

Kirt Jacobs: Welcome to MoxieTalk with Kirt Jacobs. This is an archived edition when our program was called Leadership Landscape TV.

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Kirt Jacobs: Welcome to a new partnership between Metro T.V. and Y-PAL, the Young Professionals Association of Louisville called Leadership Landscape where we go inside the minds of local community leaders and allow them a chance to offer some keen insights into how they see themselves and most importantly explore just what makes them tick. I'm Kirt Jacobs current Y-PAL board member and host of Leadership Landscape. Today our guest is Kimberly L. Bunton.

Kimberly received a B.A. in journalism in English from the University of Kentucky and a JD from the University of Kentucky College of Law. She is the director of Louisville Metro government's policy and strategic planning department and also serves as the interim director of Louisville Metro government's Community Action Partnership whose mission is to eliminate poverty and its effects among residents of Jefferson County, Kentucky through family assistance economic development and community organization/workforce development. Before joining the new Louisville Metro Government, Kimberly worked as an attorney at Frost Brown Todd LLC, one of the region's largest law firms, where she represented individuals, corporate directors, and officers in public and privately held companies in a full range of complex business litigation.

Kimberly is widely considered one of Louisville's rising young leaders. She served as a spokesperson for the 2000 Unity Campaign and in 2003 she was named as one of Louisville magazine's most powerful people under the age of 45. Previously in 2002, Business First acknowledged her as one of the 40 under 40. Kimberly welcome today to the Leadership Landscape. It's nice to have you here.

Kimberly L. Bunton: Thank you for having me.

Kirt Jacobs: First question we ask all of our guests is what drives you to do this? To take on the strategic planning of Metro government basically another initiative.

Kimberly L. Bunton: Well in that narrow focus of what drives me I would say broadly what drives me is the pursuit of excellence and personal best. And I'm a strategic thinker. And strategic planning fits right into that but more importantly what drives me in my role with Louisville Metro Government is my former involvement in the Unity Campaign. I campaigned very hard about the impact that merger would make and the benefits that it would have and I felt a personal responsibility to come in and see, and pay the dues in, to make sure that those things that I thought were going to happen actually did happen. So that's what drives me in the positions that I hold currently with Louisville Metro Government.

Kirt Jacobs: Great. What, whom do you credit most influential in your life? If you could name one, it could be two people if you want.

Kimberly L. Bunton: Well that's very difficult for me to credit one or two people with influencing me. I'm one of those very fortunate or blessed individuals that I have a family that has supported me in everything that I do. And I'm not just talking about a mother and a father but I a grandfather and uncles and aunts. And so I am one of those people that have been told that I've been very important just because I breathe air. And so that's a very, very key to having influence on what you do. But if I would say to narrow it down to one or two individuals I would obviously state my parents because they instill the principles in me. And then I would say my grandmother who also gave me some business philosophy to carry along in my pursuits.

Kirt Jacobs: That's great. What was the most defining moment of your life at this point if you could name one or two at your tender young age frankly. If there's one, maybe it hasn't happened yet.

Kimberly L. Bunton: You know I was thinking about that what is my most defining moment. I have had several defining moments. I would say you have you know those little milestones that you have in your life, the birth of your first child, your marriage. You know accomplishing some of your educational goals but I would say that I probably haven't quite had that most defining moment. If I what I would say what is the moment that I most remember as it relates to my career I would say that it would have to be the Unity Campaign because it was one of those instances where I took a step out into the public eye and said this is something that I believe in. That was counter to what those in my African-American community we were thought to believe. So I would say that was one of the defining moments taking a stance that you may not necessarily have the backing of some of those individuals you thought you may have.

Kirt Jacobs: If there is one Kimberly, what is your biggest professional regret? In other words, is there something you would have done differently? To be armchair quarterback your life kind of hindsight 20/20, at this point is there any regret?

Kimberly L. Bunton: I don't necessarily have any professional regrets. I think that, I think that at this particular point I followed my purpose. And my purpose has led me to be in the positions that I'm in. However, if I could play a little bit differently, I probably would have taken a different educational route. Maybe have gone to different schools. I still would have went to law school but maybe a different law school. I would have done it a little bit differently than possibly that I had. I pretty much stayed in Kentucky. I think I would have ventured out a little bit.

