

Larry D. Thornton, Sr. | Bio

Artist | Entrepreneur | Author of *Why Not Win?* | Co-Founder, Why Not Win Institute

Larry D. Thornton, Sr. is an artist, entrepreneur, author, and servant leader whose journey from Montgomery, Alabama, to America's boardrooms inspired the creation of the Why Not Win Institute. After beginning his career as an art teacher, Larry transitioned into the corporate world, ultimately making history as the first Black McDonald's franchise owner in Alabama and serving as president of Thornton Enterprises, Inc.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc. and First Commercial Bank (Synovus), bringing his expertise in business strategy, leadership, and community development.

Larry's acclaimed book, *Why Not Win?*, chronicles his 50-year journey from the segregated South to corporate leadership and provides the foundation for the Institute's leadership development curriculum. Named CEO of the Year (2019) by the *Birmingham Business Journal*, Larry continues to shape business and community life through civic leadership, mentorship, and advocacy for diversity and inclusion.

A passionate artist and philanthropist, Larry creates limited-edition artwork and invests in initiatives that inspire others to achieve excellence, lead with purpose, and "win" in life and business.