

2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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PRESIDENT/EXCOM



Margit E. Whitlock AIA, LEED AP
Architectural Concepts, Inc.

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



Kathy Breedlove
Malick Infill Development

Kathy Breedlove is a licensed attorney with a background in Planning and Entitlements. As Director of Planning for Malick Infill Development, Kathy helps to envision and bring to life innovative mixed-use transit-oriented developments. Kathy has also had a long-standing role in the Master Plan for future development at the Hotel del Coronado, currently serving as the Director of Master Plan Communications. Kathy has a passion for mid-century architecture and enjoys spending time in Palm Springs.

SECRETARY/TREASURER/EXCOM



Maddy MacElwee
The Lighting Element

Maddy MacElwee is the founder and owner of The Lighting Element, a commercial lighting manufacturer's representative agency who exclusively represents Philips in San Diego as well as many other great lighting lines.

She founded the company at the end of 2016, having previously been the district sales manager for Philips with 30 years of experience in the lighting industry. Maddy has been on the BOD for SDAF since 2016 and is currently the Treasurer. Maddy and her husband Scott, who joined TLE as VP in 2018 are enjoying their empty nest, the journeys of their 5 adult children, their work family at The Lighting Element, and their home and office dog, a rescue boxer named Hilde.

DIRECTOR/EXCOM



Ben Dalton AIA
Miller Hull

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.

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David McCullough RLA, ASLA
McCullough Landscape Architecture

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/EXCOM

Maxine Ward AIA, LEED AP
Studio E Architects

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

Suzanne Clemmer
DCI Engineers

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

Kevin deFreitas FAIA
KdA Architects

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.

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Laura DuCharme-Conboy AIA, LEED AP
DuCharme Architecture



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.

DIRECTOR

Matthew Geaman AIA, LEED AP
JWDA



Matthew Geaman is a licensed architect in California and Illinois and Principal at JWDA. 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.

DIRECTOR

Michelle Harrison-McAllister
Michelle Harrison Design



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

John Martinez
Carrier Johnson + CULTURE



John Martinez, Associate 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.

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DIRECTOR

Anne Militante

Student – Southwestern College

Anne Militante is 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.



DIRECTOR

Brandon Nash AIA, WELL AP

RJC Steinberg Hart

A project architect and design leader at RJC Steinberg Hart, Brandon 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

Jose Parral

Woodbury University, School of Architecture, San Diego Campus

Jose Parral is a designer and educator with an MA in Landscape Urbanism from the Architectural Association School of Architecture 2001, recipient of the Kate L. Brewster Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture, American Academy in Rome 2007, and visiting professor at Ohio State School University Knowlton School of Architecture 2005-2006. He has worked at various landscape architecture firms throughout California. Projects include the Getty Center in Los Angeles California and Petco Park in San Diego. Jose also collaborated with Artist Thomas Glassford in 2005 for a project along the US / Mexico border. Jose currently operates a small design practice and serves as associate professor at Woodbury University San Diego, California (since 2008) and Chair of the School of Architecture, San Diego Campus (since 2018).



DIRECTOR

Gerald Shonkwiler AIAE

Jerry W. Shonkwiler Photography

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.



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DIRECTOR

Roger Showley

Freelance Writer



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

Michael Thorpe

Dunn Premier



As an experienced Financial Officer with an in depth understanding of both commercial and residential loan origination, Michael has developed strong relationships within the banking and lending industry which continue to support Dunn Premier and its client's. Mastering the processes of financial analysis and loan origination, Michael's expertise in underwriting techniques is unparalleled. As President of Dunn Premier, Michael is committed to providing clients with access to superior products and services along with creating an affluent work place for his employees.

DIRECTOR

Carmen Vann LEED AP BD+C

BNBuilders



As a Regional Project Executive with BNBuilders, with over 20 years of construction experience, Carmen is a proven leader in the construction industry. Her track record includes the successful management of numerous complex and prolific construction projects within San Diego, most notably, leading the construction of Park 12, the San Diego New Central Library and Semptra Energy Headquarters. Carmen most recently lead efforts on Stella and Bluewater, 160 units of much needed affordable housing in San Diego. Collectively, Carmen has lead construction efforts on varying project types valued over \$850M within the San Diego region, providing phase planning, constructability reviews, construction planning, system analysis and field management. With Carmen's demonstrated leadership skills, she is one of the most accomplished women in construction in the region.

DIRECTOR

Laura Warner AIA

CityWorks



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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ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

A shout out to our awesome professional team:

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.

OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Beth Geraci

New to SDAF, Beth Geraci is jumping into a brand new role of Operations and Communications Manager. A graduate of Medill School of Journalism with a career in journalism and marketing, she feels very much at home in the architecture community. In attending events such as PechaKucha Nights, modern home tours and OH! San Diego, Beth found inspiration and applied it to her own writing. A board member of AIGA San Diego, Beth has an appreciation for design. She looks forward to combining her personal and professional interests through SDAF.