

## Maureen Short, NACD.DC

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Throughout my career I have gained expertise guiding organizations through significant transformations and aligning management teams on strategic planning and increasing shareholder value. I have over 25 years of operational leadership across a diverse range of industries and technology-enabled businesses. I am a strategic, results oriented leader with the ability to drive insightful and constructive discussions, and to challenge and nurture teams through major change and strategy execution.

Currently, I am an independent Board Director at Big Lots (NYSE: BIG), a \$4.7 billion retail/consumer company, where I provide strategic guidance and oversight. I am a member of the Audit and Capital Allocation committees leveraging my background as a certified financial expert qualified to chair audit committees and as a certified Director with the NACD. As a trusted advisor to the CEO and Board of Directors, I've presented at public company Board and audit committee meetings for over 8 years, advised on capital allocation strategies, and navigated complex challenges with innovative thinking and resilience.

Previously, I served as CFO of Upbound Group (NASDAQ: UPBD), formerly Rent-A-Center (NASDAQ: RCII) and Acima, a \$4 billion omni-channel platform company that provides technology-driven financial solutions. As CFO, I led the organization through a transformation, broadening its customer base and diversifying revenue streams resulting in doubling the business. I navigated the organization through a period of significant change including activist investors joining the board causing significant C-suite and Board turnover, the potential sale of the company, and the successful turnaround of the business. By enhancing the value proposition and implementing \$140M+ in efficiencies, comp sales grew from negative double-digits to positive and the stock price doubled in 2 ½ years. As a strategic CFO, I managed 150 employees and built high performing teams who partnered with the business to drive operational execution in fast-paced, high growth environments. I helped champion Upbound's inaugural ESG Report and mentored 40+ women as an Executive Sponsor of the Diversity Council.

Utilizing my extensive experience with investors, I helped develop the investor messaging to transition from a traditional retail company to a dynamic fintech holding company following a \$1.65 billion strategic acquisition and corporate rebranding to support a higher multiple valuation. My leadership in due diligence processes for multiple billion-dollar M&A deals, alongside successfully securing \$1.8B in capital amidst a challenging macro-economic environment, underscores my ability to navigate complex financial landscapes and drive strategic growth initiatives.

I am well-versed in governance practices, having held advisory roles on various committees including the Disclosure Committee, Risk/Compliance Committee, and the Cybersecurity Committee. I've also overseen the enterprise risk assessment, ensured SEC and regulatory compliance, and maintained strong relationships with external auditors, investors, and bankers.

Prior to Upbound Group, I held Strategic Planning and Finance positions at Blockbuster (NYSE: BBI) and Accounting/consulting roles at Sprint (NYSE: S).



### Board Assets

- Public company Board Director
- CFO / Financial expert
- NACD Certified Director®
- Compliance/Risk
- Turnarounds
- Crisis strategist
- IR & activist experience
- M&A
- Growth strategist
- Digital transformation
- ESG and Cybersecurity
- Non-profit boards

### Board Experience

- Big Lots, Audit & Capital Allocation Committees
- SPCA of Texas, Nom/Gov Committee
- Upbound Group, 8 years of board experience
- National Charity League, Audit & Nominating Committees

### Recognition

- *"50 Women to Watch for Boards"* by 50/50 Women on Boards identifying women who have the experience to serve on public boards

### Education

- University of Florida Warrington School of Business, MBA in Finance and Marketing
- University of Kansas, BS in Business Admin
- London School of Economics, Int'l Business and Economics program