

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

CAREER LADDER

By Alison Stanton

SPECIAL TO THE REPUBLIC

Who: Chadwic Gifford, 32, is president and founder of Catalyst Communities, a Phoenix-based real-estate development firm that is committed to socially responsible urban residential properties. Gifford founded the company in 2006 and currently has about 18 employees. He is currently devel-



Chadwic Gifford, Catalyst Communities

oping residential townhouses, called Aura at Camelback, near 24th Street and Camelback Road in Phoenix. As Catalyst Communities' first development,

Gifford hopes that it will create a new type of urban living that's balanced between luxury and responsible living with nature. For example, he plans to have the community LEED certified Silver with water-conserving elements, solar energy-capturing systems and other environmentally oriented amenities. After Aura at Camelback is completed, Gifford said he plans on moving into the community, where he will then focus on developing other unique properties in urban centers throughout the Valley and possibly in other cities.

Education: Gifford earned a bachelor of fine arts from the University of Arizona.

Starting point: Gifford got his first job when he was 10, working for a family friend during summer vacation. He ran a Ford A-64 front-end loader in a quarry, loading tractor-trailers and dump trucks. Gifford said the job was fulfilling in that it "paved a foundation of work ethic and drive to be successful." In addition, he said it also taught him that he probably did not want to be in that line of work for the rest of his life. Before opening Catalyst Communities, Gifford worked in real-estate planning and development, design, LEED certification, project coordination, and construction management.

He says: "Be focused, steadfast and driven to succeed. Laziness is not in my vocabulary."

Climbing techniques: "Climb any ladder in life with integrity. Be sure to help people along the way so that when you approach the top, others will be happy for you as you have been helpful to them during your journey."

Aspiring advice: "Have passion! Passion is a critical element in any facet of life to be able to continue striving for the next step and to live your best life today. Be persistent while trying to pioneer a new idea."

Details: 602-651-1411 or www.auraatcamelback.com