

ERNEST ANDRADE

Ernest Andrade is the founder and Executive Director of the Charleston Digital Corridor, a successful public-private business development partnership launched in February 2001 to attract, nurture and promote knowledge-based companies in Charleston, South Carolina. Ernest is also principal of Andrade Economics, a consulting company focused on sharing the knowledge that has been learned from developing Charleston's high-wage economy.

Ernest brings a value and results-oriented mindset to his various public roles at the City of Charleston. His accomplishments include positioning Charleston as a premier destination for knowledge-based companies by growing the Digital Corridor from 18 to over 100 companies, launching a year round CODEcamp initiative, developing two business incubators and launching a private investment fund for growth-stage tech companies.

Andrade is also responsible for growing the city of Charleston from 38 to over 100 square miles, increasing Charleston's tax base by over \$2.5 billion and 30,000 residents and executing a strategic plan to recruit competitive economic development projects with a capital investment of over \$500 million.

Ernest was born in Kuwait and lived in India prior to emigrating to the United States in 1981. He became a naturalized citizen in 1996. He holds a BS in Business Administration from the College of Charleston and a Master of Public Administration from the University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston.