

BOARD SLATE

2025 MCF Board Applicants



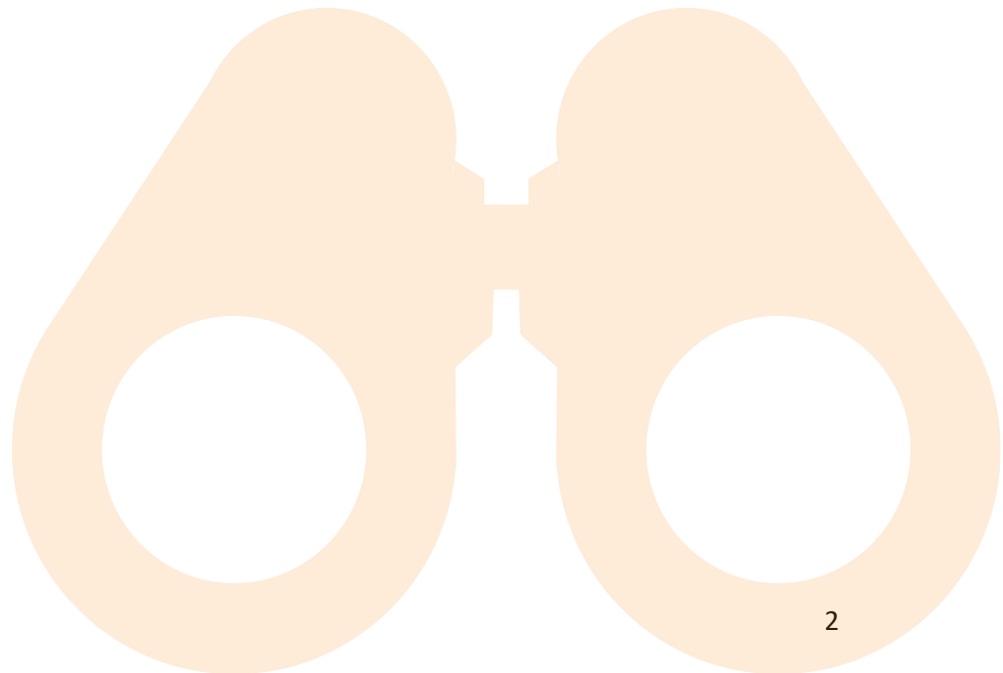


CHRIS ROMANO

Chief Operating Officer
Bush Foundation

For election to a first three-year term in the class of 2025.

Chris is the Chief Operating Officer for the Bush Foundation and provides leadership and integration across many of the organization’s functional and operational areas – including finance, investments, talent/HR, communications and operations. Before joining the Foundation in 2022, Chris served as the Executive Director for Seward Redesign, a community development corporation that leads real estate and economic development initiatives in South Minneapolis. Prior to that, he was the Chief Operating Officer for the Center for Economic Inclusion. His experience also includes diverse leadership roles at Thrivent Financial and as the Executive Director of the Riverview Economic Development Association. He has provided leadership to multiple Boards of Directors and community committees. Christopher is an alumnus of the Peace Corps and served as a small business consultant in Nicaragua. As a 2010 Bush Fellow, Christopher received his MBA from the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School. A long-time resident of south Minneapolis, he enjoys spending time camping, fishing, and in the parks and lakes around Minnesota with his wife and their three teenage children.





