

RYAN AIDS

Executive Director

The Greenway Foundation

Ryan joined The Greenway Foundation after working with Verizon Wireless for nine years. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 2006 with a degree in communications. Before his current role at the helm, Ryan led development for Greenway and was responsible for expanding our capabilities and increasing support for the mission. He has a natural way of generating enthusiasm for the work we can accomplish on behalf of the river and our community. Originally from the small town of Rincon, Georgia, Ryan has lived in Colorado since 2006. Along with his wife, Faith, they love exploring Colorado with their two dogs Chip and Maya. Ryan is a huge Georgia Bulldog football fan and always looks forward to the college football season.

From the moment Ryan arrived in Denver he knew he loved this city and he is quick to share his excitement for how The Greenway Foundation allows him to give back. His mom was an elementary school teacher for over 40 years, so Ryan has a longstanding respect and admiration for education. Ryan often talks about Greenway's role in impacting the future of our city—our youth, providing opportunities for everyone to engage with our river with no barriers. Ryan loves being able to interact with others who love our city and want to make it better.

Ryan's heart is with The Greenway Foundation's Mission to Revitalize Rivers and Reconnect Communities. Of his love for the river, Ryan says:

Growing up near the coast in south Georgia I was surrounded by water. Whether it was going to the beach with family and friends, visiting the lake every summer, or fishing and skiing in the Savannah River, I spent a lot of time in and around water. Soon after moving to Denver I realized just how much I missed it and could be quoted saying things like, "Man, if this place had a beach it would have everything!" Turns out it does. Working at The Greenway Foundation lets me see the best in people, in nature, and in our city and they're all beautiful.

J. J. AMENT

As president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the leading voice for Colorado's business community, J. J. Ament is focused on effectively advocating for small and large businesses in our region. Before being appointed to his current position, he served from 2017 to 2021 as the chief executive officer of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, a part of the Chamber family of organizations and the largest privately funded and governed economic development organization in Colorado. With experience in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, J. J. brings a unique combination of expertise to the role. An investment banker for most of his career, he participated in more than \$15 billion of transactions for governments and public-private partnerships throughout the U.S. before leaving the industry in 2016. J. J. has been a member and chairman of the Colorado Economic Development Commission, where he considered state economic development incentives, grants and tax credits for business and tourism projects statewide.

President and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

ADAM BURG

Adam Burg serves as the vice president of government affairs for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and Metro Denver EDC. In his role, Adam oversees the government affairs activities and strategies for the Chamber and Metro Denver EDC and manages the government affairs department.

Prior to joining the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and Metro Denver EDC, Adam Burg served as the legislative and government affairs senior advisor for one of the largest counties in Colorado (Adams County) where he managed the county's government affairs and legislative programs, working directly with the county manager, county commissioners, and other elected officials to advance the credibility of the county in federal, state, and local arenas

Adam has worked on numerous campaigns across the state of Colorado and served as a legislative aide at the Colorado General Assembly working for State Senate Majority Leader Dominick Moreno when Senator Moreno served in leadership in the Colorado House of Representatives. Adam also co-founded a political consulting firm where he and his business partner managed a successful client portfolio that focused on political consulting, government relations and business strategy.

Adam's previous positions have allowed him to work on a diverse number of policy issues such as natural resources, housing, education, technology, growth and sustainability, energy, aerospace and aviation, infrastructure, transportation, and local government and state relations among other areas of policy.

Adam was born and raised in Colorado and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Denver.

JEROME DAVIS

Jerome Davis was named Executive Vice President of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and President of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation in March 2022. He is a former regional vice president of Xcel Energy – Colorado.

Jerome is well-known in the Metro Denver community for his civic leadership, wisdom and vision. Before retiring from Xcel Energy in 2020, he created the company's Day of Service. Since the first Day of Service in 2011, more than 26,000 volunteers have contributed over 77,000 hours of volunteer work.

Jerome, who was born and raised in Denver, has long been active in the community, serving on the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation Executive Committee, as well as on the boards of Visit Denver, Colorado Health Foundation, Canvas Credit Union, Aurora Economic Development Council and the Denver Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy.

Jerome is also very familiar with B:CIVIC and the Leadership Foundation and its programs, having served on the Leadership Foundation Board for six years from 2004 to 2010. He was also named the 2020 9NEWS Leader of the Year.

Davis is a Colorado native, and resides in Aurora with his wife Jackie, and two children, Jasmine and Jordan.

MARIELENA (MARIE) DESANCTIS, PH.D.

Dr. Marielena DeSanctis commenced her tenure as the President of the Community College of Denver on January 15, 2021.

Dr. DeSanctis most recently served as Provost & Senior VP of Academic Affairs and Student Services at Broward College. In the K-12 sector, Dr. DeSanctis has served as a teacher, High School Principal, and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction for Broward County Public Schools. She also brings with her almost six years of experience as an engineer in private industry.

