

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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President/Excom

Margit E. Whitlock AIA, LEED AP

Margit Whitlock, principal at Architectural Concepts, Inc. is responsible for creating the concepts that drive the creative process. Margit's professional experience includes all aspects of architecture, design and the building development. She is a licensed architect in California, Arizona, New York and Florida. She is an active member of ARDA (American Resort Developers Association) and past board member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) San Diego Chapter. She received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Oregon in urban planning and design. She extended her studies in Art History and Architecture at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.



Vice President/Excom

Matthew Geaman AIA, LEED AP

Matthew Geaman is a licensed architect in California and Illinois and Associate Principal at Joseph Wong Design Associates. Matthew was the 2014 President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) San Diego Chapter and is a past Board Member at AIA California Council and the La Jolla Music Society.



Treasurer/Excom

Maxine Ward AIA, LEED AP

Since joining Studio E Architects in 2007, Maxine Ward has served as Project Architect on a variety of the firm's notable projects, including multiple charter schools and sizable projects on university campuses in San Diego and Davis. Maxine brings strong organizational and communication skills in addition to design talent to her projects. She has almost twenty years of professional experience in all phases of various project types, from programming to construction administration and from schools to libraries. She is able to find creative solutions to complex programmatic requirements. With a design philosophy focused on finding value and energy and financial efficiency, Maxine endeavors to find thoughtful responses to the needs of the client and user for the long term.



Director/Excom

Kathy Breedlove

Kathy Breedlove is a licensed attorney working as a master planning consultant for the Hotel del Coronado. She holds a Master of Science in Executive Leadership degree from the University of San Diego and Ken Blanchard Companies. She is an active member of the Urban Land Institute San Diego/Tijuana, and previously served on the board of Circulate San Diego. She has a passion for mid-century modern architecture and enjoys spending time in Palm Springs.



Director/Excom

Kate Goodson

Kate Goodson is a designer, entrepreneur, and seeker of the next urban revolution. Kate founded POP/ARCH, a placemaking studio that works to transform under utilized public spaces into vibrant community assets. She holds a Master in Architecture from NewSchool of Architecture and Design and a BS in Neuroscience from Tulane University. She brings to the table a unique set of experiences and skills to see novel and complex projects through to completion. Kate also strives to make the practice of placemaking a collaborative, informative, and rewarding experience for everyone involved. She is actively working to spread inspiration and excitement about the placemaking movement in San Diego through her involvement in local community organizations.



Director/Excom

Laura Warner AIA

Laura Warner is a licensed architect and urban planner that hails from the Bay Area where she received her degree in Architecture from UC Berkeley in 1985. After running her own architecture firm for many years she joined forces with Catherine Smith, a communications specialist, to establish CityWorks. CityWorks is a multidisciplinary firm committed to the design of memorable places based on authentic stakeholder engagement. She is also an active volunteer that is committed to improving the quality of the built environment through advocacy and mentoring.

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Director of Development

Aimee Richer

Aimee's love for all things Architecture began over a decade ago during her position in human resources at a multidisciplinary design firm in London, UK. More recently she led fundraising and alumni relations for the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) in Los Angeles. She holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University Bloomington and a master's degree from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.



Director

Suzanne Clemmer

Suzanne Clemmer, Associate / Business Development Manager with DCI Engineers, has been an active member of the Architecture and Engineering industry for more than 17 years. Through the years, Suzanne has always been committed to giving back to the local community, and has done so through her work with the A/E/C industry. She held a Board position with Construction San Diego and the Society for Marketing Professional Services' (SMPS) San Diego Chapter. Suzanne is also an active member of the Urban Land Institute, the International Council of Shopping Centers, the SMPS and the Association for Women in Architecture + Design.



Director

Ben Dalton AIA

Ben Dalton received his BED from North Carolina State University and M-Arch from the University of Washington. In 2005, Ben joined the Miller Hull Partnership and relocated to San Diego in 2011 to help facilitate the first expansion studio for the partnership. He now operates as the design leader and a Principal in the San Diego Studio. He has a wide range of experience on highly complex and highly sustainable projects, including the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry, IDEA1 and Mesa Commons locally. Currently, Ben is involved in projects around the southwest including in Santa Monica, Arizona and in San Diego. He serves on the New School of Architecture San Diego Advisory Board and is a frequent speaker on the value of design and sustainability in the local community.



Director

Kevin deFreitas FAIA

As principal of Kevin deFreitas Architects, Kevin has had the good fortune of many exceptional collaborations resulting in a diverse portfolio of recognized projects, a public restroom on the sand in Ocean Beach for the City, a rammed earth chapel on the Rincon Indian Reservation, custom residences, urban infill rowhomes, and several commissions on the UCSD campus including Galbraith Hall, Warren College bridges, and Computer Science + Engineering renovations. He greatly enjoys live music, sharing a meal with just about anybody, laughing out loud, and coaching a variety of youth sports that one of his four children happen to be playing.



Director

Laura DuCharme-Conboy AIA, LEED AP

Laura DuCharme-Conboy is a licensed architect, principal of DuCharme Architecture, which she founded in 1992. Laura's work has won prestigious awards and been featured in numerous publications. She serves on the board of the La Jolla Historical Society, chairing the Education committee, which annually conducts Young Architect Summer Camps for middle school and high school students. Laura was a founding board member of Built Environment Education Program (BEEP), San Diego, a non-profit dedicated to introducing architecture, planning, and urban design related topics to school-age students, active in developing and conducting BEEP workshops on architecture, most recently in conjunction with the Irving Gill Collaborative.

