

Tom Nardacci is a veteran entrepreneur known as a leading advocate for the creative economy in upstate New York. His Capital Region businesses have had many direct positive impacts on the regional economy and a variety of emerging startup industries.

In 2005, Tom created Gramercy Communications after returning home to Albany after working in New York City and Washington, DC. Over the past 15 years, Gramercy has become one of New York's leading public affairs firms. Tom's clients have represented over \$10 billion worth of economic activity across upstate. Last year *City & State* magazine named him #19 on the it's "PR Power Ranking 50" list, and the top practitioner north of New York City. Gramercy has played a role on leading projects around the Capital Region, from downtown revitalization projects, to casino gaming and destination retail, to portside industrial projects. But most importantly to Tom, Gramercy has earned a reputation as a firm that gives back to the community, and is evidenced in their many good deeds and works, notably with regional Boys & Girls Clubs, and in consistently supporting the region's arts community.

In 2016, Tom acquired a 14,000 square foot building in downtown Troy that sat vacant for nearly 30 years and turned it into Troy Innovation Garage. The Garage has become a hub for entrepreneurship, startups and creative companies, and for conversations about the future of our region's small cities. In 2017, Capital Region BOMA named Troy Innovation Garage as the year's "Most Innovative Project."

Tom has expanded his coworking and flexible space company, Aurelius Coworks, into other cities and markets, opening up Bull Moose Club in downtown Albany in 2018, and opening up Westway Club in Providence, Rhode Island in 2020. He has also assisted other developers in the Capital Region to open more flexible space options to help expand the small business sector, support startups, and attract new jobs and talent.

Over 250 people and 50 companies and organizations, including a mix from solopreneurs and freelancers to enterprise teams for Fortune 100 companies, work in Aurelius Coworks communities. Founders and companies working from Aurelius communities have attracted over \$70 million in venture funding and strategic investment. Most recently, some Aurelius-assisted companies have been acquired, such as the sale of podcast technology company Simplecast to SiriusXM earlier this year.

Prior to launching his private sector career, Tom worked on Capitol Hill as a Press Secretary for former Congressman Mike McNulty. He then worked for New York State Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari. Tom had previously directed public affairs for the Alliance for Downtown New York, lower Manhattan's business improvement district, in the years after 9/11. There he worked on a variety of projects and initiatives related to rebuilding downtown.

Tom is a recipient of several other awards and honors, including the “New Patroon Award” from the Albany Roundtable, the “Creative Spirit Award” from the Arts Center of the Capital Region, “40 under 40” from the Albany Business Review, and “PR Practitioner of the Year” from Public Relations Society of America Capital Region Chapter.

Tom was previously appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the Board of the Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center and the New York National Heritage Areas Advisory Council. He was previously appointed by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly as a member of the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council. He served at different times on both the Albany County and Rensselaer County Legislative Redistricting Commissions. He has served on many other non-for-profit boards and committees throughout his career.

Tom is a graduate of Syracuse University and Columbia University.

He and his wife Anne, is a litigator that specializes in antitrust and complex commercial matters at the law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner. They reside in Colonie and have two children that attend North Colonie Schools.