She has served as a committee member and leader of several professional organizations including her election to the position of State President of the Florida Association of School Administrators; Senate confirmation as a member of the Florida Education Practices Commission; and a Board member of the National Community College Hispanic Council. Dr. DeSanctis currently serves as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Board on Higher Education and the Workforce; a member of Jobs for the Future Policy Trust Council; on the Workforce Development Committee of Downtown Denver Partnership; and as a Board Member of the Colorado Education Initiative. She is a graduate of the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence, and Leadership Florida. She received the 2016 Hispanic Woman of Distinction among other honors.

Marie earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology; a master's degree in Math Education from Nova Southeastern University; and an Ed.S. and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Florida Atlantic University.

Marie is a Cuban American native of south Florida, fluent in Spanish, and a mother of two children - Conner (27), an engineer; and Allie (24), a third-year law student. She is married to Lance DeSanctis and lives in Castle Rock, Colorado.

JAMI DUFFY

Executive Director | Co-manager of UMS LLC She/Her/Hers

Jami Duffy is a locally and nationally recognized thought leader and innovator in the areas of equitable company culture, the global impact of artmaking, public policy advocacy, music ecosystems, and inclusive leadership. Jami has participated on panels before the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Labor, among others, and is on a journey to advance equity in the arts, music, education and in the workplace.

Jami joined Youth on Record as Executive Director in 2009 and has since provided the strategic vision and fundraising expertise that has led to consistent growth and national brand recognition for the organization. She spearheaded a \$2M capital campaign to build YOR's state-of-the-art Youth Media Studio in west Denver, and has grown the organization by 1,400% in her tenure. She is also the co-founder of a local advocacy organization, All in Denver, and a member of Denver's Cultural Affairs Commission.

Jami is a locally and nationally recognized thought leader and innovator in social justice education and engaging at-risk youth.

In 2021 she was named one of Denver Business Journal's 40 Under 40 winners, and under her leadership, Youth on Record has twice been named one of the best places to work in Colorado. In addition, Jami is a visual artist at Blue Silo Studios, where she creates abstract paintings, sculpture, photography, and collage. She is a Political Science and Journalism Studies graduate of the University of Denver, and a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, having served in Nicaragua from 2004-2006.

RHYS DUGGAN

President, CEO, & Managing Partner

Rhys has been involved in commercial real estate since 1996, both as a principal and leading organizations at the senior executive/CEO level. He started his career in commercial real estate in his hometown of Vancouver as a project manager with the Larco Group of Companies, before moving to the U.S. in the late 1990's. Based in Denver, Colorado, Rhys was a principal of Southwestern Investment Group, a mid-sized boutique development firm specializing in the development of large scale master planned communities. Primary anchor tenant development relationships included Kroger, Safeway, Albertsons, and Walmart. For the 5 years immediately prior to joining Revesco in 2011 as a principal and its President & CEO, Rhys was the CEO of The New Providence Development Company (NPDCO) in Nassau, Bahamas. There he oversaw the operations of the largest private landowner on the capital island of Nassau, and implemented a master planning and development strategy that included the construction of the island's first grocery anchored mixed use town center. Rhys graduated from Simon Fraser University in 1990. He currently divides his time between Vancouver and Denver, CO.

JOHN EKEBERG

Executive Director, Broadway

John Ekeberg is the Executive Director for the Broadway and Cabaret divisions of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts where he oversees all programmatic decisions and business operations.

John's passion for theatre, music and fine art sparked shortly after graduating from Luther College when he began his career at the DCPA box office in 1992. Four years later, he joined the Broadway division where he first served as Business Manager, then General Manager and most recently Director of Programming.

Since joining the Broadway team, John has played a major role in securing national blockbusters including the tour launches of 13 shows such as Dear Evan Hansen, If/Then starring Idina Menzel and The Book of Mormon along with the pre-Broadway engagements of Disney's Frozen and The Little Mermaid. John also has managed such long-running Cabaret hits as An Act of God, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, Girls Only: The Secret Comedy of Women and Forbidden Broadway.

John's love for executing the business aspects of artistic storytelling has led to a deeper involvement in the theatre industry. He serves on the Board of Governors for The Broadway League, which presented him with the 2018 Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award. He also is an active Tony Award voter and is a member of the Independent Presenters Network, a consortium of 40 of the leading touring Broadway presenters who collectively produce shows on Broadway including Kinky Boots, Waitress, and On Your Feet!

Locally he also serves on the board of the Denver School of the Arts' Friends Foundation and is past Board Chair for Paragon Theatre Company.

GREG FISHER

Greg Fisher is the Manager of Water Resource Efficiency Denver Water. He is responsible for long-term water use and water resource planning, conservation programs, and prioritizing the utility's long-term capital plan. In his 20 years at Denver Water, he has also served as budget manager and rate analyst in the Finance Division.

Fisher is on the Colorado Water Congress board and past Chair of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority, the entity that manages the state revolving fund for water and wastewater projects. He has a degree in economics from Middlebury College.

ANDREA K. FULTON

Deputy Director, Chief Strategy Officer Denver Art Museum Leadership Foundation Board Chair
Andrea Kalivas Fulton is deputy director and chief strategy officer for the Denver Art Museum (DAM). She oversees the Museum's earned revenue strategies, including marketing, membership and communications, as well as government affairs and strategic partnerships and initiatives. She recently led a major renovation and expansion effort for the Museum's 1971 Gio Ponti- designed North Building, set to open in fall 2021.

Early in her career at the DAM, Fulton led the communications effort for the museum's Daniel Libeskind-designed expansion project including local, national and international media relations, marketing and community programs through its opening in 2006. Following the opening of the Hamilton Building, Fulton led marketing and communications for the new campus, building the museum's brand identity and visitor participation to new highs. Fulton became deputy director and chief marketing officer in 2012 and, after overseeing a museum- wide visioning process and campus master planning process, took on responsibility for the extensive renovation of the 210,000 square-foot North Building and the design and construction of a new 50,000 square-foot welcome center. Slated to begin opening to the public in 2020 but delayed due to the pandemic, the \$150 million project aims to redefine how the museum interfaces with the neighborhood and community and provide a new platform for connecting, engaging and inspiring visitors through creativity. Her current role further focuses on institutional strategy, including the Museum's response to the COVID-19 crisis and its work to prioritize equity, diversity and inclusion internally and externally. Fulton currently serves on the board of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation and the advisory board for Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. In 2019, she was recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Business by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and as an Outstanding Woman in Business by the Denver Business Journal.

KAYLA GARCIA

Kayla Garcia is the director of community affairs at Molson Coors Beverage. Kayla leads the community partnership and investment strategy for Colorado and social impact programs for the North America. She is responsible for managing Molson Coors Beverage Company's national community programs for Hispanic, Asian, sustainability and employee engagement programs. Through her work in the community, Kayla works to carry forward the strong legacy and heritage of Coors Brewing Company.

Prior to her role at Molson Coors Beverage Company, Kayla served as the VP of Resource Development for Mile High United Way where she led fundraising for the organization. Kayla raised more than \$28 million dollars annually for the Denver Metro Area and developed a social impact program providing philanthropic, employee engagement and volunteer services to advance social responsibility in metro Denver. Kayla has more than ten years of experience in the nonprofit sector and is committed to serving the Colorado community.

Outside of her professional career, Kayla serves on various boards such as Denver Leadership Foundation, Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, Food Bank of the Rockies, and Downtown Denver Partnerships. In 2021 Kayla was named to Denver Business Journal's 40 Under 40. She has been recognized by Colorado Business Magazine as Colorado's Top 25 Influential Young Professionals.

Kayla is a graduate of Colorado State University and has a certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility from the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business. Kayla is a proud Colorado native and resides in Denver, Colorado with her husband, Joseph and son, Teddy.

ELIZABETH GARNER

State Demographer
Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Elizabeth is the Colorado State Demographer and has directed the State Demography Office in the Department of Local Affairs since 2004. Elizabeth travels the state talking with Coloradans about social and economic conditions that are brought about by population shifts. The State Demography Office applies an understanding of demographic trends to changes in a range of areas including the state's economy, workforce, education, housing, migration, and rural populations.

Elizabeth has over 25 years of experience analyzing population and economic trends in Colorado. Her current research agenda involves examining Census 2020 results, demographic impacts from COVID-19, housing supply and demand, and aging. Elizabeth is an economist and received her B.A. in Business at the University of San Diego and her masters in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. Elizabeth was born and raised in Colorado, something only 43% of the state's population can claim.

ALEC GARNETT

Alec Garnett is the outgoing speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. He was elected to represent House District 2 in 2014, which covers a portion of Denver. Speaker Garnett is term limited from seeking re-election this fall. During his tenure in the House of Representatives, he served on various committees and focused his legislative agenda on a range of issues from higher education to taxes. A major piece of legislation that he spearheaded in his final session was House Bill 22-1326 Fentanyl Accountability and Prevention program, a bill intended to respond comprehensively to Colorado's fentanyl crisis.

RAYMOND H. GONZALES

President, Metro Denver EDC Vice President, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Raymond H. Gonzales has over 25 years of leadership experience encompassing nearly every level of government administration. After starting his career with the U.S. Peace Corps, his roles spanned from serving as New Mexico's Deputy Cabinet Secretary under the leadership of Governor Bill Richardson to County Manager for Adams County, Colorado the 5th largest county, serving 515,000 residents, and one of the fastest growing counties in the country. Although he found great success fortifying these agencies, his heart has always been in economic development. Following this passion, Raymond oversees the Metro Denver EDC in its work to unite nearly 70 cities, counties and economic development agencies across the ninecounty Metro Denver region to promote economic prosperity and serve as the region's "business brand manager." Raymond continuously strives for organizational improvement and his passion for workplace culture where he empowers employees and their personal impact, influence, and inspiration regardless of title or designation. Raymond continuously strives for the premier delivery of art and cultural opportunities to accentuate the culture of an ever-increasing innovative and inclusive region. In addition to his challenging role leading Metro Denver EDC, Raymond serves as Executive Vice President of the Denver Metro Chamber, Vice President of the Mountain Plains region of the International City/County Managers Association Executive Board, President of the Local Government Hispanic Network Board of Directors, and as the Vice-Chair of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District

ANTHONY E. GRAVES

Managing Director of Partnerships and Innovation

Anthony E. Graves is the University of Colorado Denver's ("CU Denver") inaugural Managing Director of Partnerships and Innovation and a member of the university's Cabinet. Anthony plays a leading role in the development of CU Denver's partnership strategy, directs real estate development on campus, and is framing the university's vision to seed an open innovation district in downtown Denver. CU Denver's open innovation district will spark new companies, create public-private partnerships, advance tech-savvy workforce development strategies and drive social impact.

