



# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DENVER FOUNDATION

## 2022-2023 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.



**Kimberly Eckert** | Treasurer & Investment Committee Chair

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.



**Becky Schaub** | Member-at-Large & 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** | Member-at-Large

As a Portfolio Director 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 is a leader on the Built for Zero team, where she oversees a portfolio of large-scale change partnerships in the United States and abroad. 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.

In the community, Melanie is a recent Past President of the Junior League of Denver (2020-21), Metro Denver Homeless Initiative and Mile High Young Professionals. She is a graduate of the 2015 Downtown Denver Leadership Program and Leadership Denver Class of 2017. Melanie was also named one of Colorado's Top 25 Most Influential Young Professionals by *ColoradoBiz Magazine* in 2020 and one of *Denver Business Journal's* 2022 "40 Under 40" class. 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 goldendoodles, Houser and Marley.



**Caryne Mesquita | JLD Immediate Past President**

A Denver native, Caryne joined the JLD in 2013 to work together with like-minded women, giving back right here in her hometown. She has participated in the Leadership Institute, served as the General Meeting Chair, Board Secretary, Fundraising VP and the 103rd JLD President. All of these opportunities have left an indelible mark on her and she continues to thoroughly enjoy seeing the impact our inspiring members make in the community. Having graduated with both her BA and Master's degrees from Clemson University, she is a proud alum and served as President of the Colorado Clemson Club. Caryne led the campaign to create the first endowed scholarship for students attending Clemson from Colorado. She also enjoys being a community volunteer, especially with the Denver Santa Claus Shop.

In her role as the Manager of the Account Executives in the West for Nelnet Campus Commerce, she works collaboratively with her team and clients on problem solving, streamlining processes and maximizing their implemented solutions. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, football, spending time with family and friends, and being a true foodie, is always up for culinary adventure.



**Lindsey Talafuse | JLD President**

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 on the Board. She has a love for fundraising and helping the League fulfill its Mission!



**Claire Juneau | President-Elect**

Claire Juneau joined the Junior League in Winston-Salem, NC and transferred to Denver in 2014. While she has been a League member for eight years now, her relationship with Junior League began well before she joined in 2013. Claire's grandmother was a League member in North Carolina. Her mom is a Past President of Junior League of Miami and currently a Sustaining member in Nashville, TN. Claire has many memories of being surrounded by amazing League women and always knew positively impacting her community would be a top priority!

Claire graduated from Wake Forest University (Go Deacs!) in 2011 with a BA in Elementary Education. While living in North Carolina, Claire taught second grade at Morgan Elementary School during its inaugural years as a Winston-Salem Forsyth County Public School. Claire relocated to Denver after her husband, Dan, matched for his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado. In Colorado, Claire taught preschool at The Goddard School-Meridian and transitioned into administration as the Assistant Director. She is currently a Substitute Teacher for Boulder Valley Public School District and volunteers as a Social Committee Member for the Broadlands neighborhood HOA. Following Claire's Transfer year with the JLD, she was a member of the Read2Kids Committee, Provisional Course Committee: advisor (two years), step-up chair and chair, Membership Coordinator Co-Chair and, Membership VP and most recently, President-Elect. Claire lives in Broomfield with her husband, sons Grayson and Elliott, and Bernese Mountain Dog, Bella. She enjoys working alongside amazing League members, dessert, spooky movies, inspirational books, organizational and creative projects and staying active!





**Lauren O'Neill Crist-Fulk | JLD Finance & Operations VP**

Lauren O'Neill Crist-Fulk is a Colorado native with a passion for giving back. She joined the Junior League of Denver in 2006, where she has served in many different capacities on the Fundraising and Finance councils, including as the 2017-2018 Fundraising Vice President. Outside of the League, she is on the board of the Denver Santa Claus Shop and volunteers with Food for Thought.

In her day job, Lauren is the Sr. Director of Technology Business Operations at Visa and part of the site leadership team at Visa's Highlands Ranch office, where she has a leadership role with their Volunteer council and Diversity and Inclusion programs.

Lauren makes it a habit of saying "Why Not?" and you will often find her on an adventure around Denver, at a concert for a band you may have never heard of or hopping on a plane for a last minute trip. Her current goal is to visit all 50 states and she has five left, so if anyone is heading to Nebraska, North Dakota, Indiana, Iowa or Maine, let her know and she may meet you at the airport!



**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

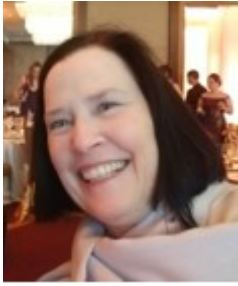
Science in Journalism and a Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of Colorado. Kate began her career in New York City working in public relations at Estee Lauder and Victoria's Secret Beauty. After eight years in New York, she moved back home to join the family business of Financial Planning 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 Fundraising Executive (CFRE).



**Melissa Demos | Member-at-Large**

Melissa Demos has a long track record in the financial services industry working for various financial institutions throughout her 40-year career. She has worked both in a direct loan generation role as well as portfolio management and credit approval roles. She came to Colorado in 1996 working for Colorado National Bank (now US Bank), primarily lending to the media and telecommunications sector, followed by Compass Bank (now PNC Financial Services Group Inc.) in a credit role. Most recently, she served as a regional credit executive for Vectra Bank Colorado, an affiliate of Zions Bank Corporation out of Salt Lake City, Utah. She retired from this role in 2019 and now volunteers with the

Junior League Foundation Board as well as Mile High United Way's Women United. She is married to husband, Mike and has two stepchildren, Carrie and Peter Demos, of Brooklyn, NY.



**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.