

Alexandria “Alex” McBride is the Founding Executive Director of Live Oak, a philanthropic initiative currently incubated within the Ray C. Anderson Foundation. Live Oak works to accelerate funding and investment in equitable climate solutions and community resilience across the Southeast.

Alex grew up in Atlanta’s West End, a historically Black neighborhood divided by interstate construction and shaped by decades of disinvestment. That experience informed her understanding of how environmental conditions, race, and economic opportunity are bound together. It continues to anchor her approach to investing in ways that strengthen community institutions, value local knowledge, and build collective power.

Over nearly two decades, Alex has worked on every side of the funding table: philanthropy, government, nonprofits, and the private sector. She is guided by the belief that philanthropy works best when it moves alongside communities rather than ahead of them.

Before Live Oak, Alex was the first employee at the $3 billion Waverley Street Foundation, where she helped shape its early strategy and led a $90 million national climate justice portfolio as Strategy Director and Senior Program Officer. She co-created the Climate Hubs initiative, which invested $41 million in partnerships among grassroots organizations, HBCUs, Tribal colleges, and other academic institutions. Through this work, she helped position grantees to secure more than $150 million in follow-on public funding.

As Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Oakland, Alex led the city's resilience efforts, including securing $50 million in public funding to expand affordable housing and resilient infrastructure and partnering with community leaders and philanthropic organizations to rapidly deploy resources to communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also held roles at Groundswell, the Tishman Environment and Design Center, and the Engine Room.

Alex holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Howard University and a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management from The New School. Her leadership of Live Oak reflects a deeply personal commitment to the South and a belief in the region's people, institutions, and capacity to shape a more just and resilient future. She lives in Atlanta with her husband and daughter.

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