As a strategist and connector, Anthony identifies and amplifies mutually beneficial partnership opportunities and builds coalitions to advance economic growth - while enhancing CU Denver's relevance and reputation across the U.S. Anthony brings 20+ years of experience in the private, public, non-profit, and higher education sectors and deep expertise in public affairs and economic development strategy. Anthony has been recognized in numerous sectors for his ability to drive cross-sector collaboration with corporations, governments, and special interest groups to resolve complicated issues and strategize about emerging trends in the marketplace. He is regularly sought after to provide counsel on public engagement strategies for global events like Denver's bids for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the World Cup.

Prior to joining CU Denver, Anthony served as a consultant and senior leader in Denver's city government for seven years, as both the Director of External Affairs for Economic Development and as the Mayor's Director of Regional Affairs - where he worked with Mayors across Colorado to advance regional policy initiatives. During his time as Denver's regional affairs chief, Anthony managed high-value economic relationships and developed agreements with neighboring jurisdictions on a wide range of topics from sustainability and transportation infrastructure, to gender equity. He was also part of the team that negotiated an expansion of Denver International Airport, and he built a statewide coalition to advance funding for the National Western Center development (SPUR Campus). A champion of economic equity issues, he supported the Mayor's Race and Social Justice Initiative team that led city-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion planning for over 13,000 employees across all city agencies.

Earlier in his career, Anthony played a central role in strengthening Denver's tourism industry as the Director of Government and Community Affairs at VISIT DENVER, the Convention and Visitors Bureau; and held roles in international market strategy, operations, and corporate development at companies like Sun Microsystems and Covad Communications.

A life-long learner, Anthony earned a BA in History from DePauw University in Greencastle, IN, an MBA in International Business from the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver and is a graduate of the Oklahoma University Economic Development Institute (OU EDI) - where he completed a professional certificate program covering workforce and real estate development strategies, entrepreneurial ecosystems, business retention, expansion and attraction strategies. Anthony is also an active member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), an international professional development organization focused on real estate planning, design, development, and activation. He serves on the ULI's University Development and Innovation Council (UDIC), which is composed of professionals focused on best practices in the development of innovation districts across the U.S..

Committed to civic engagement, Anthony has more than two decades of non-profit board experience with increasing responsibility. He served as the 2020-2021 Chairman of the Board for the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation and sat on the board of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce as an affiliate member of the Executive Committee. He has served on numerous special committees during his board career, including executive search, board development, finance and audit, DEI, governance, compensation, and executive committee.

KATE GREELEY

Program Director, Denver Chamber Leadership Foundation

Kate brings over 20 years of experience in the education and leadership development spheres. Spending the last few years in various roles in K-12 education, she is looking forward to transitioning into this new adventure here at the Leadership Foundation. As Program Director, Kate is excited to lead our region's premier leadership program, Leadership Denver – in which she is a proud 2015 graduate! Kate has lived in Denver for almost 30 years and loves spending time outdoors with her husband and two sons.

SENATOR CHRIS HANSEN

Senator Chris Hansen represents District 31, covering central and east Denver in the Colorado State Senate. He specializes in energy sector economics and data analytics, with 20+ years of experience in the global energy policy and planning. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Joint Budget Committee, as well as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Prior to his work as an elected official, he was Senior Director at IHS Markit where he led a global portfolio of products, events and partnerships. He is a co-creator of the OptGen analysis tool, IHS CERA's unique approach for applying financial portfolio techniques to power generation. Before joining IHS Markit, Dr. Hansen was a Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, where he analyzed electricity and gas sector reform in India and published several papers in professional journals on energy sector economics and policy analysis.

Dr. Hansen holds a BSc in Nuclear Engineering from Kansas State University; a Graduate Diploma of Civil Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; a Master of Science in Engineering Systems from MIT; and a PhD in Economic Geography from Oxford University. In 2012, he was selected as a Marshall Memorial Fellow by the German Marshall Fund and in 2017 was selected as a Public Leadership Fellow at Harvard University by the Gates Family Foundation. In 2019, he was selected as one of fifteen leaders from across the country to join the NewDEAL (Developing Exceptional American Leaders). In addition to his current role in the state Senate, Hansen is also the Co-Founder and Director of the Colorado Energy and Water Institute, a non-profit dedicated to energy and water policy in the West with a focus on interconnecting the western electricity grid, and founded the Colorado Science and Engineering Policy Fellowship.

