

**John Mitchell** is a communications professional, a SC native and alumnus of Morehouse College where he lettered in two sports while studying Spanish and Political Science. He has studied abroad and served on different black/brown coalitions and civic engagement boards for over 15 years.

John's passion has led him to work with under-represented communities for nearly twenty years. Recently, he's worked with the head of SC DMV to update the Drivers' Manual to give new drivers best practices when being pulled over. His edits also establish how to identify and report law enforcement officers for abusing their authority during those stops. He facilitated the City of Charleston's apology for slavery, provided input to develop its first ever Racial Conciliation Manager, and worked together with that manager to create and staff the Commission on Equity, Inclusion and Racial Conciliation – recently renamed Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission (HARCC).

John has used these skills in both project work and broader changes to public engagement across the company. Through his work on the Lowcountry Rapid Transit project corridor, he has increased project awareness and provided progress reports to decision makers across the community. While working on an economic recovery and resiliency project John developed engagement strategies for better community participation; the plan recognizes Equity as a central theme and is being intentional about outreach. In the City of Winston-Salem, John is working as an Equity Subject Matter Expert on a Transit Oriented Development study where he provides oversight to the Public Involvement Plan. With the support of his leaders, John was asked to lead a task force on how HDR's Strategic Communications can become the standard bearers of "Equity as a Service" and champions for more equitable inter-company best practices.

He currently serves as the Equity & Engagement Strategist for HDR's South Atlantic Area.