

Khalil Johnson

A Biography

Khalil Johnson is President of Common Sense Consultants, Inc., the company he founded which specializes in mega-event planning; major stadium and convention center design, construction and management; and organizational analysis and development. He has over three decades of experience in these areas.

Khalil was chief operating officer of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority from 2002 through 2009. As COO, Johnson oversaw all operations of the GWCC's 200-acre campus in downtown Atlanta, which includes the Georgia World Congress Center, the Georgia Dome and Centennial Olympic Park. Together they comprise the world's largest sports, entertainment and convention complex.

Johnson began his career at the Congress Center in 1976 as part-time laborer, where he began a thirty-year relationship with his mentor and friend Dan Graveline. He learned the facility business from the bottom up, working in several semi-skilled and skilled positions before moving into management. Along the way he has managed several key departments in both operations, sales and services.

Khalil was named General Manager of the Georgia Dome in August 1989. He served as project manager for the development phase of the Georgia Dome, which opened on schedule and under budget in 1992. The Dome project won several design and construction awards, including the National Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Task Force Award for creative project management. His tenure at the Georgia Dome included overseeing the Centennial Olympic Games competitions; two Super Bowls; SEC Football championships and Basketball tournaments; and three NCAA Final Four tournaments (two Men's and a Women's).

Johnson received his Bachelor's Degree from National-Louis University (NLU) in Evanston, Il., as well as attending Columbia University and the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University. He was recognized by NLU as a Distinguished Alumnus and was its 2002 commencement speaker. He has served on the board of directors of the International Association for Exposition Management as well as the board of directors of the International Association of Assembly Managers, which recognized him as a Certified Facility Executive, the first African-American to earn that distinction. Khalil has served as a board member of the Georgia State University Athletic Association, the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation and has participated in numerous local organizations, including the 100 Black Men of Atlanta and the Atlanta Police Foundation.

He lives in Douglasville with Donna, his wife of 30 years, and enjoys being part of an extended family including his children Khadeja Johnson, M.D and Khalil Johnson, Ph.D. candidate, his grandson Miles, nieces and nephews, as well as many good friends. When

not at work or with the family, Johnson enjoys cycling, reading, making music and participating in various community service projects.