Chris Hansen, PhD
State Senator
(720) 243-2546

REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE HEROD

Representative Leslie Herod (HD-8) was elected in 2016 as the first LGBTQ African American in the General Assembly, while receiving the highest number of votes of any candidate running in a contested election. She serves as the Chair of the House Finance Committee, Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, and Chair of the Committee on Legal Services. Rep. Herod also chairs the Colorado Black Democratic Legislative Caucus and the Arts Caucus.

Since her election in 2016, Herod has sent 68 bills to the Governor's desk, marshaling through numerous pieces of legislation addressing criminal justice reform, mental health & substance abuse, renewable energy, youth homelessness, and civil rights protections. Her legislative agenda underscores her commitment to improving the lives of all Coloradans, especially those caught in the cycle of poverty or mired in the criminal justice system.

Some of her signature work includes:

- Restoring voting rights to over 11,000 Coloradans on parole. [HB 19-1266]
- Ending qualified immunity in Colorado to enhance law enforcement integrity. [HB 20-217]
- Requiring insurance companies to cover the diagnosis of infertility, treatment for infertility, and fertility preservation services. [HB20-1158]
- Passing the CROWN Act, banning race-based discrimination on the basis of hairstyle and hair texture [HB 20-1048]
- Banning the 'box' on employment and college applications so that felons can find a stable job and seek higher education without discrimination. [HB 19-1025 & SB 19-170]
- Giving every Colorado newborn a \$100 college kickstarter account. Even a small amount of savings can vastly increase a child's likelihood of attending and graduating from college. [HB 19-1280]
- Requiring that county jails provide free and immediate tampons and other menstrual hygiene products. [HB 19-1224]
- Eliminating cash bail for low-level offenses, which will prevent 13,000 per year from staying in jail simply because they couldn't afford to get out. [HB 19-1225]
- Restricting fees for new solar panel installations to reduce barriers to clean energy. [17-179]
- Changing drug possession for personal use from a felony to a misdemeanor. [HB 19-1263]
- Obtaining greater funding to address the needs of crime victims, especially men and people of color. [HB 18-1409]
- Reauthorizing the Colorado Civil Rights Division and Commission despite enormous pressure to weaken it [Denver Post]
- Indefinitely extending the 'Child Mental Health Treatment Act.' [HB 18-1094]
- Protecting Coloradans' personal property by reigning in asset forfeiture [9 News]
- Supporting Colorado winemakers [HB 17-1145]
- Improving educational opportunities for children and adults in Colorado prisons [18-1437]
- Creating a tax return check off for Urban Peak - Colorado's leading homeless youth service agency - which raised over \$100,000 in 2018. [HB 17-1055]

In addition to winning reelection in 2018, Herod championed a ballot initiative - Caring 4 Denver - that will raise at least \$35 million annually for mental health and substance abuse treatment and services for children and adults in Denver. The initiative passed overwhelmingly with nearly 70% support from Denver voters and has created the largest mental health foundation in the state.

Herod cares a great deal about the future of Colorado's young people. While a student at CU Boulder, she co-founded New Era Colorado - the state's leading organization focused on the engagement of young people - with Congressman Joe Neguse, Senate Majority Leader Steve Fenberg, and Lisa Kaufmann, now Chief of Staff for Governor Polis. She has served as a mentor for high school students, delivered commencement remarks, and is a frequent guest at high school and college campuses.

Herod is dedicated to serving the community, having served on multiple organizations, boards and commissions, including serving as Governor Ritter's appointee to the Judicial Performance Commission, a mayoral appointee to Denver's Cultural Affairs Commission, the Board of Directors for Urban Peak - Colorado's leading homeless youth service agency, and President of Colorado Black Women for Political Action. Herod also served as President Obama's Deputy Political Director in Colorado during his 2012 Reelection Campaign.

Herod's notable achievements have been recognized by numerous organizations. In 2019, she was featured in 5280 Magazine. In 2018, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado awarded Herod with the "Force for Good" award, Urban Peak presented her with its "Maverick Thinker" award, and she was chosen to give a TED talk on the importance of providing free tampons to female inmates. In 2017, the Colorado Democratic Party honored Representative Herod with the 2017 "Rising Star" award, Out Front Colorado honored her with a 2017 "Power Award," she was named a "Champion of Choice" by Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, and she was featured in Marie Claire Magazine's "Power Issue."

House District 8 is located in Northeast Denver and includes the neighborhoods of Five Points, the San Raphael Historic District, Curtis Park, Cheesman Park, Uptown, City Park West, Whittier, Cole, Clayton, North City Park, City Park, Congress Park, South Park Hill, North Park Hill, Northeast Park Hill, Stapleton, and East Colfax.

ALICE K JACKSON

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, SYSTEM STRATEGY AND CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER XCEL ENERGY

Ms. Jackson leads the System Strategy and Planning organization for Xcel Energy. This is a new organization that focuses on integrated system planning, including strategically planning generation, transmission and distribution of Xcel's electric and natural gas systems. Since joining Xcel Energy in 2011, Alice has held various positions of increasing responsibility. Directly prior to her role as Senior Vice President, Ms. Jackson led the Operating Company team for Public Service Company of Colorado as President. In this role she was responsible for the community, legislative, regulatory activities and held responsibility for delivering on corporate financial outcomes and objectives for Xcel Energy - Colorado. Prior to her executive leadership roles within Xcel Energy, Alice held various regulatory positions with Southwestern Public Service Company in Texas and with Public Service Company of Colorado.

