

Dr. Katherine Loflin

Dr. Katherine Loflin, “The City Doctor,” is an internationally recognized and award-winning leader in placemaking: quality of life places and why they matter to leading our best lives. Her much-anticipated book “Place Match: The City Doctor’s Guide to Finding Where You Belong,” was released in December 2015.

Dr. Loflin has held leadership and advisory roles in some of the most groundbreaking and innovative placemaking projects including Knight Soul of the Community, Our Miami, Calgary’s Inspiring Strong Neighborhoods, and the Place Capital Inventory in Australia. In October 2014, she was awarded the international Place Marketing Award by the Place Marketing Forum in Aix-en-Provence, France, where she was also named the Guest of Honor and taught the Master Class.

She is an invited member of the global Placemaking Leadership Council and keynoted its inaugural event in 2013 and subsequent events in Stockholm, Sweden and Adelaide, Australia. Also in 2013, Dr. Loflin was also selected as the Placemaker in Residence for St. Paul, Minnesota, USA.

Dr. Loflin is a two-time TEDx speaker on placemaking and has been featured widely in the U.S. and international press. She was the first to create and host a radio show dedicated to the topic of placemaking called “Place Matters with Dr. Katherine Loflin”.

Prior to starting her own consultancy, she was a Program Director for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in Miami, Florida, USA with assets of \$2.4 billion. She started with the foundation in 2002, while still completing her dissertation, as Knight’s in-house expert in “civic engagement” and “positive human relations” and guided the foundation’s global investment and program evaluation in these areas. By the time she left the foundation to start her practice in 2007, she managed Knight’s Technical Assistance Program, Community Foundation Program, Hurricane Katrina disaster program, and grant making in two cities, as well as continued to advise the foundation in civic engagement and positive human relations initiatives. Through this portfolio of work, she was responsible for guiding the foundation’s charitable investment of millions of dollars annually.

In graduate school, Dr. Loflin served as the social issues news consultant for a local NBC affiliate in her home state of North Carolina, USA. She is credited as being the first social worker ever to work in a television newsroom, participating in the daily news production process, including regular on-air contributions.

Dr. Loflin received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from North Carolina State University in 1993. She went on to receive a Masters in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1996. She also received a Ph.D. in Social Work with a concentration in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003.

Her dissertation entitled "Bonding and Bridging Social Capital and Their Relationship to Community and Political Civic Engagement" examined the role of diverse networks on individual civic involvement. It received praise as an important contribution to the field from Dr. Robert Putnam, a well-known and recognized authority on social capital and author of the groundbreaking book "Bowling Alone" and other works.