



## Whitney Weller

### Vice President - Development

Ms. Weller joined Michaels Development Company as Vice President of Development in January 2002. Her primary responsibility is the development of mixed-income, mixed finance housing, which requires the coordination of a multi-faceted development process. Ms. Weller's responsibilities include project management, securing necessary financing, securing local and federal approvals, selection and coordination of design/build professionals.

Ms. Weller has worked extensively in both the public and private sectors. Most recently, Ms. Weller was a HOPE VI Revitalization Specialist for the Office of Public Housing Investments at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Weller was responsible for managing six HOPE VI grants and overseeing five mixed-finance developments in Chicago. As such, her duties included providing technical assistance to the Chicago Housing Authority and various development teams on mixed-income/finance issues relating to site planning, urban design, demolition, financing, program requirements and self-sufficiency programs. Other responsibilities included reviewing and approving revitalization plans, mixed-finance development proposals and evidentiary materials. Ms. Weller assisted in closing five mixed-finance deals in Chicago, including two phases of the Robert Taylor HOPE VI grant and three off-site developments at Cabrini Green. She facilitated the Intergovernmental Oversight Committee, which oversees the implementation of HOPE VI grants and other capital projects being undertaken by the Chicago Housing Authority.

Prior to joining HUD, Ms. Weller practiced architecture and planning in both Chicago and New York City. She specialized in grassroots community planning, neighborhood revitalization, adaptive reuse and affordable housing. In her position as Project Manager for Chicago Associates Planners & Architects, Ms. Weller was responsible for all phases of architecture and planning projects from design development through construction and occupancy.

In addition to her work with private firms, Ms. Weller was a consultant to several non-profit organizations in Chicago. She was the technical facilitator for *Housing a Community*, an international design competition for affordable infill housing in Chicago's North Lawndale community. She also facilitated a community planning initiative for Westside Habitat for Humanity in their unprecedented effort to comprehensively address the challenging issues facing inner city urban neighborhoods.

Whitney received a BS in Design from Arizona State University and a MS in Historic Preservation from Columbia University, New York. Ms. Weller is a frequent Juror in the School of Architecture, Activist Practice Program, at the University of Illinois at Chicago.