Before her time with Xcel Energy, Alice spent nearly 10 years with Occidental Petroleum Corporation (Oxy) managing the nationwide energy needs of this large industrial consumer. In Alice's early roles with Oxy, she utilized her information technology background and technical acumen to provide software development and systems support to various trading activities as well as electric market deregulation. Through her involvement in the federal and state electric markets, multiple rate cases, and interaction with customers, large and small, Alice developed a unique perspective for utilities and their contributions to society.

As if having a full-time career, being married to her high school sweetheart and having four sons is not enough of an adventure in life, in 2017 Alice completed the Program for Leadership Development at Harvard University. Alice earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems from Texas A&M University.

Recognition

2019 Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce - Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Colorado 2019
Denver Business Journal's Inaugural Trailblazer Award Recipient

2018 Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) Power Player of the Year

2017 American Red Cross CO/ WY Chapter - Volunteer Leadership Award Recipient

2016 Denver Business Journal - PowerBook Recipient 2015 Smart Grid Pioneer - Recognized by
Smart Grid Today

Ongoing Community Activities

2020 - Present Denver Museum of Nature and Science Board of Trustees

2020 - Present Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) Board of Directors & Secretary

2020 - Present Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

2021 - Present Colorado Concern - Board Member

2018 - 2020 Colorado Concern - Member

2018 - Present - Colorado Forum - Member

2017 - Present - Colorado Succeeds - Trustee

2015 - 2022 - American Red Cross CO/WY Chapter Board of Directors & Chairman FY 2020 2014 -

2018 Mile High United Way Women's Business Alliance Member

2021 - Present - Mile High United Way Board of Directors member

MIKE JOHNSTON

Mike Johnston is the President and CEO of Gary Community Ventures, a Denver based philanthropic organization that combines the resources of a foundation (Gary Philanthropy) and a Certified B Corporation (Gary Ventures) to increase opportunity for Colorado kids and families.

Mike began his career as a teacher in rural Mississippi, which inspired him to write his acclaimed book, "In the Deep Heart's Core." He came home to Colorado to work for Third Way as the principal of Joan Farley Academy. The powerful lessons he learned from the residents and staff at Third Way fundamentally changed the way he thinks about the world and informed all the work he has done since. After Third Way he founded a school in Adams county called MESA, which became the first school in Colorado history where 100 percent of seniors graduated from high school and 100 percent were admitted to a four-year college.

He served as a senior education policy advisor to Barack Obama during the 2008 campaign and transition and was elected to two terms in the Colorado State Senate from 2009-2017. During his tenure, he passed over 100 bills with bipartisan support, including major reform measures on education, immigration, racial discrimination and economic development. Over the last two decades, Mike has led and founded numerous non-profit and for-profit organizations, including New Leaders, the Urban Leaders Fellowship and America Achieves. Mike is a fluent Spanish speaker and holds degrees from Yale College, the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Yale Law School. He lives with his wife Courtney, who was the first Third Way staff member in the family when she worked as assistant treatment leader at the Moms House and is now the Chief of the Juvenile Division for the Denver District Attorney's office. They have three kids: Emmet, 14; Seamus, 14; and Ava, 10.

DEBORAH JORDY

Executive Director
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)

A native of Colorado, Deborah Jordy has played a prominent role on the arts and cultural scene for over 40 years. Ms. Jordy joined the SCFD in December 2016. Since 1989, SCFD has distributed funds from a 1/10 of 1% sales and use tax to cultural facilities throughout the seven-county Denver, Colorado metropolitan area. The funds support cultural facilities whose primary purpose is for enlightening and entertaining the public. \$75 million was allocated to approximately 300+ eligible scientific and cultural organizations in 2021.

Prior to joining SCFD, Deborah served as Executive Director of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA), a nonprofit membership organization of Colorado businesses whose mission is to leverage the arts for economic vitality. Earlier in her career she served as Executive Director of the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities and led the Cherokee Ranch and Castle Foundation. She also served as Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art for the Denver Art Museum.

She is an officer on the Board of Directors of Americans for the Arts, Washington, DC and a trustee of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Denver, Colorado. Deborah frequently gives presentations regarding the arts and economic development to local, national and international audiences.

CARL KOELBEL

Carl Koelbel is COO of Koelbel & Company where he carries on a three-generation tradition of real estate development in the Denver Metro area. His primary focus is on identifying new opportunities for development and acquisition, directing the vision of the company into the mid-21st century, and managing operations. In 2012 he started the Koelbel Urban Homes division which focuses on developing for-sale, infill homes. He also works extensively developing affordable housing in Colorado. In just over 12 years Koelbel and Company will have delivered close to 750 units of affordable housing in 10 different projects with more to come. He also manages major projects for Koelbel including the redevelopment of Regatta Plaza in Aurora and innovative new office communities in Aurora, Omaha, and beyond. Carl received his Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Real Estate and Finance from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Before receiving his M.B.A. he was a Research Associate at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. At U.L.I. he assisted the Senior Resident Fellows in various research projects with a focus on infrastructure and its effect on land use patterns. He has a B.A. in Economics and International Relations from the University of Southern California and is an avid skier, golfer, and tennis player. He is always thankful of the support of his wife Fallon and three children, Harper, Reagan, and Presley.

