



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DENVER FOUNDATION

2021-2022 JLD FOUNDATION BOARD

Biographies



Kali Handford | President

Kali Handford is a California-native turned Coloradan. Kali is currently serving as President of the Junior League of Denver Foundation, which manages \$8 million in nonprofit assets solely benefitting the Junior League of Denver. She served as JLD President in 2017-2018. She is a Board member of Sewall Child Development Center, a JLD partner through Kids Connect. In her day job, Kali is a small business entrepreneur. She previously worked in strategic partnerships and demand generation for a tech start-up that grew up and has her MBA and MS Marketing degrees from University of Colorado. In her spare time, you will find her in a Pilates class, jogging around Wash Park, rooting for the CU Buffs, trying a new restaurant or on an outdoor adventure with her husband, son and bulldog fur-baby.



Stephanie Dahl | Vice President

Stephanie Dahl is the Vice President of the JLD Foundation Board. She is an attorney and represents her clients in all estate planning, probate and small business law matters. Stephanie is a Colorado native, a mother of two young boys and married. She received her undergraduate degree in finance at the University of Colorado and her law degree at University of Denver. As an active member of her community, she is currently serving as the chair of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission in Cherry Hills Village, treasurer of the PTCO for Cherry Hills Village Elementary, co-chair for the Children's Museum Annual

Birthday Bash and serves as personnel advisor and on the mock trial committee for her sorority, Chi Omega.



Julia Lazure | Secretary

Julia Kneeland Lazure joined the Junior League of Denver in 2011 to engage in civic leadership, give back to the community and meet other women in the Denver metro area. She served as President in 2019-2020 and previously served on the JLD Board of Directors as President-Elect, Finance & Operations Council VP, Community VP-Elect and Community VP. Additionally, Julia has served on the JLD Foundation Board member since 2017. Julia earned her JD from the University of Colorado School of Law and BSBA in Accounting from Creighton University. She is a partner at Kneeland & Lazure Law, LLC, where she works

with individuals and families to navigate major changes in their lives so they can have peace of mind and plan for their futures in the areas of estate planning, business, divorce and custody. Prior to joining Kneeland & Lazure Law, Julia worked at Denver District Court as the Family Court Facilitator and served as a judicial law clerk. Julia volunteer guest lectures and provides trainings at Denver District Court and serves on the planning committee for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Annual Continuing Legal Education Conference. In her free time, she and her husband enjoy spending time with their two daughters, skiing, running, reading and traveling.



Deanna Myer | Investment Committee Chair

Deanna entered her Provisional year with the JLD in 1991 and has been active in JLD since then. She served on Sustainer Council and was the first Sustaining VP to serve on the JLD Board as a voting member. Deanna is starting her second term on the JLDF Board sitting on the Investment Committee each year and is currently serving as the Investment Committee Chair. Deanna has been in the investment industry since 1982. She is a Vice President with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management designing, implementing and monitoring customized wealth management strategy while managing investment risk. All in the pursuit of making goals reality.



Becky Schaub | Philanthropy Committee Chair

Becky was raised in Colorado Springs and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from University of Kansas. After graduating from KU, she moved to Denver and earned a Master of Science in Finance from University of Denver, Daniels School of Business. Seven years in the securities industry was a hard-earned career that she decided to leave behind in order to stay home with her children. For the past 10 years, she has been a stay-at-home mom, splitting her time between raising a family and finding her passion serving the community as a volunteer. Becky serves in different capacities on committees both at her children's school and in the community. She is involved with JLD, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Art Museum and The Garden Club of Denver. Becky, her husband Brian, and their two children, Carson and Whitney, enjoy spending their free time in Steamboat Springs skiing, hiking, and enjoying the mountain air. She also loves cheering on the Denver Broncos and working up a sweat on her Peloton. Becky has found a true passion in philanthropy and serving organizations that strive to help others pursue education and family support. She has recently engaged with organizations that embrace preservation of culture and arts in Denver.



