

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.

Elisabeth Berry – Board Treasurer. Appointed to the board in 2024. Elisabeth is an operations and strategy executive, providing organizational and strategic support to early-stage companies across digital health, and emerging industries. As a c-suite team member with entrepreneurial ventures, she has experience managing operations, quality systems and compliance in highly regulated sectors, participating in both state regulatory compliance and federal regulatory reform efforts. Elisabeth serves on the board of directors for the S3 Collective, and the Young Professionals Board of the Autism Alliance of Michigan. She holds a BA in Economics from the University of Michigan, a graduate certification in Public Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a Healthcare MBA from George Washington University. Elisabeth lives on the west side of Ann Arbor with her spouse, Ben, and rescue puppy, Zuma.

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.

Steven Fisher - Appointed to the board in 2025. Steven is the co-founder of State & Liberty, a men's clothing company headquartered in Ann Arbor, and Oakside Cocktail Company, a bottled cocktail brand distributed nationwide. A University of Michigan graduate, he has remained closely connected to the Ann Arbor community, regularly collaborating with U-M students and mentoring young entrepreneurs. Passionate about downtown vibrancy and the arts, he is committed to supporting small business growth and strengthening Ann Arbor's economic and community vitality. Steven and his wife, Holly, have lived in downtown Ann Arbor since 2015.

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.

Kim Mayes – Appointed to the board in 2024. Kim Mayes is a native of Ann Arbor deeply invested in its downtown culture, with a robust entrepreneurial background. Kim is a co-owner of Human Electric Hybrids, LLC, an electric bike store featuring cargo bikes for families and businesses. While her academic journey took her through the University of Michigan's LS&A, her interests lie in transportation planning, policy, and climate justice advocacy. Kim's passion for sustainable urban solutions drives her work, introducing residents to the potential of Light Electric Vehicles. Beyond her professional endeavors, she finds joy in exploring the world and creating cherished memories with her grandchildren.

Mike Michelin – Board Vice Chairperson. 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 their sons Louis and Henry.

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.

Molly Rowan – Appointed to the board in 2025. Molly Rowan serves as the CEO of the Michigan and State Theaters in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She brings deep experience in the arts and culture sector, with a career spanning leadership, advocacy, and community-building initiatives. Previously, she successfully advocated for tax rebate legislation supporting the film industry across several western states and founded the Idaho Horror Film Festival, expanding platforms for independent filmmakers. At the Boise Film Foundation, she broadened support for independent film from pre- to post-production, strengthening the creative economy. Molly is deeply committed to building infrastructure that allows artists and creatives to thrive and remain anchored in their communities.