

Nneka Chiazor
President and CEO, Public Affairs Council

Nneka Chiazor made history in January 2025 when she became the first woman and person of color to lead the Public Affairs Council in its 70-year history. As President and CEO of the premier global association for public affairs professionals, she is redefining the organization's future — expanding its international reach, elevating the profession's strategic value, and building the next generation of public affairs leaders worldwide.

A transformational executive with more than two decades of experience at the intersection of business, government, and community — including 14 years at Verizon Communications — Nneka brings a rare combination of corporate leadership, policy expertise, and strategic vision to one of Washington's most respected professional associations.

Prior to joining the Public Affairs Council, Nneka served as Market Vice President for Cox Communications in Hampton Roads, where she led a \$1.2 billion market — one of the company's top five nationwide — overseeing more than 1,200 employees and driving growth through bold public-private partnerships. In a significant milestone for digital equity, she brokered a multimillion-dollar agreement to extend broadband infrastructure to underserved communities across Virginia, demonstrating her ability to align corporate strategy with meaningful community impact. Her leadership contributed to Cox's recognition as a 2024 Top Place to Work in Hampton Roads.

A committed civic leader, Nneka has served on boards including the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance, and Global Traveler magazine. She also served as an appointed Commissioner for the City of Virginia Beach Economic Development Authority. In 2022, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities honored her as Humanitarian of the Year for her transformative work advancing diversity and inclusion throughout Virginia.

Nneka holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Concordia University in Montreal and a Master of Science in Telecommunications Management from the University of Maryland Global Campus. She is an alumna of Harvard Business School, on the board of Global Travelers Magazine, and a member of The Economic Club of Washington, D.C.

She lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her husband and two daughters.