Melanie Lewis Dickerson | JLD Past President

Melanie served as the 2020-2021 JLD President and has been in the League since 2012. She previously led the League's advocacy work as the Public Policy VP from 2017-19. As a Portfolio Lead for Community Solutions, Melanie works directly with communities and partners to build and improve systems to end homelessness using data, quality improvement and problem-solving tools from multiple sectors. She oversees a portfolio of large-scale change initiatives in the United States and abroad in addition to leading her team's real estate development strategy. Prior to joining Community Solutions in 2014, Melanie spent six years with the City and County of Denver where she served as the Partnerships Manager for Denver's Road Home, focusing on policy development, regional collaboration and strategic partnerships. She is the immediate Past President of both the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative and the Mile High Young Professionals. Melanie is a graduate of the 2015 Downtown Denver Leadership Program and Leadership Denver Class of 2017. In 2013, she was recognized as one of Colorado's Finest Young Professionals and received the Spotlight Award from Denver Human Services. Melanie was also recently named one of Colorado's Top 25 Most Influential Young Professionals by ColoradoBiz Magazine. She is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in Political Science and a graduate of the University of Colorado Denver with a Master of Public Administration where she was awarded the John C. Buechner Scholarship. When not at work, Melanie enjoys live music, community engagement and spending time with her husband, Josh, daughter, Carter, and dog, Houser.



Caryne Mesquita | JLD President

A Denver native, Caryne has been a member of the Junior League of Denver since 2013 where she participated in the Leadership Institute, served as General Meeting Chair, Board Secretary, Fundraising VP and most currently President. Caryne is a proud Clemson alum serving on the board of the Colorado Clemson Club. She also enjoys being a community volunteer, especially with the Denver Santa Claus Shop. Professionally, Caryne works in higher education as a Strategic Client Relationship Manager at Nelnet Campus Commerce. In her free time, she loves traveling, football and, being a true foodie, is always up for culinary adventure.



Lindsey Talafuse | JLD President-Elect

A Colorado native, Lindsey has been in the Colorado real estate business since 2009. She owns and operates a real estate team within Keller Williams and sits on the Board of Directors for Keller Williams Lone Tree. Lindsey is a graduate of Colorado State University with a Bachelor's in Business Management. Lindsey's passion outside of real estate is giving back in her community. In her personal time, Lindsey enjoys riding and showing horses, golfing and spending time with her husband and two daughters.

Lindsey has been in the League since 2013-14 and joined Fundraising Council in 2014-15, her first Active year. She has spent her time in the League on Mile High Holiday Mart, including serving as the event co-chair for two years, along with committee member placements on the Merchant and Operations Committees. Lindsey served as Fundraising VP last year, and currently serves as President-Elect on the Board. She has a love for fundraising and helping the League fulfill its Mission!



Isabelle Vargas | JLD Finance & Operations VP

A Denver native, Isabelle Pearson Vargas has been a member of the JLD since 2015. Since joining the League, Isabelle has served on the Finance & Operations Council as the financial forecaster and assistant fundraising treasurer before becoming Finance & Operations VP on the Board. In addition, she's had the opportunity to be a part of the Special Branding Committee and various cookbook committees. She graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with a degree from Leeds School of Business.

Isabelle had the opportunity to open the Four Seasons Hotel Denver and Vail as the credit manager, fueling her interest in finance and travel. After leaving the hospitality world, Isabelle and her now husband picked up and moved across the world to Bali, Indonesia where they spent a few lucky years travelling and exploring Asia. Returning home to Denver, Isabelle quickly dove into the nonprofit world of finance and worked at the home offices of Mercy Housing Inc., professionally fulfilling her love for philanthropy. Isabelle met her husband working with Four Seasons and they enjoy sharing their love for travel and each other with their son, daughter and German Shepard mix as often as they can.