NANCY FASCHING

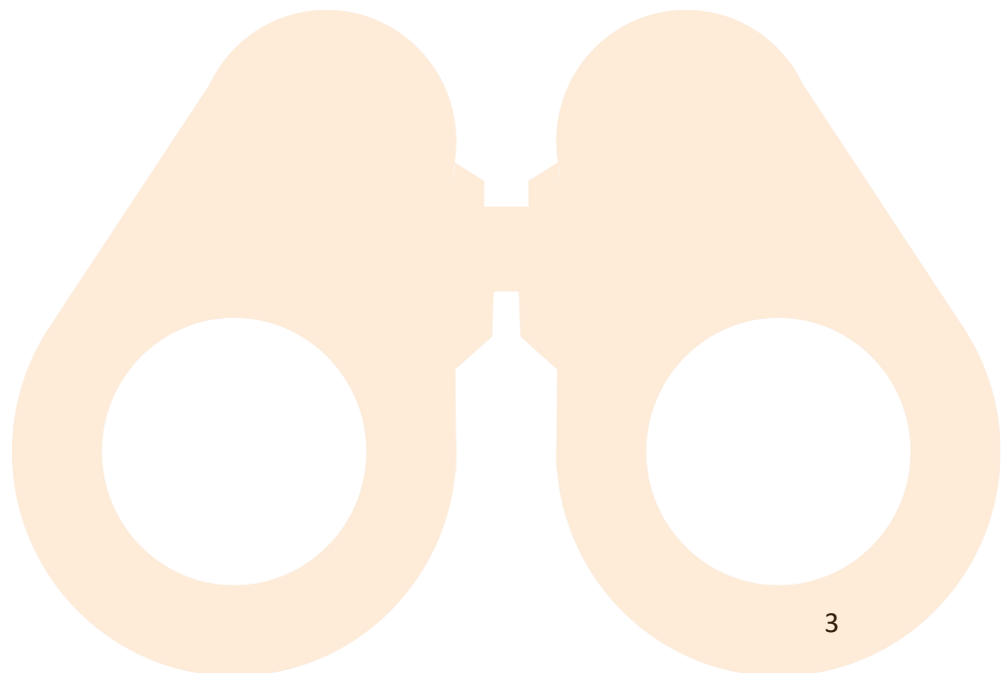
Vice President for Community Impact
Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF)

For election to a first three-year term in the class of 2025.

Nancy Fasching is the Vice President for Community Impact at the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) serving rural southwest Minnesota. For 23 years, she has worked with the grantmaking program and currently leads the Foundation's community impact and grant programs, along with research and learning for strategic initiatives. Nancy also oversees funding procurement for programmatic opportunities and serves on SWIF's leadership team, managing the strategic direction of the organization's mission and developing partnerships that strengthen rural community development.

Nancy has a passion for communities and people coming together, especially to create systems and opportunities where all residents thrive and meet their full potential for current and future generations. She is of and for rural places.

Nancy earned her degree in organizational management and geography from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn. She serves as the Past President of the United Community Action Agency board of directors and the Winsted Economic Development Commission, helped found the Winsted Arts Council and is an alumna of the Blandin Community Leadership Program.



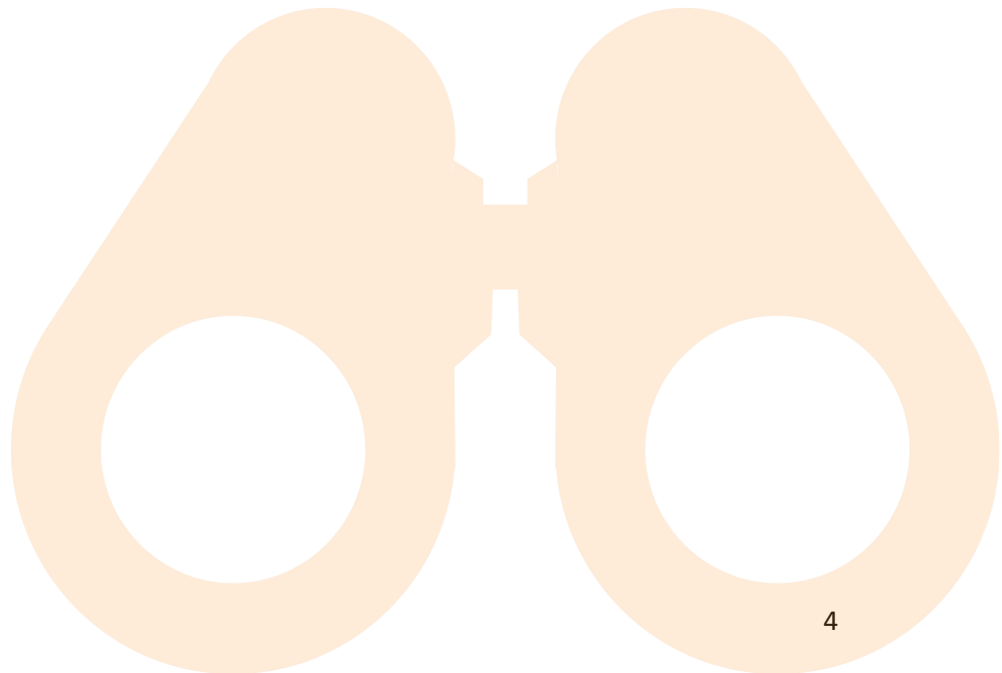


FAYISE ABRAHIM

Director of Strategic Initiatives
Youthprise

For election to a first three-year term in the class of 2025.