COLIN LARSON

As a husband, dad, and successful small business owner in South Jeffco and a State Representative since 2019, I'm so grateful to live in our part of Colorado. This is a beautiful part of our state and I've been privileged to have had an up-close view of how our area has changed over the years.

Moving to the Columbine Valley as an infant, I have been a proud Colorado resident for over 30 years and attended Bradford Elementary, Deer Creek Middle School, and Littleton High School. Growing up, I was expected to take responsibility at a young age, getting my first job as a freshman in high school and working my way through college. I earned a degree in political science and history from Colorado College while working administrative jobs on campus.

After graduating college, I took a job in public policy where I met my wife, Annie. In 2014, with the support of my wife, I started Atlas Coffees, an independent coffee shop inspired by the community coffee shop I went to throughout my childhood. Atlas was blessed to enjoy early success and has been serving as a community hub ever since. Through my role there, I have had the privilege of interacting with people from all walks of life, giving me a broad perspective and deep appreciation for the diverse needs of our community.

In 2017, my wife and I were blessed by the birth of our daughter Cora. When Cora grows up, I want her to have the same education, housing, business, and life opportunities that I had here – and that's why I'll fight so hard for her and you in the legislature. I'm from this area and I'll fight for our home – for you, for your families, and for Cora.

In addition to my work in the state legislature, I have been active with multiple community focused boards and organizations, including the Heartland Hero Essay Competition, The Captain Jason Dahl Scholarship Fund, Jefferson County Community Development Advisory Board, and Stepping Stone Support Center, which serves people in the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities community.

MAYOR JACKIE MILLET

Lone Tree Mayor, Jackie Millet is a solutions-oriented leader with a proven record of consensus building and collaboration. She has served the Lone Tree community for almost two decades and is in her final term as the city's Mayor. Jackie is a Registered Civil Engineer with considerable experience planning and designing infrastructure for growing communities and that perspective has shaped her efforts as a local elected official. During her tenure, Lone Tree has prioritized investments in transportation, economic development, recreation and cultural amenities.

Jackie has become a well-respected voice on many regional issues including transportation, housing and collaborative government. She has served Lone Tree and the metro region in a wide range of roles including as Chair of the Denver Regional Council of Governments, Chair of the Metro Mayor Caucus, Chair of the Partnership of Douglas County Governments and a Regional Air Quality Council Member. These opportunities have allowed Jackie to work with a broad range of citizen, business, and government stakeholders to provide real solutions for community challenges.

DR. WILL SIMPKINS

Dr. Will Simpkins became the Vice President for Student Affairs at Metropolitan State University of Denver on August 1, 2018. In this role, Dr. Simpkins leads student engagement and wellness initiatives, enrollment management services, and classroom to career initiatives. Dr. Simpkins is committed to the success of all MSU Denver Roadrunners and works to connect the University community with industry and community leaders in Denver and Colorado.

Dr. Simpkins' commitment to equity and inclusion, student engagement and career success guides all strategy for Student Affairs. He led the launch of the Classroom to Career (C2) Hub, expanded the Center for Multicultural Engagement and Inclusion, and created the Student Care Center with a focus on students' unmet basic needs.

Dr. Simpkins' previous experiences in higher education include career services, student activities and civic engagement in both public and private institutions in New York City as well as serving as adjunct faculty of the Educational Leadership in Higher Education program at Montclair State University. Dr. Simpkins has also been a national leader in NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and was appointed to two terms on Manhattan Community Board 9 in the City of New York.

Dr. Simpkins earned an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, with a dissertation that examined the college experiences of bachelor's degree students who receive welfare in New York City. He also holds an M.Ed. in Counseling and Personnel Services with a concentration in student leadership development from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in English with concentrations in creative writing and cultural studies from Virginia Tech.

GEORGE SPARKS

President and CEO | Presidente y Director Ejecutivo george.sparks@dmns.org

George Sparks has been the president & CEO of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science since November 2004. He spent 24 years in the electronics measurement business at Hewlett-Packard and Agilent Technologies. His career included marketing, sales, and general management of global businesses in software, systems, and services.

Prior to joining Hewlett-Packard, Sparks spent nine years in the Air Force as a pilot and as an assistant professor of aeronautics at the United States Air Force Academy (1976-1978). He is a distinguished graduate of the USAF Academy with a bachelor's in aeronautical engineering, and holds a master's in aeronautics and astronautics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sparks' passion is public policy, particularly around science and education. He is a member of the Colorado Forum, Colorado Concern, and is on the boards of Colorado Education Initiative, Colorado Music Hall of Fame, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, and the Denver School of Science & Technology.

George is the founder of the Institute for Science & Policy, a program of the Museum. He loves his wife and all of his children.

