#### Jen Alden

# CFO, Tulsa Performing Arts Center



Jen became TPAC CFO in 2019. Her professional and artistic background is incredibly diverse; she studied ballet at State Ballet of Oregon, University of Oregon, Eugene Ballet and the Danskervelt School of Dance in Copenhagen, Denmark. Since graduating with an accounting degree from the University of Oregon, Jen worked as a senior at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Portland and received the Chairman's award. After relocating to Tulsa, she worked for Williams Company as a financial reporting senior before accepting a position with ETX Energy, where she served as the controller. Jen has choreographed for Oklahoma Movement, Theatre Tulsa, Tulsa Opera, Tulsa Symphony and TPAC's Orbit program. She served on the board as treasurer for the Living Arts of Tulsa and was the chair of the Arts and Entertainment Crew of Tulsa Young Professionals (TYPROs). Jen has received awards for 40 under 40 for both Tulsa People and Tulsa Business and Legal News.

Though she has centered her career on accounting, Jen is still passionate about the arts. As someone who directs, choreographs and produces local shows, the TPAC's mission of being the catalyst to give local talent a platform to grow is near to her heart and something she takes great pride in being a part of. It's important to Jen that performing arts thrive in Tulsa not only personally but as a benefit to the character of the community.

#### **Julio Badin**

## Executive Director, The Gathering Place

Julio Badin serves as the Executive Director of Tulsa's Gathering Place. He brings a wealth of experience from Disneyland Resort and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. His role involves overseeing the park's operations and ensuring it remains accessible to all, with no admission fees and diverse food options.

Julio's immediate priorities are focused on enhancing culinary offerings and maintaining park facilities. He also manages other venues, including Guthrie Green and the LowDown music club. Under his leadership, the Gathering Place continues to be a beloved community space in Tulsa, cherished by both locals and visitors.



### **Tori Burris**

## Manager of Strategic Initiatives, Tulsa Innovation Labs



Tori Burris is the Manager of Strategic Initiatives at Tulsa Innovation Labs (TIL). TIL focuses on driving tech-led growth in Tulsa's innovation economy, working closely with partners in sectors like virtual health, energy tech, advanced air mobility, and cyber. Tori plays a key role in designing and implementing initiatives to support startups, diverse talent, job expansion, and academic innovation in these areas. TIL's mission is to build upon Tulsa's existing strengths to foster a 21st-century innovation economy, and they use data-driven approaches to achieve inclusive growth. Their recent impact report indicates substantial growth potential for Tulsa, and they actively monitor

progress using the Economy Forward Framework, developed in partnership with the Aspen Institute and Heartland Forward. Tori Burris contributes to TIL's mission of creating a prosperous future for Tulsa through innovation and opportunity.



## **Bianca Caampued**

# Co-Founder & Interim Executive Director of Tulsa Creative Engine

Bianca is Co-Founder & Advisor of Small Girls PR, a NY/LA based creative communications agency founded in 2010. As Creative Director of the agency through 2019, she managed programming for the SGPR Brand as well as campaigns for clients like Google, Norma Kamali, Simon & Schuster, GKFF, Verizon, and more.

Bianca is involved in building several initiatives to serve the community of Tulsa including Return to Hope - a nonprofit with a focus on health, wellness, and employment resources for justice-involved women in Tulsa, and Suite Dreams - an experiential Airbnb concept that highlights underrepresented communities.



Bianca holds a certificate in Social Impact Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania



## **Jennifer Conway**

## President and CEO, Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce



A Texas native, Jennifer Conway has served as the president and CEO of the Greater Binghamton, NY Chamber of Commerce since May 2016. She has a bachelor's degree from the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University and obtained a master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University in June 2019. Before her career working for chambers of commerce, Jennifer worked as an auditor for KPMG and a senior financial analyst for a large nonprofit organization. Prior to leading the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, she was the President/CEO of the Chamber of Commerce in Graham, Texas, just outside of the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Jennifer is passionate about advocating for the economic vibrancy of the community in which she serves. In her role as President/CEO of the Greater Binghamton Chamber, she launched a new brand for the Chamber and led the organization to a greater focus on tackling the barriers to business and community growth. Under her leadership, the Chamber grew in membership every year. As the president/CEO of the Greater Binghamton Chamber, Conway also led the Greater Binghamton Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Southern Tier Welcome Center, and the Greater Binghamton Education Outreach Program. She actively served on several impactful committees and boards, including as the co-chair for the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Workforce Development Workgroup, Unshackle Upstate Leadership Board, Core Leadership Team for the Binghamton/Broome Anti-Poverty Initiative, the Community Foundation for South Central New York Planning Committee, and the KLEE Foundation Board of Directors.

She and her husband Ryan have two young children, McKenzie, and lan. Jennifer is excited to return to her roots in Oklahoma. "Broken Arrow is a perfect fit for me and my family. The minute I met the community leadership, board members and staff, I knew I was home. The leadership has placed Broken Arrow on the right path, and I am honored to be selected to be a part of building Broken Arrow's next phase of growth. Oklahoma is an incredible state that is business friendly, making it the perfect place to bring new business and help existing business grow by building programs and opportunities that address their greatest needs such as workforce, education, and capital."



## **Kelsey Davis**

## CEO and Founder, CLLCTVE

Kelsey Davis is the Founder/CEO of CLLCTVE, the portfolio platform connecting creators to paid opportunities. CLLCTVE is a software technology company fueled by partners like Google and Techstars. Prior to CLLCTVE, Davis was known for producing visual content for global consumer brands like Coca Cola, Land Rover, Puma and Conde Nast Entertainment.

Since graduating from Syracuse University with a BS in Television, Radio, and Film ('19) and MS in Entrepreneurship ('20), Davis has already been featured as a next-gen leader by Forbes 30 Under 30, Adweek, and the NYTimes.



# **Libby Ediger**

## CEO, Holberton School of Tulsa



Libby Ediger is the CEO of Holberton School of Tulsa, an institution dedicated to providing hands-on education and training for computer science careers. Holberton School focuses on accessibility and community impact.

Under Libby's leadership, the school prepares students for entry-level positions in software engineering, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge. Holberton School has a history of innovative education, and the Tulsa campus, in partnership with the George Kaiser Family Foundation, opened in 2021.

The Tulsa campus is a 9,000-square-foot building in the Arts District, thoughtfully

designed to support student learning. Libby and her team are actively involved in the Tulsa community, working with local organizations to create pathways into the tech industry for people of all backgrounds.



### **Blake Ewing**

## Chief of Staff, City of Tulsa

Blake Ewing assumed the role of Chief of Staff at the City of Tulsa in September 2022, marking a significant return to public service. His tenure as a Tulsa City Councilor from 2011 to 2018 established him as a leader with a knack for forward-thinking and a commitment to improving the city.

Mayor G.T. Bynum praised Blake's ability to envision a better Tulsa and rise above partisan politics, highlighting his remarkable long-term thinking. Ewing's extensive experience includes serving as the Chief Operating Officer and Creative Director at OKPOP, the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture.

Beyond his role in city government, Blake Ewing is an entrepreneur who played a pivotal role in revitalizing Downtown Tulsa, notably through his involvement in



establishing businesses in the Blue Dome District. His passion for Tulsa is evident in his continued advocacy for the city, with a particular focus on promoting iconic landmarks like Route 66.

With a deep connection to Tulsa and a commitment to its growth, Blake Ewing's return to City Hall signifies his dedication to advancing the city's future. As a proud parent of three children, he is poised to make a meaningful impact alongside Mayor Bynum and his team in building a brighter future for Tulsa.

#### **Shane Fernandez**

## President and Chairman, USA BMX

Shane Fernandez was born in Hollywood, California as a first-generation US Citizen to a Danish mother and Filipino/Spanish father. His diverse family dynamic gave Shane the opportunity to travel around the world and experience other cultures and built environments. Shane has lived in both Scandinavia and Asia, and it was his time spent in Denmark and Hong Kong which ultimately led to his inspiration towards improving a region's sense of place through urban design, architecture, engineering, art, and cycling.

He currently resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma with his wife, Marnie, and their four children: Jade, Tristan, Nicholas, and Josie.



### Jennifer Hankins

## Deputy Managing Director, Tulsa Innovation Labs



Jennifer is a fierce advocate for innovation and entrepreneurship in the heartland of America, with extensive experience working in Tulsa and the wider region on economic development initiatives.

She is responsible for TIL's corporate and university engagement, stakeholder relations, and governance and advisory bodies.

Prior to joining TIL, Jennifer served in the economic development division of the Tulsa Regional Chamber as vice president of entrepreneurship and small business. In this capacity, she worked with area partners to help grow the regional entrepreneurial

ecosystem, assisting local startups and small businesses remove barriers to growth and managing the Chamber's business incubator for high-growth startups, The Forge.

Jennifer also managed business retention and expansion efforts at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. She worked with companies of all sizes throughout the region and assisted them with expansion efforts.

She also worked in the Kansas City region for the Wyandotte Economic Development Council in investor relations and for Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph in development.

Originally from Kansas City, MO, Jennifer completed her undergraduate studies at Oklahoma State University and earned a certificate from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.

She serves as vice president of the board of directors for 36 Degrees North.



#### **Justin Harlan**

## Managing Director, Tulsa Remote

Justin Harlan joined the Tulsa Remote team in April 2021 as the Chief Operating Officer and was named the Managing Director in December 2021. In his role, he guides the daily operations of the Tulsa Remote staff, supports the community team, oversees the new member application process and member experiences. He is excited to lead the program and welcome more remote workers to Tulsa as it continues to expand.

Justin has dedicated his career to educational equity and entrepreneurialism. Before joining Tulsa Remote, he served as Senior Executive Director for Reading Partners Tulsa. During his three and a half years at Reading Partners, the organization worked with over 5,000 Tulsa area students, annually engaging over 1,500 community volunteers each program year. He launched his career with Teach For



America-Oklahoma when it opened in Tulsa in 2009, and quickly rose through the organization as it expanded across the state. In his various roles, Justin raised more than \$7.5 million for Teach For America and secured funding from the State of Oklahoma. Justin also managed operations for the Teach For America Oklahoma City Institute, which trained more than 260 teachers, staffed over 100 people, and provided free summer school to more than 2,000 students. He was a founding board member for Collegiate Hall College Prep Charter School in Tulsa.

Justin earned his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Business Administration from the University of Tulsa. Justin and his wife Megan have two children, Landon and Payton, and run two fitness studios in Tulsa – Pure Barre South Tulsa and Row House South Tulsa.

#### **Arthur Jackson**

# Senior Vice President of Economic Development, Tulsa Regional Chamber



Arthur Jackson is Senior Vice President of Economic Development. Arthur leads the Chamber's economic development efforts through Tulsa's Future, the Chamberled public-private regional economic development partnership, in addition to workforce and talent strategies.

Upon joining the Tulsa Regional Chamber in 2021, Arthur successfully restructured the team to have clear and defined roles which helped the Tulsa's Future team focus on specific economic development initiatives that led to the announcement of over 3,500 jobs in the Tulsa region, including EV manufacturing company, Canoo.

Prior to joining the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Arthur served as Senior Director of Economic Development for over five

years at the Austin Chamber of Commerce, by way of Opportunity Austin, also a regional economic development group. Arthur led the BRE program for the first 2 years there while also working with companies to relocate before transitioning solely to support business attraction activities. He marketed Austin to potential companies and during his tenure, worked to attract names like Tesla, Merck, PIMCO and Apple to name some. Arthur also led the life sciences industry growth and helped put Austin on the CBRE list as a top emerging hub for companies and talent working in life sciences.

Arthur was internationally recognized in 2021 for his contributions to economic development by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and Development Counsellors International (DCI) as a top 40 economic developer under 40 across the globe. Other economic development awards include a 3-time MAC Conway Award winner (Site Selection Magazine's top economic development organization award), 2020 Deal of the Year Gold Award (Awarded by Business Facilities publication for the Tesla terafactory plant in Austin) and has most recently led the Tulsa Regional Chamber and the Tulsa's Future team to the 2021 EDO of the Year Bronze Award (IEDC)

Arthur received his BBA in Marketing and an Executive MBA from Prairie View A&M University.



#### **AJ Johnson**

### Owner, Oasis Fresh Markets



Aaron "AJ" Johnson is the Founder of Oasis Fresh Markets, the first full-service grocery store in North Tulsa's historically black neighborhood (once called Black Wall Street) in 14 years. Growing up in Milwaukee, AJ saw the tremendous differences between resourced and under-resourced communities.

After moving to Oklahoma, he learned that residents in North Tulsa neighborhoods have a life expectancy 11 years shorter than those living in other Tulsa communities. Whether it was the school systems, playgrounds, or even access to grocery stores, many North

Tulsa residents had to travel for miles to enjoy the same resources that non-distressed communities have readily available.

AJ also launched a non-profit called The Oasis Projects to provide wrap-around services, including rental and utility assistance, support for single parents, banking, workforce training, and health-related educational classes. AJ believes the Oasis model provides a blueprint for under-served communities by equipping people for every aspect of a healthy life.

### **Kian Kamas**

## Executive Director, PartnerTulsa



Kian Kamas serves as the Executive Director of PartnerTulsa, leading Tulsa's comprehensive community and economic development strategy. Prior to this role, she served as Mayor G.T. Bynum's Deputy Chief and then Chief of Economic Development. Before her work in the city, Kian spent six years at the Tulsa Regional Chamber, in various roles in Economic Development and Government Affairs.

Kian is passionate about creating long-term, institutional change in how Tulsa pursues its economic and community development objectives and is committed to building a world-class and sustainable operating model that provides Tulsa

with strong and stable long-term revenues for this work.



#### **Joel Koester**

# Director of Sports, Tulsa Sports Commission

Joel Koester serves as the Director of Sports at the Tulsa Sports Commission. His role revolves around making Tulsa an attractive destination for sports events.

Tulsa offers a unique combination of top-notch sports facilities, excellent lodging, dining options, and attractions, all conveniently located within a short drive. Joel's primary focus is on assisting event planners in creating tailored experiences for their groups.

With Joel's guidance, the Tulsa Sports Commission provides planning resources, site selection support, and hands-on assistance during events. This ensures that your sports event in Tulsa runs smoothly and is a memorable experience for participants and attendees alike.



#### **Brian Kurtz**

## President and CEO, Downtown Tulsa Partnership



Brian serves as President & CEO of the Downtown Tulsa Partnership, a management organization at the intersection of people, place, and economy dedicated to championing and advancing a prosperous, vibrant, and inclusive urban neighborhood.

In 2021, Brian led the transition of Downtown's improvement district services from the City of Tulsa where he served as Executive Director of the Downtown Coordinating Council since 2018.

Prior to his roles in Tulsa, Brian was the Director of Economic Development for the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and served in planning and economic development roles in Buffalo, NY.

Brian holds Bachelor of Arts from Gannon University and a Master of Urban Planning from the University at Buffalo. He is professionally certified as a Leader in Place Management by the International Downtown Association where he also serves as a member of the Board of Directors. In Tulsa, Brian serves on the boards of the Center for Housing Solutions and is active with the Oklahoma chapter of Urban Land Institute.



#### **Phil Lakin**

# CEO, Tulsa Community Foundation

Phil Lakin, Jr. has led Tulsa Community
Foundation (TCF) since TCF's formation. Phil
works with TCF's Board of Trustees to set the
strategic vision for TCF and supervises both longterm and daily goals and activities. Phil is
passionate about his work with donors,
community leaders and elected officials to
improve the Tulsa area.

Phil serves the City of Tulsa as the Tulsa City Councilor for District 8, comprising much of south Tulsa. Phil is past president of the Rotary Club of Tulsa, the 10th largest Rotary club in the world, and serves on the boards of many national and regional not-for-profit entities.



Phil is a native Tulsan and graduate of Jenks High School. He earned his BBA in economics and finance, as well as his MBA, from Baylor University. Before joining TCF, Phil worked for Baylor University's Office of Development, managing development efforts for northeastern Texas and six additional states. He and his wife Adriane have three sons. Phil has hiked or climbed to the summits of 69 of the 70 14,000' mountains in the continental United States.

### **Dr. Laura Latta**

# Executive Director, Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

Dr. Laura Latta's professional focus is on supporting the outcomes for all individuals from cradle to career. She has spent her entire professional career learning about Oklahoma education from multiple vantage points as an educator, school administrator, community school coordinator, researcher, and college professor of Elementary Education courses.

Her work as the Executive Director of the Tulsa Higher Education Consortium as well as her research converge all these experiences in supporting school districts and postsecondary institutions as they prepare students for success after graduation.



#### Jessica Lowe-Betts

# Vice President, Schnake Turnbo Frank | Founding Board Chair, Greenwood Rising



Jessica Lowe-Betts is a Vice President at Schnake Turnbo Frank's Tulsa office.

Jessica comes to Schnake after 15+ years of experience in government affairs, communications, marketing, leadership coaching and diversity, equity and inclusion consulting. She is an experienced DEI practitioner, communications professional, event planner, and community leader.

Before her time at Schnake, she was a Senior Diversity & Inclusion Consultant for ONEOK where she developed and expanded employee resource groups and provided coaching/counsel for employees across the organization. Prior to

ONEOK, Jessica spent more than 10 years at the Tulsa Regional Chamber in various events and communications positions, culminating as Vice President of Marketing and Branding for Tulsa Regional Tourism where she managed strategic marketing, social media, media relations and brand development.

She brings extensive experience, passion, creativity, strategy and joy to the people and projects she supports. Jessica will play an integral role on Schnake's I&D Consortium team, support clients in community engagement and public relations work, and serve as a leadership coach.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Oklahoma's only HBCU Langston University. She also earned an Institute of Organizational Management (IOM) certification from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Community Involvement: Jessica currently serves as the inaugural Chair of the Board of Directors for Greenwood Rising, following several years as the Marketing Committee Chair for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission. She has co-chaired the Association for Women in Communications Newsmakers Event.



## **Renee McKenney**

# Senior Vice President of Tourism, Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce | President, Tulsa Regional Tourism

Renee McKenney is the Senior Vice President of Tourism for Tulsa Regional Chamber and President of Tulsa Regional Tourism. She brings over 30 years of experience in the hospitality and tourism industry to her role.

Renee's career has spanned various sectors, including meeting planning, sports events, hotels, resorts, airlines, cruises, and theme parks. Notably, she served as the first Chief Experience Officer in the nation for the hotel and destination space at VisitDallas.

Under her leadership, Tulsa Regional Tourism achieved a record \$359 million total economic impact for booked events in fiscal year 2022.



Renee McKenney's extensive background and leadership have brought a fresh perspective to Tulsa's tourism sector, enhancing the city's appeal to visitors.

#### **Aaron Miller**

# Head of Partnerships, inTulsa



Aaron returned to Tulsa to help launch a strategic effort to grow Tulsa's technology and innovation economy through talent in late Summer 2020.

inTulsa connects innovative companies and diverse talent with the mission of growing Tulsa into a vibrant & inclusive community.

inTulsa is a matchmaker, executing on companyattraction efforts and candidate placement. Insights from this work lead to partnerships with state, local, regional, and national entities to build talent pipelines in the technology industry.

As Head of Partnerships, Aaron connects inTulsa's work to upskilling programs, higher ed,

government, corporates, philanthropy and thought leaders. inTulsa works creatively to make Tulsa the best place for remote workers, companies hiring remote cohorts, and any organization rapidly growing their tech hires.



#### Mike Neal

# President and CEO, Tulsa Regional Chamber

Mike Neal is in his 17th year as president and chief executive officer of the Tulsa Regional Chamber. In 2018, the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives (OCCE) inducted Mike into their Hall of Fame in recognition of his 30 years of service to the chamber industry. Tulsa People named Mike the 2011 Tulsan of the Year for his limitless energy, can-do optimism, and tireless efforts toward making Tulsa a better place.

Mike is heavily involved with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He serves on its Foundation Board of Directors, its Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, and its Transportation Infrastructure & Logistics Committee. Mike is also the current chairman of their Accrediting Board of Directors. He also serves on the boards of the International Economic Development Council and the Southern Economic Development Council.



### **Elliott Nelson**

# Owner, McNellie's Group



Elliot Nelson, a University of Notre Dame alumnus, had a life-changing experience during his junior year when he studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland. In the heart of Dublin, he discovered a profound love for the atmosphere and exceptional hospitality that classic Dublin pubs like Stag's Head, Kehoe's, Mulligan's, Palace, and McDaid's offered.

This experience left a lasting impression on Elliot, inspiring his career and passion for hospitality. It was in these iconic Dublin pubs that he gained an appreciation for creating memorable experiences and a vision that would lead to the establishment of his own unique venues in the United States. His time in Dublin ignited his passion for bringing the

warmth and spirit of Irish hospitality to his ventures.



#### **Brian Paschal**

# Chief Executive Officer, Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation



In June 2022, Brian Paschal transitioned from the Managing Director of the Lobeck Taylor Operating Foundation to Chief Executive Officer of Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation. Brian is responsible for translating the organization's strategic goals into operational plans for all programmatic initiatives, including Mother Road Market, Kitchen 66, and Shops at Mother Road Market.

Prior to joining LTFF, Brian was the president and CEO of the Foundation for Tulsa Schools where he raised more than

\$45M to support Tulsa Public Schools. He also served as senior vice president of education and workforce for the Tulsa Regional Chamber, as well as executive director of Tulsa's Young Professionals (TYPros) and The Forge business incubator.

Brian is a Tulsa native who spent 15 years in Los Angeles working in the film industry with DreamWorks, Universal and Sony. His passion is making Tulsa the best city it can be, and he is proud to be a founding board member of the Office of Film, Music, Arts & Culture (FMAC) and 36 Degrees North, as well as helping relaunch Tulsa's Great Raft Race. He also serves on the board for Visit Tulsa and the OKPOP Foundation.

In his free time, Brian enjoys traveling and camping with his wife Alex and their three children, Jack, Annie, and Benjamin. He is an avid music fan with eclectic taste and is counting down the days until he can see live music again.



### **Ashli Sims**

## Managing Director, Build in Tulsa

Ashli Sims, as the Managing Director of Build in Tulsa, brings a wealth of experience spanning two decades. Her career has encompassed roles as a news reporter, advocate for vulnerable children, fundraiser, and nonprofit leader.

Ashli holds a journalism degree from Northwestern University and certifications in nonprofit management, highlighting her commitment to effective communication and organizational leadership.

As a lifelong Tulsan, Ashli is deeply connected to her community. She is dedicated to championing the legacy of Black Wall Street and empowering Black entrepreneurs, reflecting her genuine passion for making a positive impact on Tulsa's entrepreneurial landscape.



## **Trey Thaxton**

# CEO and Creative Director, Goldmill Co.



As the original Creative Director of one of most thriving churches in the Midwest, Transformation, he became an expert at bringing new life to old ideas and making the most of limited resources. He started his own creative agency in 2017.

While design has been his craft, Trey is an entrepreneur at heart. He also the founder of Greenwood Ave. and 19&21. A celebration of Greenwood's entrepreneurial spirit and inspiration for the next generation of doers. His goal is to expand Goldmill into a film studio in Tulsa.

## **Rose Washington**

## Chief Executive Officer, TEDC Creative Capital

Rose Washington is the CEO of TEDC Creative Capital. Founded in 1979 as the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation, TEDC has evolved to support small businesses and promote economic growth.

In the past five years, they've secured over \$150 million, benefiting nearly 300 small businesses, and preserving 3,500 jobs. TEDC facilitates loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$10 million using public and private funds. Their mission is to create economic vitality by nurturing small business growth, receiving funding from various sources, including government programs.



Under Rose Washington's leadership, TEDC Creative
Capital continues its vital role in empowering small businesses and fostering economic prosperity.

