

Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority Board Member Bios

Micah Bartelme – Co-chair Finance Committee. Appointed to the board in 2019. Micah is the founder and CEO of BarStar Group, an entertainment and development investment company focused on hospitality and mixed use real estate, with properties including several downtown Ann Arbor bars and restaurants. Micah grew up walking to downtown from what is now Water Hill and is a proud Pioneer High graduate. He and his wife Devon have twin daughters.

Alexandra Dieck – Chair Capital Improvements Committee. Appointed to the board in 2019. Alex is an attorney with the Ann Arbor office of Bodman PLC. She focuses her legal practice on commercial real estate transactions, including land acquisition, land development and leasing, and general real property management. She serves on the board of directors of Friends in Deed, a Washtenaw County nonprofit that helps low-income individuals and families with utilities payments, furniture, and vehicle purchases, and more. Alex lives on the west side of Ann Arbor with her German Shepherd, Sammy.

Ji Hye Kim – Vice Chair of the Board and Co-chair Affordable Housing/Economic Development Committee. Appointed to the board in 2020. Ji Hye is the chef and managing partner of MISS KIM, a Korean restaurant inspired by Korean ancestors and Michigan farmers. She is a part of the Zingerman's Community of Businesses in Ann Arbor. After graduating from University of Michigan and a short but successful career in hospital administration, Ji Hye switched to the hospitality industry in 2008. Having trained at various Zingerman's businesses, she then went onto running an Asian Street food cart for 4 years before opening a brick and mortar location in 2016. She believes that service is an honorable profession and envisions a more sustainable and equitable future for the industry. Ji Hye is a semi-finalist for the James Beard Award Best Chef Great Lakes in 2020.

Tyler Kinley – Chair of the Board and Co-chair Operations Committee. Appointed to the board in 2018. Tyler is a vice president at Praxis Properties, a real estate management & development company that works throughout Washtenaw County. Tyler received a Master's in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, as well as graduated in the first year of the U of M Real Estate Development certificate program. Tyler is an Ann Arbor native, recently returning from 8 years in Seattle working in real estate management, and now lives downtown. Tyler is also on the USA Ultimate Board of Directors and coaches the University of Michigan Men's ultimate frisbee team.

Marie Klopff – Co-chair Finance Committee. Appointed to the board in 2015. Marie has more than 25 years' experience in operational design and organizational development. After having worked directly with Fortune 500 companies for 15+ years, in 2004 Marie founded Klopff Enterprises and then in 2007, iSupplyCon consulting services. Marie's current role as President of the Ann Arbor Art Center brings her business skills to a non-profit organization focused on infusing visual arts in and around Washtenaw County.

Jessica A.S. Letaw – Co-chair Affordable Housing/Economic Development Committee. Appointed to the board in 2018. Jessica curates conversations about the built environment among diverse audiences. Her marketing consultancy emphasizes placemaking, sustainability, and equity; she has published articles for such outlets as ArchDaily, Archinect, and Green Building & Design. She has served as an Ecology Center board advisory committee member, as well as a program partner to other local nonprofits like the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum and the Community Action Network of Ann Arbor. She provides local community architecture education programs, currently leads Ann Arbor YIMBY, and is in the process of founding Ann Arbor Architecture. Jessica lives and gardens near downtown.

Jonathan Massey – Co-chair Operations Committee. Appointed to the board in 2021. Jonathan is an accomplished architectural historian and authority on architecture and planning education. Through research and scholarly leadership, Dr. Massey shows how architecture shapes civil society, culture, and consumption. As dean at the University of Michigan’s Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, he leads some 100 faculty and 40 staff in educating more than 600 students across eight undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees. A resident of the DDA’s Kerrytown district, he aims to enhance the equity, density, vitality, and sustainability of Ann Arbor and other urban places.

Darren McKinnon –Appointed to the board in 2016. Darren is a vice president at First Martin Corporation which develops, owns, and manages real estate throughout Ann Arbor. He is a licensed professional engineer and has worked for various construction and design firms throughout his career. Darren lives in the Water Hill neighborhood and is on the board of the Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy.