered with the National Park Foundation to mobilize returning citizens, small business owners, and environmental activists—revitalizing a long-neglected green space by centering the needs of Ward 8 residents.

Now, as Executive Director of Main Street Alliance, Richard is activating a nationwide network of 30,000+ small business owners to fight for a level playing field. Small business owners aren't just economic drivers—they are trusted voices who can champion policies that sustain Main Streets, not just Wall Street. Under his leadership, Main Street Alliance is leveraging focused polling, coalition-building, direct engagement with elected leaders, and digital advocacy to drive action on:

- A fairer tax code
- Access to capital for small businesses
- A stronger care economy
- Vigorous antitrust enforcement to break up corporate dominance

Richard is a proud graduate of Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. He lives in Silver Spring, MD, with his wife and two kids, River and Wilder, and their two dogs, Thaddeus and Basil. On weekends, you'll likely find them hiking through Maryland's trails, exploring new parks, or chasing the next great family adventure outdoors.

Whether he's organizing small business owners, building coalitions, or leading grassroots movements, Richard is dedicated to ensuring that those who create real value in our communities have a real voice in shaping the policies that affect them.