

MAUREEN SHORT

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Maureen is an experienced public company Board Director, Audit Committee Chair, CFO and Advisor with 30 years of leadership in retail, consumer, franchising, fintech, entertainment and telecom businesses. She has expertise providing strategic oversight and guidance to organizations executing transformations and navigating disruption. Maureen's board philosophy centers on transparent strategic oversight, disciplined capital allocation, thoughtful governance and risk management, and a commitment to sustainable, long-term value creation. Her experience includes driving organic growth, M&A, investor relations and activism, organizational efficiency, turnarounds, distressed companies, crisis management, public capital markets, analytics, and strategic planning.

Maureen served as an independent Board Director and Audit Committee Chair at Big Lots (NYSE: BIG), a retail company with \$4.7B in revenue, where she provided strategic guidance and oversight. Upon joining the Board, she was immediately asked to assume the role of Audit Committee Chair. Maureen helped guide the company through a strategy repositioning, strategic review process, Chapter 11 filing, and the sale of the business. Throughout this period of significant disruption, she engaged with external advisors, monitored risk exposure, and ensured transparency in decision-making.

As the former CFO of Upbound Group (NASDAQ: UPBD), the parent company of Rent-A-Center and fintech company Acima, Maureen led the organization through a digital transformation and turnaround. 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. Prior to the turnaround, she also helped navigate the organization through a proxy contest, activist investors joining the Board that led to significant C-suite and Board turnover, the potential sale of the company after a strategic review process, and the successful turnaround of the business. Maureen led the due diligence processes for multiple billion-dollar M&A deals. She managed 150 employees and built high-performing, collaborative teams who partnered with business units to drive execution and operational efficiency in a fast-paced environment.

Currently, Maureen serves as a CFO Advisor at Gartner (NYSE: IT), where she advises CFOs of public companies and large enterprises on financial strategy, governance, transformation, and value creation. Maureen is certified with the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD). Earlier in her career, she worked in Strategic Planning and Finance at Blockbuster during the competitive battle with Netflix, and at Sprint Telecom and Southwestern Bell in Internal Audit.



Qualifications

- Public company Board Director, Audit Committee Chair, CFO and Advisor
- Qualified Financial Expert

Board Experience

- Big Lots (BIG), Audit Chair
- SPCA of Texas, Vice Chair, Nom/Gov Chair, Audit
- Upbound Group (UPBD), 8 years in board meetings

Industry Experience

- Retail and Consumer
- Financial Services/FinTech
- Entertainment
- Telecom

Key Skills

- Financial Expert
- Digital transformation
- Strategic planning
- Growth strategist
- Distressed companies
- Investor relations/Activism
- M&A

Executive Experience

- Gartner, CFO Advisor
- Upbound Group, CFO
- Blockbuster, Strategic Planning, FP&A
- Sprint Telecom, Audit

Education

- MBA in Finance and Marketing, University of Florida Warrington School of Business
- B.S. Business Admin, University of Kansas