

Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority Board Member Bios

Micah Bartelme – Board Chairperson. 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.

Steve Brummer – Board Vice Chairperson. Appointed to the board in 2022. Steve has been a dedicated public servant since the age of 16. His career began as a firefighter, working as a paid-on-call and later career firefighter in the cities of Hamtramck and Detroit. He also has served several years on the South Lyon Community Schools Board of Education. He completed both undergraduate and graduation programs at Eastern Michigan University, studying public administration. He currently works for the University of Michigan in Academic Human Resources. In his free time, he enjoys working on his home and spending time with his wife, Brianna, and their two dogs Lily and Emma.

Alexandra Dieck – 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 husband Tyler and their German Shepherd, Sammy.

Milton Dohoney Jr. – Appointed to the board in 2021. Milton is the City Administrator of the City of Ann Arbor. Prior to his arrival in Ann Arbor in October 2021, Milton served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Phoenix for seven years. His career spans over 35 years including serving as City Manager in Cincinnati, Chief Administrative Officer for the merged city-county government in Lexington, Kentucky, and performing as Deputy Mayor in Louisville. He has played an integral role in a variety of economic & community development projects in each of the communities where he's worked.

Angela Jackson – Appointed to the board in 2023. Angela is an owner of the law firm Hooper Hathaway, P.C. where she has practiced since graduating from the University of Michigan Law School in 1995. Ms. Jackson is a business litigator and her practice includes trade secrets and non-compete disputes, shareholder disputes, trademark disputes and contract disputes, among others. She also spends much of her time advising businesses and executives on employment matters, and defending lawsuits asserting claims of harassment, Fair Labor Standards Act violations, discrimination and other employment related claims. She lives in Ann Arbor Hills with her family, and enjoys fly fishing, backpacking, and hiking.

Tyler Kinley – 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.

Jessica A.S. Letaw – 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 and currently leads Ann Arbor YIMBY. Jessica lives and gardens near downtown.

Darren McKinnon – Appointed to the board in 2016. Darren is the President of DMC Real Estate Services where he provides real estate development, construction, and management consulting services for a variety of commercial and institutional clients. He is a licensed professional engineer and has worked for various development, construction, and design firms throughout his career. Darren lives in the Water Hill neighborhood with his wife and three children. He enjoys coaching and supporting his children’s various sporting activities.

Mike Michelin – Board Treasurer. Appointed to the board in 2022. Mike is the Executive Director of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival (A2SF), a performing arts presenter whose mission is to present arts and entertainment that enrich the cultural, economic, and social vitality of the region. Mike is a University of Michigan alum and occasionally teaches a course on Performing Arts Management in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Mike lives on the southside of Ann Arbor with his wife Rachelle and son Louis.

Thressa Nichols – Appointed to the board in 2022. Thressa is a People Operations leader working with Series A & B startups in the Ann Arbor tech community. She is a founding member and contributor to Shine&Rise, a local organization of over 300 members, focused on cultivating meaningful connections that elevate and bolster women in tech. She moved downtown six years ago from a small mid-Michigan town, and since seven other family members have all followed her to Ann Arbor. Thressa lives near Allmendinger Park and enjoys wandering downtown, riding bikes with her three-year old daughter, and gameday people watching.

Danielle Vaughn - Appointed to the board in 2022. Danielle is a local business owner; the director of IVEY. A non-binary hair salon. Focusing on self-care and inclusivity in the hair industry. A curated, certified safe space. Danielle lives on the North side of Ann Arbor, with her husband and two kids. Lover of travel, family, dogs, and good food.