



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017



Janenne Allen

Janenne Allen is a firm believer that the foundation of a strong community is one of pride, economic fluidity, engaged residents and the availability of a quality public education for every child. Her professional experiences come from working for and with Fortune 500 companies, startups and family owned businesses. Janenne crafted her leadership and organizational expertise from a variety of roles in multiple industries: Equipment Financing, Executive Search, Women's Lacrosse, and Project & Interior Design. She brings with her a passion to learn, build and share in Localworks mission of advancing Wheat Ridge as a vibrant and sustainable community. Janenne is a proud graduate of the 2016 Wheaties Academy and enjoys being an active volunteer on the Friday Night Live committee.

From Ohio to Chicago, she grew up exploring and admiring the lakes, rolling hills, plains and great cities of the Midwest. However, it wasn't until she moved to Wheat Ridge in 2008 that Janenne felt she had discovered the right community to create a lifelong home. She enjoys skiing, camping, music festivals, and hiking with her husband, daughter and two dogs. She advocates, in all ways possible, for the attainment of a community culture which is focused on residents taking care of one another and creating a safe, accessible, beautiful, user friendly city.



Ron Benson

Ron Benson and his wife, Linda McDonald, formed the McDonald Group at Keller Williams Avenues Realty in Wheat Ridge in 2012. Prior to becoming a real estate broker, Ron had a 40-year career in the public sector parks and recreation profession. Until his retirement in 2008, Ron spent the last 20 years in the profession as the Director of Parks, Trails and Open Space in Douglas County.

Ron and Linda have lived in Wheat Ridge for 19 years. Ron has one daughter, and two granddaughters. Ron is active in the Wheat Ridge Business Association, Applewood Business Association and the Wheat Ridge Optimists.



Kelly Brooks

Kelly Brooks currently serves as a Deputy Fire Marshal with West Metro Fire Rescue in the Life Safety Division. Kelly has been a member of Localworks and active with the Partners in Progress committee since 2010. Kelly has a bachelor's degree from CU, a master's degree in Architecture from the University of Washington and is a licensed architect in the State of Colorado. Kelly has been a resident of Wheat Ridge since 2004 and is married with two boys and a girl.



Joe DeAgüero

Joe DeAgüero has been a resident of Wheat Ridge since 2012. He, his wife Mary, and daughter Karen moved here from Eastern Oregon. Karen currently attends Colorado School of mines. A native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Joe earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from New Mexico State University and Master of Business Administration from Marylhurst University.

Joe's diverse experience includes work in the fields of Horticulture Education, Mine Reclamation & Permitting, Residential Real Estate Sales and Executive Director of the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce amongst other endeavors. He served and was Honorably Discharged from the New Mexico Army National Guard. Joe published his first novel, "Blanket of Deception" in May of 2012.

In partnership with New York Life Insurance Company, Joe is owner of his Financial Services practice and office in Arvada and has built a strong business in the greater Denver area. He is an active volunteer with Localworks and currently serves as Chair of the Communications Advisors Team. He is a 2015 graduate of the Wheaties Academy. Joe is also a member of the Wheat Ridge Business Association and a Member and Ambassador of the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



Kristine Disney

Kristine's background includes board experience serving cultural and youth organizations and she currently serves as Board President. She has served on the Oklahoma City Arts Council, the Associate Board for the Oklahoma City Art Museum, as board president for Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park, and Women in Design. She was also a grant writer for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and participated in the planning and execution of several fund raising events during her tenure there. Kristine has lived in Wheat Ridge for 20 years, and is excited to see the changes that are coming, and to be part of that process. She graduated from Wheat Ridge Civic Academy and Wheaties Academy.



Joseph Giordano

Joseph is a Certified Internal Auditor and accounting lecturer at Metropolitan State University of Denver where he serves as the faculty sponsor of the student run internal audit program. Prior to becoming a professor he spent twelve years at AT&T, Qwest, and Wells Fargo, most recently spending four years performing anti-money laundering audits.

In his spare time Joseph mentors at-risk teenagers through the nonprofit Colorado Youth at Risk and is an avid cyclist. He has two Master's degrees from the University of Colorado at Denver, and a Bachelor's from the University of Florida. Joseph moved to the Denver area in 1997 and has been a resident of Wheat Ridge since January 2011.



Pam Goff

Pam has been President/CEO of PG Construction Services, Inc. for over 20 years. Prior work experience included Chevron, Amoco, Merrill Lynch, Grant Thornton LLP, Gary Energy and Citicorp Diners Club.

After obtaining her B.S. degree in Accounting from CU Denver and completing graduate work in Accounting with an emphasis in Management, she obtained her CPA certification and has maintained a CPA license for over 30 years as well as holding a Chartered Global Management Accountant certification. Pam currently serves on the Finance Committee for Local Works. Prior positions held were Treasurer of the Colorado Legislative Committee of the Communication Associations Institute, Board of Director for the Colorado Society of CPAs, Chair of the Ethnic Diversity in Accounting committee and past President and a founding member of the Wheat Ridge Business Association.

Pam continues to be a member of the Colorado Society of CPAs, American Institute of CPAs, Construction Financial Management Association and holds corporate membership in the Apartment Association of Metro Denver, Community Association Institute, Wheat Ridge Business Association, Local Works and Applewood Business Association. Pam is a past recipient of the CPAs Make a Difference Award from the Colorado Society of CPAs and also an Air Force vet.



Karin Kirby

Karin was raised in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, attending Steven's Elementary and Everett Middle School. She attended Arrupe Jesuit High School and graduated having gained experience working at Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, CH2M Hill Engineering Firm, Davis Graham and Stubbs, LLC and Campbell, Killin, Brittan and Ray, LLC. In 2008, Karin was awarded the Arrupe Role Model Full Scholarship to attend Regis University. During her time at Regis, she worked as a Scholarship Campaign Fundraiser for the University, Student Occupation at Arrupe High School and Sts. Peter and Paul Church and School in Wheat Ridge. In 2012, Karin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy with Minors in Psychology and Women Studies.

With her passion in working for non-profit institutions, she began volunteering as GED Coordinator and Job Readiness Training for the Empowerment Program for Women, INC. in Denver. Karin became an Addiction Counselor as Arapahoe House Detoxification Center in 2012 treating clients with alcohol and narcotic substance abuse addictions. Currently, she is the Business Manager of Saints

Peter and Paul Church and School in Wheat Ridge where she oversees Accounting, Human Resources, Marketing, I.T., Maintenance and Administration. She is an active volunteer for several Wheat Ridge and Denver non-profits and clubs. She enjoys challenging herself with music, especially singing and can often be found in the local theater audience.



Michael Kolesar

As a fifth generation Coloradoan, with ancestral ties in Wheat Ridge dating back to the 1800's where his great-great grandfather homesteaded near 42nd and Jay, Michael Kolesar takes pride in Wheat Ridge's community focused agricultural past.

Professionally Michael is a real estate attorney where he advises developers, lenders, and investors on all aspects of commercial real estate. Prior to being an attorney, Michael was a licensed professional engineer focused on owner's representation, property due diligence, and forensic engineering.

Michael holds a B.S. in Architectural Engineering with an emphasis in both Construction Engineering and Structural Engineering from University of Colorado Boulder, a M.S. in Real Estate Development from University of Denver, and a J.D. from the University of Denver.

With his passion, education, and profession focused on the built environment, along with his deep roots in the Wheat Ridge community, Michael is at home serving as a director on the Wheat Ridge 2020 board guiding Wheat Ridge towards the inclusive, community-centric, modern environment that Wheat Ridge is becoming.



Kathleen Martell

Kathleen Martell has been a resident of Wheat Ridge for sixteen of the 22 years she has lived in Colorado following her western migration from her childhood state of Kansas. She's a graduate and past mentor of the Wheaties Academy, Chair of the Partners in Progress Committee and is involved in the Friday Night Live and Harvest committees.

Kathleen is a graduate of the University of Denver, Women's College, with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Kathleen's professional background includes financial services, management, compensation programs and compliance. She currently works for Ball Corporation in Broomfield, CO, as Administrator, Executive Compensation. She serves as a division lead on the Ball Corporation Women's Business

Resource Group and is involved in a variety of corporate volunteerism activities including A Precious Child, Food Bank of the Rockies, YMCA of Longmont, and others.

Kathleen is an avid gardener, growing and canning expert, home chef and all-around dog lover. She and Nat have been enjoying life in Wheat Ridge for years and value the opportunity to contribute to the community they call home.

Joy is a Colorado native and grew up in downtown Colorado Springs.

She headed for the flat lands to go to the University of Kansas in Lawrence, and after graduating was drawn into the telecom industry with Sprint. After a few years in Kansas City, Joy decided it was time to get back to the mountains and was easily transferred home.



Joy Opp

The suburbs just west of downtown felt safe for the young and single city newbie, and even after getting married and having a daughter, the west side is still where she calls home. Joy lives in the completely awesome and often overlooked neighborhood of Applewood nestled between Golden and Wheat Ridge. It's the large lots and mid-century modern homes that are the big draw!

Joy entered real estate in 2004 and has become passionate about helping families find their perfect home. Joy has incredible design instinct and can stage a house like nobody's business. In fact her atomic ranch home was featured in the Wheat Ridge Modern home tour in 2010.

A fourth generation Colorado native, Kelsey understands the importance of community roots. Raised in the heart of Wheat Ridge (Sts. Peter & Paul Gradeschool/WRHS), Kelsey soon returned to the city she loves after earning a degree in International Business and Marketing from top-ranked Washington University in St. Louis. Kelsey currently works in large scale data analytics and visualization, providing information in a way that promotes data based decision making.

Kelsey is passionate about contributing in a positive way to the world around us and strongly believes in the power of community involvement. She serves on multiple boards as an officer, including the Mile Hi Optimists, an organization dedicated to



Kelsey Robb

bringing out the best in kids. Her dedication to continuous leadership development led her to Toastmasters, where she has earned numerous leadership and speaking awards including earning a spot in the World Championships of Public Speaking.

When not working or volunteering, Kelsey enjoys outdoor activities- particularly hiking and competing in snowshoe races, reading on her front porch with a cup of tea, and learning the harmonica.



David Schafer

David grew up in Ottawa, IL. He attended a junior college in IL and graduated from the University of Iowa. After graduating college he moved to Colorado Springs and began a retail management career with Sears. That career eventually moved him to Denver. In 2006 he switched careers to banking with FirstBank where he has been ever since. While in Denver he has become involved with several non-profits including Lakewood on Parade, Tennyson Center for Children, Assisted Cycling Tours, and Localworks. He has a beautiful wife named Jeni and a son Andrew and daughter Hanna.