

Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority Board Member Bios

Newcombe Clark - Appointed to the Board in 2009

Newcombe Clark is an Ann Arbor native, a U of M graduate, and a downtown resident. In addition to his DDA duties, he's served as a board member on the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce, U of M Museum of Art, Ann Arbor Symphony, Michigan Theater, and as President of the Main Street Area Association.

Russ Collins – Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, appointed to the Board in 2005

Russ Collins is an Ann Arbor native who has been the Executive Director of the Michigan Theater since 1982. In addition, he serves on the State Street Area Association, teaches film at EMU, hosts "Cinema Chat" on WEMU, and presides at the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce's Early Edition program. He also created, and now operates, Art House Convergence.

Leah Gunn – Vice Chair, appointed to the Board in 1991

Leah Gunn is currently a Washtenaw County Commissioner and chair of the Urban County Executive Committee. She has also been involved with the 2000 Natural Areas Millage, the Greenbelt Campaign, and the District Library Millage Committee.

Robert Guenzel – Chair, appointed to the Board in 2010

Bob Guenzel is on the Board of Directors for Ann Arbor SPARK, teaches at the UM's Ford School and serves as Chair of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and Co-Chair of the Washtenaw County Health Initiative. Prior to coming to the DDA, he served as the Administrator for Washtenaw County for 16 years (retiring in 2010), the Chair of the Washtenaw Development Council, and the board member of the Alliance for Innovation Group, and Success by Six.

Roger Hewitt – Treasurer; Bricks, Money, & Transportation Co-Chair, appointed to the Board in 2004

Roger Hewitt owns two downtown businesses, Red Hawk and Revive and Replenish, and previously served on the Board of the State Street Area Association, and as a member of the Downtown Rezoning Steering Committee.

John Hieftje

John Hieftje is currently the Mayor of Ann Arbor. Mr. Hieftje has been a very active community leader, serving on the boards of numerous area organizations, including the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Michigan Theater, Huron River Watershed Council, and Lake Superior Conservancy and Watershed Council. He is the Co-Chair of the Washtenaw Metro Alliance, and has served as Chair of Recycle Ann Arbor and of Urban Core Mayors of Michigan.

Joan Lowenstein – Appointed to the Board in 2007

Joan Lowenstein is an attorney at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, located in the First National Building in downtown Ann Arbor. She also served on City Council from 2002-2008, doubling as a planning commissioner for part of that time.

John Mouat – Bricks, Money, & Transportation Co-Chair, appointed to the Board in 2007

John Mouat is a partner in the firm Mitchell and Mouat Architects, Inc., a downtown Ann Arbor firm specializing in Community Architecture. He has been active with a number of civic organizations and

served on the boards of City of Ann Arbor Housing Policy, Ann Arbor YMCA, Washtenaw Area Transit Study, and Ann Arbor Civic Theater.

Nader Nassif – Appointed to the Board in 2011. Nader Nassif, the owner of The Nassif Law Firm PLLC, partner at Model Cities Legal Services, and *of counsel* to Lorandos Joshi PC is a passionate member of the community in his downtown offices. Mr. Nassif paid his dues as an attorney at the Washtenaw County Public Defender's Office. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and enjoys playing and coaching tennis in his free time.

Keith Orr – Secretary, appointed to the Board in 2009

Keith Orr co-owns the \aut\ BAR as well as the Common Language Bookstore in downtown Ann Arbor and is actively involved with the Kerrytown District Association

Sandi Smith –Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, appointed to the Board in 2004

Sandi Smith is a current City Council member and a downtown business owner. She was the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project Director for 5 years, and has also served on the Ann Arbor Area Board of Directors.

John Splitt – Bricks, Money, & Transportation Co-Chair, appointed to the Board in 2006

John Splitt owns a small downtown business, Gold Bond Cleaners, and is an Ann Arbor native. He is also a board member of the State Street Area Association.