As the Director of Strategic Initiatives at Youthprise, Fayise works to advance key organizational initiatives and special projects by joining coalitions, task forces, and workgroups to advance the mission of Youthprise. Fayise also oversees the Youth Entrepreneurship Grant and Youth Cooperative Homeownership Cohort. Over the last ten years, her work has been focused on racial justice, youth advocacy, community-based participatory research and evaluation. She is passionate about advocating for economic justice and volunteering in rural MN where she was raised and has deep roots. She is a board member for MN Seeds of Justice a non-profit based in Worthington, MN and DanSan Creatives. She has her degree in Sociology from Amherst College. Outside of work, Fayise is a published poet, and songwriter who enjoys playing the krar--a traditional Ethiopian instrument--and spending time outdoors, rain or shine, with her husband and daughter.





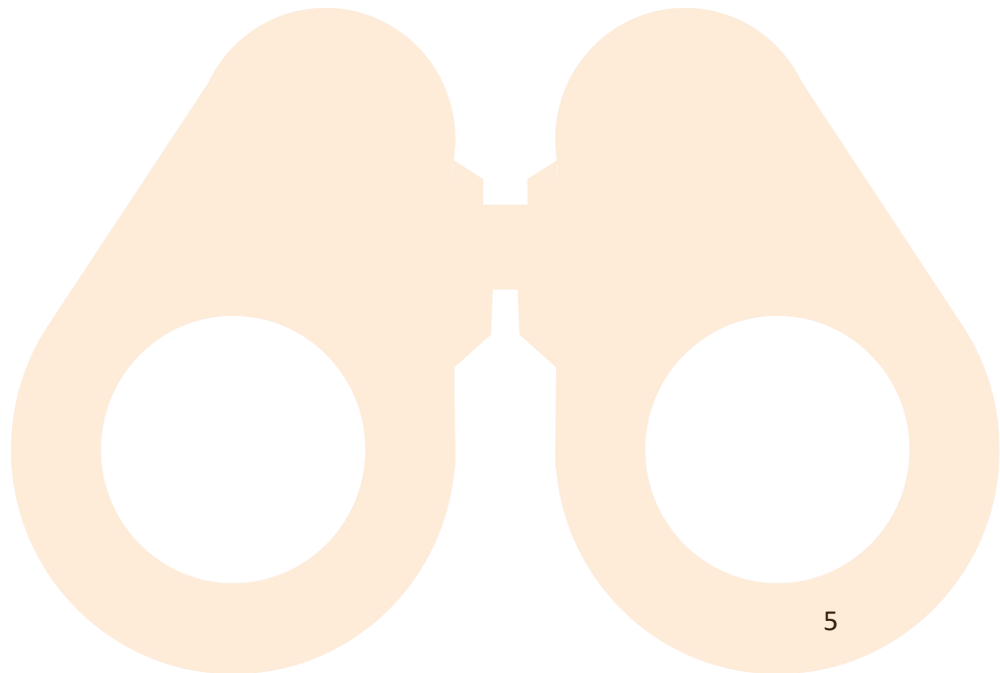
KENNA POPPLER

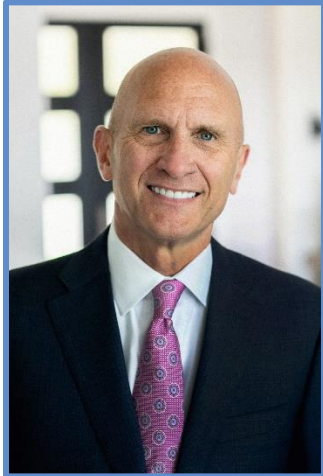
Director of Community Engagement
Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America

For election to a first three-year term in the class of 2025.

Kenna Poppler is director of Community Engagement at Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America. In this role she is focused on creating meaningful community impact by reducing barriers to economic inclusion through charitable giving and employee engagement. With more than fifteen years of progressive experience in corporate social responsibility, she is skilled at fostering strategic cross-sector partnerships. She is committed to catalyzing the work of nonprofit partners in the Twin Cities by facilitating processes, identifying resources, and bringing together stakeholders. Kenna joined Allianz Life in 2021 following fifteen years at U.S. Bank.