STEPHANIE TAVARES-RANCE

Deputy Director

Stephanie Tavares-Rance began her career in entertainment after college in 1990, working in the A&R Department at SBK/EMI Records. She eventually became the A&R Marketing Director and worked on award- winning projects such as Frank Sinatra's (Duets I ,II), Prince, Jon Secada, D'Angelo, Gloria Estefan and a plethora of others.

In 1999, Stephanie became the Marketing Director at Larry Flynt's CODE Magazine, a fabulous but short-lived lifestyle magazine for men of color. Her marketing impact was immediate as she created strategic alliances with top- notch celebrities and luxury brands. After CODE, Stephanie has held various executive marketing positions at fortune 500 companies.

It was at this time that she realized that her calling was in brand marketing and event planning and established the creative outlet, RUN AND SHOOT FILMWORKS, INC., with her husband Floyd A.B.Rance III.

Founded in 2002, the academy accredited Run&Shoot Filmworks, Martha's Vineyard AA film festival is one of the fastest growing film festivals in the country. Recognized for their impeccable section of films, premiere screenings, and welcoming environment, Floyd and Stephanie have made a lasting mark in the entertainment industry.

In addition to the film festival on Martha's Vineyard and their new festival in Denver. CO called The Color Of Conversation Film Series, Stephanie, and Floyd have also proceeded to produce outstanding visual work for several clients including Family Dollar, HBO, Martell Cognac, Reebok (Allen Iverson and NY Giants) and Footlocker.

Stephanie is also on the board of Sweet Blackberry- actor Karyn Parsons organization that tells black stories via films, IWF, The Denver Art Museum (marketing alliance) and The Commission on Cultural Affairs for the Mayor's office in Denver, CO.

Stephanie is also a featured speaker at Georgetown University - she speaks with marketing students about the impact of social media and starting your own business.

Stephanie has won numerous awards in digital marketing and was most recently awarded a Black Woman in Media award for her work with the film festival and supporting the works of people of color. In 2022, Stephanie was awarded the 2022 J.E.D.I award from the Denver Mayor's office (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion).

ANDREA VIARRIAL-MURPHY

Director of Giving & Growing

Andrea brings nearly 18 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, having focused on youth development, mentoring, volunteer management, special events, marketing and fundraising. She also brings 10+ years in marketing, and project management. She believes in building strategic partnerships and working together creatively. She loves building new relationships!

Andrea brings creativity to her position and thinks outside of the box. She has worked in and out of the local music industry for the past 12 years and been involved as a fan for the past 22 years. In 2018 she launched the Music Ambassador program for Youth on Record. The Music Ambassador program encourages creative philanthropy. She truly believes that every single person can make a difference whether it's time, talent or \$10 to give.

Andrea was born and raised in Arvada, CO. She now lives in Denver, CO with her husband and her little Chihuahua, Myriah Joy Murphy.

PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON

Chief Executive Officer

Phillip A. Washington was nominated by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock and unanimously confirmed by the Denver City Council as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Denver International Airport (DEN) in July of 2021. In 2021, DEN was the world's 3rd busiest airport by passenger traffic. Under his leadership, DEN announced the Vision 100 strategy to prepare and improve the airport's facilities and operations for the anticipated 100 million annual passengers within 10 years. DEN remains the region's largest economic engine, generating \$33.5 billion in annual regional economic impact, and having more than 30,000 badged employees, 25 air carriers, and 170 concession locations.

Prior to Washington's arrival at DEN, he was the CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) from 2015 to 2021. At Metro, Washington managed a balanced budget of more than \$8 billion and provided oversight of an agency with 11,000 employees that transported 1.2 million boarding passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean-air buses and six rail lines.

Washington also served as the CEO of Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD) between 2009 and 2015 and worked as the assistant general manager of RTD for nearly 10 years before being named CEO. In Denver, he led and implemented the FasTracks program, one of the largest voter-approved transportation expansion programs in the country.

Originally from the South Side of Chicago, Washington is a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Army, where he held the rank of Command Sergeant Major, the highest non-commissioned officer rank an enlisted soldier can achieve. He retired from active duty, is a disabled veteran and was awarded the prestigious Defense Superior Service Medal for exceptional service to his country.

He holds a B.A. in Business from Columbia College, an M.A. in Management from Webster University.

KATRINA WERT

Katrina Wert is the Executive Director of Workforce and Community Partnerships at Community College of Denver (CCD) and directs CCD's Center for Workforce Initiatives (CWI), a hub for multiple industry-focused community workforce partnerships that connect job seekers, industry partners, and community organizations. CWI serves as the backbone for WORKNOW, a construction workforce coalition of over 20 organizations that connects local workers to regional public and private infrastructure projects.

She has nearly 20 years' experience in developing and administering programs in construction workforce development, adult education, career and technical education, and post-secondary access and has worked previously in that capacity for community-based organizations, Emily Griffith Technical College and Denver's Office of Economic Development. Katrina serves on the board of Hispanic Contractor's Contractor Academy and the Executive Committee of the Metro Denver Construction Sector partnership. She lives with her family in Denver, Colorado, she is dedicated to increasing economic opportunity and resource connections for working families across the metro area.