

WILLIAM E. ADAMS

Influential Leadership Career at the Intersection of Labor, Government & Commerce



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Globally fluent, approachable and engaged leader with passion to serve, eagerness to contribute and commitment to advance shared objectives

- Strong Relationship Manager
- Effective Communicator
- Collaborative Consensus Builder
- Thoughtful, Pragmatic Decision Maker
- Empowering Leadership Mentor

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Celebrated champion for social justice, economic development, public safety, promotion of the arts and culture, and the well-being of workers worldwide

- Earned multiple service awards over the years, including national honor for exemplary work and continuation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and San Francisco Labor Council's Lifetime Achievement Award
- Co-founded highly lauded annual event, "Celebrations of Black History and Labor," honoring black life and US contributions
- Served as Executive Producer of several documentary films

Member of CA Governor Newsom's special taskforce formed to accelerate state-wide pandemic recovery efforts

San Francisco Film Commission (3 years)
Mayor's Office of Economic & Workforce Development that promotes and supports creative productions

BOARD VALUE

Deep industry experience across global supply chain, including maritime logistics, container shipping, port operations, ground transportation, warehousing and labor dynamics—with broad view of strategic issues impacting importers/exporters, ground freight carriers, and the companies they serve

Productive partnerships across multiple business sectors and the US government, including the President, Cabinet members, top agency officials at the federal, state and local levels, and regulators

Political advocacy success advancing shared business and labor interests, influencing policy and legislation, and securing government funding to support investment in key initiatives and public-private partnerships

Astute negotiations expertise steering high-stakes discussions, navigating conflict effectively and structuring contracts for mutually favorable outcomes

Financial management and analytical strength, with direct oversight of budgets, reporting, audits and compliance and fluency in evaluating complex business proposals, contracts and investment strategies

Discerning insight into labor relations and workforce management, including effective business practices that foster high employee morale and engagement, a safe, productive work environment and an inclusive, equitable culture

GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

Board Member, Cal Expo Board of Directors (2025-Present) | Appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom

International President Emeritus, Longshore & Warehouse Union (2018 – 2024) | Secretary-Treasurer (2003 – 2018)

First African American President elected in organization's 80-year+ history, progressing up the ranks, including 20+ years as a dock worker

Board Member | Legislative, Finance, Technology, Negotiating & Safety Committees | 21 years

Board Member for \$10B+ Pension & Welfare Fund (Employee Benefits, Pension & 401k) | 6 years
Safeguarding assets of plan participants and beneficiaries and ensuring investment growth target achievement

Strategic, financial and operational oversight for organization representing diverse, 40K-member+ workforce—with 230 unique contracts, core labor base employed on the US West Coast at 29 ports by 70 of the world's largest shipping companies and additional employees operating in the US and Canada across various industries, including hospitality, retail, healthcare, transportation, security, aviation and agriculture and mining

- **Served as a visible, engaging leader**—internally and externally—to instill confidence, garner support, build unity, grow membership and mobilize stakeholders around key issues to inspire collective action
- **Steered successful labor negotiations with global companies**, lobbied with government officials and navigated significant crisis periods
- **Earned recognition from President Biden for pivotal leadership role in preventing country's supply chain shutdown amid pandemic crisis**—with no threat of labor strike—and personal invitation to meeting at the White House discussing collaborative efforts across labor, business and government sectors
- **Secured \$200M in funding from federal and state authorities** to build new training facilities in LA and Tacoma aimed at empowering the workforce with essential skills for adopting new technologies and advancing business modernization

Commissioner, San Francisco Port Commission | Mayoral appointment | Since 2012 (4 Mayors)

Board Member, including 3 years as President and 7 years as Vice President

- Governing / approving body for plans, programs and policies related to development, marketing, leasing and management of 7.5 miles of real estate along San Francisco's waterfront
- \$500M operation with portfolio of 550+ commercial leases and large-scale development projects, including multibillion-dollar, future-focused environmental infrastructure investments and ground-up buildout of new residential community through public-private partnerships

Board Member, TransAfrica | Since 2005

Research, education and advocacy organization in Washington D.C. dedicated to influencing US foreign policy and improving social, economic and political conditions in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America

References for William Adams

ILWU International President Emeritus

President Joe Biden

Contact: Erika Dinkel-Smith, White House Special Assistant to the President, Senior Labor Advisor | Office of Political Strategy

Phone: 202.881.7548

Email: erikasdinkelsmith@who.eop.gov

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi | Congressperson and former Speaker of the House

Contact: Terri McCullough, Chief of Staff

Phone: 202.225.4965

Email: terrimccullough@mail.house.gov

US Senator Maria Cantwell | Chair of US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Contact: Nicole Teutschel, Senior Policy Advisor

Phone: 202.224.3441

Email: teutschel@commerce.senate.gov

Jack F. Bair | Executive Vice President, San Francisco Giants

Phone: 415.505.1755

Email: jbair@sfgiants.com

Mario Cordero | CEO, Port of Long Beach, CA

Phone: 562.537.1194

Email: mario.cordero@polb.com

Elaine Forbes | Executive Director, Port of San Francisco, CA

Phone: 415.274.0405

Email: elaine.forbes@sfport.com

General Stephen R. Lyons | Retired 4-star general in US Army | 13th commander of US Transportation Command

Phone: 704.808.0185

Email: transcomcdr13@gmail.com