Kenna holds a bachelor's degree in International Studies and French from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota and is a Policy Fellow alumna of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Kenna spends her weekends building LEGOs and playing Pokémon with her husband and two young sons. In her spare time, she reads memoirs, listens to podcasts, and enjoys traveling and local art.





JOHN WILGERS

President and CEO
Greater Twin Cities United Way

For election to a second three-year term in the class of 2025.

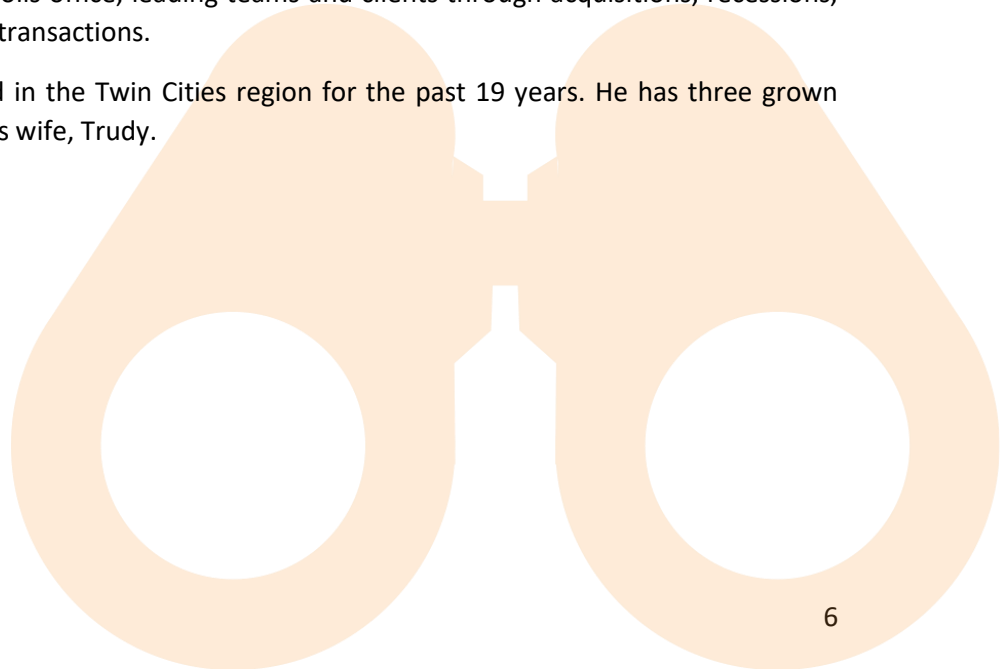
John Wilgers joined Greater Twin Cities United Way as President and CEO in 2019 to lead the organization through the next phase of its transformation. With the mission of uniting changemakers, advocating for social good and developing solutions to address the challenges no one can solve alone, John and his team lead United Way's 211 resource helpline, nonprofit partnerships, advocacy efforts, innovation initiatives, and business and individual donor partnerships.

Additionally, John oversees United Way's community impact strategy, direct-service offerings, revenue diversification, and fundraising initiatives to help fuel lasting change in the nine-county Twin Cities region and create a community where all people thrive regardless of income, race or place.

As a passionate community advocate and changemaker, John has served in several United Way roles for 10 years prior to joining Greater Twin Cities United Way, including board chair, member of the executive committee of the board, volunteer, fundraiser and donor. Additionally, John currently serves on the board of the Minnesota Orchestral Association, the St. Paul Area Chamber and the Minnesota Council on Foundations.

Previously, John spent 35 years at Ernst & Young (EY) where he most recently held the position of managing partner of the Minneapolis office, leading teams and clients through acquisitions, recessions, turnarounds and other significant transactions.

A native of Kansas, John has lived in the Twin Cities region for the past 19 years. He has three grown children and lives in Orono with his wife, Trudy.



