

Al Gardner

C-Level Executive | Public & Private Sector Transformation | Infrastructure & Operational Strategy

Executive Profile

- Dynamic C-level executive with 25+ years of leadership across the public and private sectors.
- Proven success scaling organizations, modernizing operations, and leading high-impact transformation.
- Known for visionary leadership, equity-centered strategy, and the ability to navigate complex political, commercial, and community environments. Trusted advisor to CEOs, mayors, and boards with deep expertise in procurement, infrastructure, digital transformation, vendor equity, and crisis leadership over large-scale operations.

Professional Experience

Department of General Services, City and County of Denver – Denver, CO

Executive Director, General Services | 2023 – 2025

Deputy Mayor | 2025 – Present

- Founded “GS Works” – a nationally recognized workforce pipeline connecting underrepresented residents to skilled trade careers.
- Implemented vendor reforms expanding M/WBE participation in multi-million-dollar procurement.
- Deployed predictive analytics and fleet modernization to improve operational efficiency.
- Directed shelter operations, logistics, and workforce safety during migrant response efforts.
- Led high-stakes negotiations with labor unions, developers, councilmembers, and corporate partners.

Salud Family Health – Fort Lupton, CO

Senior Vice President, Information Technology | 2022 – 2023

- Modernized cybersecurity and infrastructure supporting HIPAA and HITECH compliance.
- Introduced cloud-based systems improving clinic uptime and digital access in rural and urban markets.
- Advanced digital equity initiatives improving care access for underserved communities.

Inspirato – Denver, CO

Vice President & Head of IT and Security | 2016 – 2022

- Guided enterprise IT governance and security enabling successful 2022 NASDAQ IPO.
- Maintained profitability and business continuity through COVID, earning DBJ C-Suite Award.
- Led full-stack digital transformation improving efficiency and customer experience across global locations.

Board and Civic Leadership

- Governor Appointed Member – Colorado State Board of Health
- Former Chair – Denver African American Commission
- Member – Colorado Technology Association Board
- Adjunct Professor – University of Denver, Graduate School of Technology & Communications

Awards and Honors

- Denver Business Journal – C-Suite Award, Leadership Through COVID-19
- Denver Urban Spectrum – African Americans Who Make a Difference

Education

- Master of Business Administration – American InterContinental University
- Bachelor of Business Administration – American InterContinental University
- Master of Public Administration (in progress) – University of Colorado, Public Sector Leadership

Technical Skills

- Contract Lifecycle Management
- ERP Strategy
- Cloud Architecture
- Infrastructure Modernization
- DEI Program Design
- Predictive Analytics
- Cybersecurity
- Procurement Systems
- Vendor Management
- Microsoft/Azure Stack

Core Strengths

- Strategic Commercial & Contract Negotiations
- Public-Private Partnership Development
- Equity, Inclusion & Workforce Innovation
- Executive Stakeholder Relations & Political Acumen
- Crisis Management & Organizational Resilience
- Complex Operations & Financial Oversight (>\$2B+)