



## **AYRIS T. SCALES**

CEO & MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
WALKER'S LEGACY & WALKER'S LEGACY FOUNDATION



## AYRIS T. SCALES

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A dynamic and visionary executive and thought leader, Ayris has been a champion for women, entrepreneurs and underinvested communities for nearly two decades. Her mission-oriented approach to addressing social inequities has led to transformative public-private partnerships with numerous global brands, as well as innovative policies and initiatives in which she has secured over \$50M in funding, and overseen more than \$100M in grants and subsidies. Ayris has centered her career on creating access, driving solutions and amplifying authentic messaging. She has held leadership roles in Indianapolis, Savannah, Atlanta, Chicago and Washington, DC in all three sectors.

In 2018 Ayris was appointed by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser to serve as the District's official Chief Service Officer. Prior to this role, Ayris was the Vice President of Economic Growth and Jobs for World Business Chicago (WBC). She led corporate board members, staff and stakeholders through a collaborative design process to create and institute WBC's first-ever inclusive economic growth framework. This novel approach to programming and operations shifted millions of dollars back into Chicago's emerging commercial markets, and connected hundreds of small to medium sized businesses to major procurement opportunities.

Ayris also has the distinct honor of having served as the inaugural Executive Director of the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative (DCPNI), a flagship organization under President Obama's White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative to end generational poverty. Her revolutionary strategy to launch a two generation modeled program focusing on the educational advancement of both single mothers and their children, led to DCPNI being awarded a \$28M grant from the US Department of Education; the only start-up in the country ever being awarded this highly coveted grant.

# WALKER'S LEGACY | FOUNDATION

She is a sought after advisor, speaker, moderator, lecturer, and blogger. Her work has been featured in Fast Company, Ebony, Fox, ABC, and NBC news affiliates, Telemundo, Blackher.us and numerous other publications.

As a philanthropist, advocate and community leader, Ayris serves on several boards and advisory councils, including Wells Fargo's "Where We Live " and Lyft's "LyftUp." She is the chartering President of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Metropolitan Washington D.C. Chapter, where she spearheaded the development of an annual grant to support female owned businesses and an HBCU technology scholarship in response to COVID19.

Ayris is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a National Urban Fellows alum and Leadership Greater Washington. She attended Clark Atlanta University, Kent State University and Baruch College.