



Dominic Papa

Dominic Papa is the Vice President of Smart State Initiatives at the Arizona Commerce Authority. In the new role Dominic leverages his expertise in emerging governance models and strategic partnerships to drive a broad portfolio of Smart State projects rooted in equity and inclusion. Dominic was instrumental in the founding of the Connective, the nation's largest and most connected Smart Region. Thanks to his leadership, the Greater Phoenix Connective was recently selected as the first U.S. 'Intelligent Cities' mentor to E.U. cities. Since coming to the ACA Dominic finalized MOUs that establish formal partnerships with the Greater Phoenix Smart Region Connective and the Southern Arizona Smart Region. Dominic also launched the Microsoft Imagine Academy Program for Vets, which provides veterans with digital skill certifications in order to better prepare them for the 21st century digital economy.

Recently, Dominic launched the Urban Complex podcast with Chris Richardson, Deputy CIO at Arizona State University, in order to help surface the stories from leaders around the world that are providing the best examples of what is making a city 'smart' and can influence the mindset of all municipalities and outcomes for everyone. Prior to the ACA, Dominic was the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Institute for Digital Progress (iDP), an innovation-driven, smart city nonprofit. iDP provides the unified leadership structure to drive innovation through collaboration, and empower governments with the mechanism to create, develop, and deploy emerging technologies across jurisdictions.

In 2016, Dominic built the Smart & Connected AZ Council, which provides cities with an "Innovation as a Service" model, a platform that allows local governments, private industry and academic research institutions to collaboratively design and develop new innovative technology pilots that advance solutions to public challenges, have a measurable impact, and the potential to scale. Within its first six months of operation, the Smart & Connected Council helped the region secure a \$6 million DOT grant around congestion management technology.

Dominic founded iDP after working for two years with the city of Phoenix. Prior to the city, he worked for the Alliance for Innovation and ASU's Center for Urban Innovation, where he worked hand in hand with city managers from across the county, helping them to challenge and transform their organizations in the midst of severe fiscal constraints. Prior to ASU, Dominic worked for the tech startup Integrate. Before starting his career, Dominic was also a professional soccer player for the San Antonio Scorpions.

Dominic is currently a board member for the Phoenix Community Alliance and a member of the Phoenix Sister Cities Business Relations Committee. Dominic has a B.A. in Political Science and Italian, a M.A. in Public Administration, and a J.D. from the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.