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Director

Nathan Elliott ASLA, LEED AP

Nathan Elliott is a Principal with the Office of James Burnett in Solana Beach, California and has led the design and management of urban parks, corporate headquarters, academic landscapes and mixed-use projects across the United States. Originally drawn to landscape architecture by his love for plants, Nathan's role in the firm has evolved to reflect his passion and aptitude for public speaking, marketing and business development. A pragmatic optimist, Nathan enjoys the challenges faced by difficult sites, complex programs and challenging regulatory environments. Nathan received his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University.



Director

Michelle Harrison-McAllister

Michelle has been involved in the Marketing, Branding and Interior Design for Multifamily For Rent and For Sale projects since 1999. She believes each project has it's own unique personality and style that Michelle is tasked to bring to life, whether it be a new construction or remodel. She has always been involved with her community from The Bridge for Homeless Teens to Board of Directors for Canyon Crest Academy. Her infectious enthusiasm shows in every aspect of her life.



Director

Maddy Kent MacElwee

As founder and CEO of The Lighting Element, Maddy Kent MacElwee is leading a team at a new lighting agency in San Diego. A San Diego Native since 1977, Maddy and her husband have 4 kids in college, are enjoying their empty nest and are avid fans of the LA (formerly San Diego) Clippers.



Director

John Martinez

John Martinez, designer at Carrier Johnson + Culture, has worked on some of the largest projects in the city including Ballpark Village, 7th & Market, and the SDSU Mission Valley Masterplan. John's experience ranges from mixed-use, residential, retail, hospitality, civic, and educational facilities to master planning, entitlement, and landscape design. He has been a speaker at RealShare San Diego and guest lecturer at UCSD, SDSU, and the Newschool of Architecture + Design. John's passion is connecting local students to our network of professionals and has led the student mentorship program for the commercial real estate association; NAIOP. Outside of his obsession with architecture, John enjoys San Diego's incredible weather by sailing and kayaking in the bay.



Director

David McCullough RLA, ASLA

David McCullough, a graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, formed McCullough Landscape Architecture (MLA) as a sole proprietorship in 1999. As principal landscape architect, David oversees all aspects of the design and production of firm projects at MLA. Previous projects have earned awards and recognition in several national publications. He currently serves as Chair of the Pecha Kucha Night program in San Diego, which is on its seventh successful year. He finds it inspiring to take part in such a diverse mix of creative minds while bringing them together to share with the public.



Director

Anne Militante

A new board member, Anne Militante is SDAF's Director of Student Outreach. A full-time architecture student at Southwestern College, Anne is a veteran of the Open House! San Diego planning committee. She also volunteers for ASID, lending a hand at numerous meetings and events. Anne is committed to increasing awareness and enthusiasm for all things architecture- and design-related in San Diego.

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Director

Brandon Nash AIA, WELL AP

A Project Architect and design leader at RJC | Steinberg Hart, Brandon Nash brings 7 years of experience including awarding winning projects and large scale developments for a myriad of typologies. After graduating from NewSchool of Architecture & Design with Bachelor's of Architecture degree in 2013, Brandon earned his license in 2016, and became a WELL AP in 2018. His completed work includes exemplary design and awarding projects such as: 9001 SMB Mixed Use, V4 Townhomes, and Kings 826. He is currently working with a multidisciplinary team to design of a new 1 billion dollar, Net Zero, SEAL Teams base called Naval Base Coronado Coastal Campus (NBC CC).



Director

Gerald Shonkwiler AIAE

Gerald 'Jerry' Shonkwiler, long-time San Diego resident, photographer and retired architect received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Arizona in 1973. Jerry's architectural project experiences include public projects, corporate clients, military facilities, design/build projects, office buildings, schools, religious facilities, libraries, master planning, project programming services and residential work. While managing his own firm, or serving as Principal with other firms, several of his projects have won local and national design awards. Since his retirement from Architecture, his photographic work has won several national and international awards; his photographs have been featured in national publications and calendars; and his work has been exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, Portland and San Diego.



Director

Roger Showley

Roger Showley, a third-generation San Diegan and graduate of UC San Diego, recently retired after 44 years as a writer at the Union-Tribune. Roger covered growth and development, encompassing commercial development; redevelopment; major public projects; planning; architecture; urban design; and historic preservation. For most of his career he wrote about the region's major projects, public and private, and the controversies that accompanied all of them. Roger has written three books on San Diego history. In retirement, Roger plans to freelance for the UT and has several book projects that are in the works.



Director

Carmen Vann LEED AP BD+C

As Project Executive at Suffolk Construction, Carmen Vann has over 20 years of construction experience. Carmen's track record includes the successful management of numerous complex and prolific construction projects with fast track schedules, most notably, leading the construction of the San Diego New Central Library. She recently completed construction on the Sempra Energy Headquarters Project and headed up efforts on one of downtown newest 36 story residential high rises, Ballpark Village. With her demonstrated leadership skills, she is one of the most accomplished women in construction in the region.



Administrator

Gitte Russo

Behind every great organization is a stellar support person. Gitte Russo has been the Administrator for SDAF for 4 years - a complex role where she wears many hats and takes care of all things operational. Educated at California State University, Chico, along with her 20 years in the industry, she is invaluable to the SDAF organization. Through her consulting firm, Urban Admin, she currently serves as the Administrator for several organizations in local urban development, planning and design.