Kimberly Eckert | JLDF Treasurer

Kimberly was raised in rural Montana and, after graduating from the University of Montana, spent 10 years in New York City working in investment banking and investment management, with a brief hiatus to New Hampshire to earn her MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. She moved to Denver in 2011 to be closer to the mountains where she continued her career in the natural resources industry. She currently runs her own natural foods start-up, Eva's Energy, and is the CFO of a thermal power generation start-up, Transitional Energy. Highlights of her Junior League career include Building for the Future Co-Chair, Publications Chair and reading tutor with the TutorMate program. In her

free time, Kimberly can be found skiing, climbing 14ers, or hiking with her dog, Spencer. She volunteers with the International Rescue Committee as a Family Mentor, coordinates the Tuck Alumni Chapter of Colorado

and volunteers with friends at various nonprofits in Denver as opportunities arise.



Kate Cihon | Member-at-Large

Kate Cihon joined the Junior League of New York City in 2003 to meet like-minded women after moving to the largest city in America. After joining, Kate served on the New Lease on Life Committee, which provided tools and resources to women incarcerated in the medium security women's prison located in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. This committee solidified the value of the trained volunteers the Junior League provides to community organizations in need of programming and resources. After relocating back to her home state in of Colorado in 2010 – Kate transferred to the Junior League of Denver. Kate served on the Cookbook Committee, three years on the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. Kate was raised in Colorado Springs and holds a Bachelor of Science in

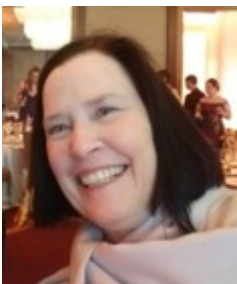
Journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of Colorado. Kate began her career in New York City working in public relations at Estee Lauder and Victoria's Secret Beauty. After eight years in New York she moved back home to join the family business of Financial Planning and Employee Benefits Administration. While she's not working or volunteering with JLD, Kate is very involved in her industry association, The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and serves as the Denver Association President. Kate, her husband Matt, and their two children, Reed and Darcy, enjoy all that Colorado life has to offer including skiing, hiking and cheering on the Denver Broncos and CU Buffaloes.



Jana Cuneo | Member-at-Large

Jana Cuneo is a retired healthcare fundraising professional who transferred to the Junior League of Denver in 2018 from the Junior League of Sacramento (JLS) to be near family. Jana served as president of the JLS and was recognized in 2013 as Sustainer of the Year for her work in establishing a JLS Endowment Fund and serving on the Fund's first Board of Directors. Earlier in her JLS career Jana was instrumental in establishing the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, which today has an asset balance in excess of \$173 million. In her professional life Jana served as the Major Gift Officer at Sacramento Medical Center Foundation and Director of Development for California

Pacific Medical Center Foundation in San Francisco. Jana earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science at California State Polytechnic University and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE).



Melissa Demos | Member-at-Large

Melissa Demos worked for Zions Bancorporation for 15 years in the credit division and mostly recently as the Chief Credit Officer for VectraBank Colorado where she is responsible for a \$3 billion loan portfolio. Prior to Zions Bancorporation and affiliates, Melissa was a credit executive for BBVA Compass and a Vice President lending to media and telecommunications industries for US Bank. Melissa started her lending career in Texas and later worked in Massachusetts. She currently is devoted to nonprofit work as a member of Women United and the JLD.



Janelle Lind | Member-at-Large

Janelle has been the COO and VP of Operations and Transition for a financial securities firm for over a decade. She spends her days working with financial advisors and state and federal regulators to make sure client investments are properly supervised. She is a problem solver at heart, always looking for a win-win situation for advisors and compliance (and yes, that is possible). Janelle is a Colorado girl, raised in Denver and a graduate of the Metropolitan State University of Denver where she earned a B.A. in History and an Associate's Degree in Speech Communication and Business Management. She earned a Master's Degree in Nonprofit Management from Regis University in 2008. When she is not occupied at the office, Janelle gives back as much as possible. She spends her Thursday nights at the USO Denver giving back to our military and their families, helps with medical mission in South America with Operation Smile and various other local projects such as Honor Flights, Habitat for Humanity and the JLD. When she's not working or giving back, you can find Janelle outside in Colorado's rugged mountain ranges, talking Disney with her eight amazing godchildren, traveling this incredible world or playing soccer.