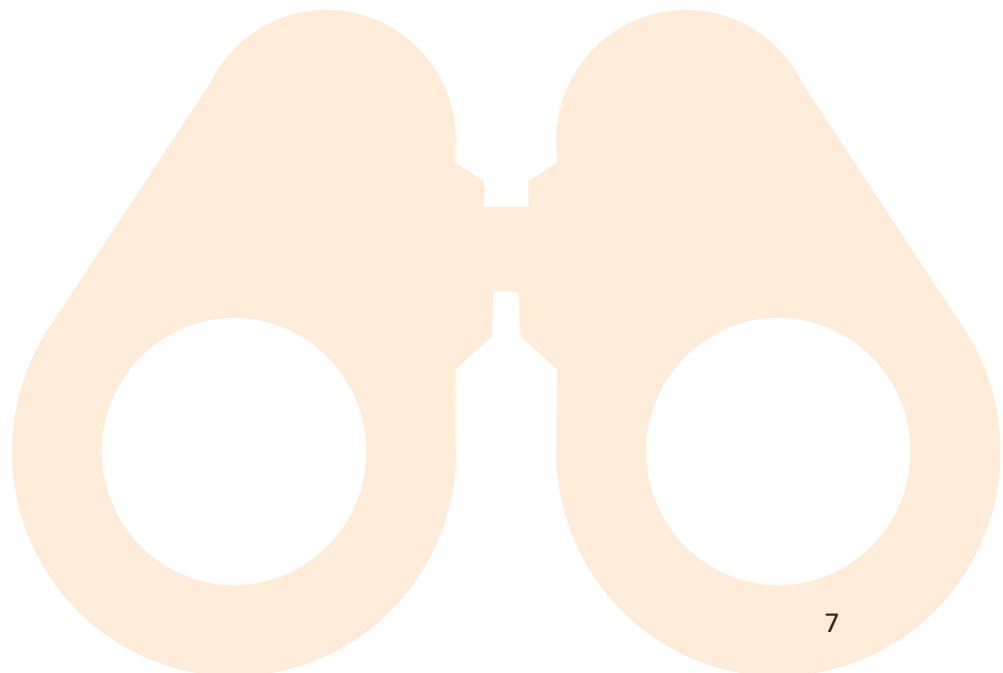


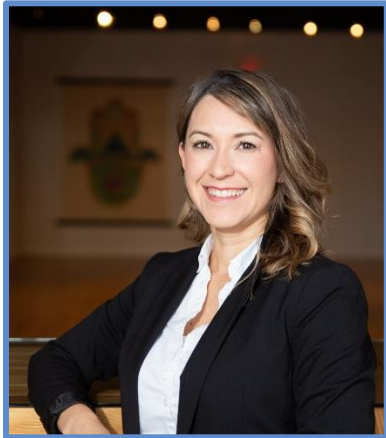
SARAH BERGER

Senior Program Officer
McKnight Foundation

For election to a second three-year term in the class of 2025.

Sarah Berger is a Sr. Program Officer at the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis. Currently she works in both the Arts and Culture Program and with McKnight family members on individual giving goals. During her almost 20 years at the Foundation Sarah has dug deep into equitable grantmaking, decreasing funding barriers, streamlining grantmaking practices, and jointly working with her team toward justice and the value of artists and culture bearers. During her tenure, Sarah has worked with the 11 Regional Arts Councils across the state, shepherded the Distinguished Artist Award panel process, and participated in field-building initiatives throughout Minnesota as well as nationally. She is dedicated to equitable grantmaking practices and is deeply interested in decreasing barriers to funding, including being a founding member of the Racial Equity Funders Collaborative in Minnesota. Since 2019 she has served on the Propel Nonprofits fiscal sponsorship and loan committee, and is currently the Treasurer for Tofte Lake Center in Ely. Additionally, she has been a class instructor at the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University.





FLOR TREVIÑO FREY

President

Frey Foundation of Minnesota

For election to a second three-year term in the class of 2025.

Flor was elected president of Frey Foundation of Minnesota in 2021 and is the first member of the third generation of the family to lead the overall strategic direction and management of the Foundation. In her role, Flor leads the staff team and works closely with the board of directors to help actualize the family's philanthropic intent.

Flor earned her MBA from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business and brings a unique mix of corporate, nonprofit, entrepreneurial, and lived experience to her role. She began her career as a development manager with the American Cancer Society and more recently led 3M's iconic Scotch brand's new product development and innovation, with work in the health and wellness industry and at a tech startup along the way. Flor is mission-driven and currently serves on various boards in the community such as the Minnesota Council on Foundations, Ed Allies, and the Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative.