Kirt Jacobs: On the flip side of that, Kimberly what is your biggest professional triumph to date if you could name on?.

Kimberly L. Bunton: I'm still working on it.

Kirt Jacobs: The best is yet to ome

Kimberly L. Bunton: The best is yet to come. Somewhat of a perfectionist. So probably I'll never get to that you know moment where

I feel like I've made that that most professional triumph that I've done exactly what I wanted to do. I can say this though, I have followed the path that I wanted to follow and I made all the positions that I've ever wanted to be in. But there's always something bigger and grander that I want to do and I'm always trying to get there. So possibly I'll live and die and never answer that question affirmatively.

Kirt Jacobs: That may not be a bad thing. What do you find exciting about all that you do?

Kimberly L. Bunton: Learning. A lot to learn. I learn more about myself, I learn more about how the world works. I learn more about this community and learn more about how I can have a contribution into the community. So I am constantly reading, constantly reading outside of my discipline, to see how it all relates to kind of do a landscape and piece it all together. I love learning. That's what I do in my spare time. Others may do more recreational things, I'm in a book.

Kirt Jacobs: If you could pick one word in the English lexicon, what is your favorite word? Can you name one?

Kimberly L. Bunton: I could name several but I'll choose one.

Kirt Jacobs: It doesn't have to be one.

Kimberly L. Bunton: Narrow it down

Kirt Jacobs: Take your top and do another two three.

Kimberly L. Bunton: Well I would have to say purpose. I believe that purpose would define a lot of things and purpose is what you build off of and so you get passion out of purpose. You know you get compassion at a purpose. You get commitment out of purpose. And so therefore I would say purpose is probably my favorite work because it's something I probably use in the course of my day several times. You know what the purpose of this or what is my purpose it's always the test that I use and anything that I do whether it

be professionally or personally.

Kirt Jacobs: This show is about leadership. Can you define leadership in one word? I'll give you two but can you do it in one maybe.

Kimberly L. Bunton: I think so

Kirt Jacobs: OK

Kimberly L. Bunton: Vision

Kirt Jacobs: Vision.

Kimberly L. Bunton: I think that leadership requires vision. And that means not just a vision on what you would like to do but the ability to see people and their strengths and their weaknesses and knowing exactly what to do with those things. So I would say that vision is probably the most accurate word that I would use. You could use several. There are lots of other different characteristics that leader needs to have but the vision obviously is one of the top three I would say that a leader has to demonstrate.

Kirt Jacobs: If you could change one thing, what would that be? it could be in general, be in your own life. If there is one thing you could change what would that be?

Kimberly L. Bunton: A very difficult question.

Kirt Jacobs: Very difficult as you can interpret it in many ways that's why we like to ask you.

Kimberly L. Bunton: Well I will, I will say that this is probably applicable personally and globally. If I could change anything it would just be education. I would say that I would have more of us focus on education and I'm not just talking about higher education but the type of education you need to be a successful person and hone in on that and don't be forced to do some of the things that society would have you believe that you need to do. So education is one of those things that I would focus it a little bit differently

maybe a little bit more nontraditional approach to education but a very individual one. Customize individual paste approach to education.

Kirt Jacobs: And I like that answer. Education. One thing. This is a question that can bring some discomfort to some our guest and some of our younger guests. It's a little bit difficult to comprehend because hopefully there's more chapters still to be written but when the great day comes Kimberly how do you want to be remembered?

Kimberly L. Bunton: I would like to be remembered as a good person. Simply put someone who had high morals. Someone who was very ethical. Someone who worked hard but more importantly someone who did the right thing and was a good person to just about everyone they met.

Kirt Jacobs: Well that's great and a great note to end on. Thank you Kimberly...

Kimberly L. Bunton: Thank you.

Kirt Jacobs: ...for being Leadership Landscape today. I'm Kirt Jacobs. Until next time, thank you for joining us on Leadership Landscape.

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Kirt Jacobs: Thank you for listening to MoxieTalk with Kirt Jacobs. This episode was archival audio from when we were known as Leadership Landscape TV. If you have any feedback, general comments, or a recommendation for a suitable guest feel free to email me at kirt@moxietalk.com or catch us on Facebook under MoxieTalk with Kirt Jacobs, or on Twitter under [@kirtjacobs](https://twitter.com/kirtjacobs) or our extensive website at www.moxietalk.com