

## COMMUNITY BOARD BOUND CANDIDATES – FALL

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**Marie Williams**  
**Appellate Attorney & Founding**  
**Member**  
**Moore Williams PLLC**

As a result of her personal experiences, Marie is passionate about several issues affecting children and families, and access to justice. Marie has practiced law for nearly 20 years, including 9 years as an equity partner in one of the 100 largest law firms in the U.S. Her practice currently focuses on appeals and critical legal issues. She earned her J.D. at the University of Colorado School of Law, and her B.S. in Mathematics at Wake Forest University. Marie has personal experience with prematurity, adoption, and the development of girl leaders. She currently volunteers as a troop leader, service unit manager, and Membership Connection Committee member with Girl Scouts of Colorado. Marie previously served on the NICU Family Advisory Committee at Children's Hospital Colorado; was a board member for her homeowner's association; and a founding board member for Open Space Golden, Ltd. In connection with her law practice, Marie developed a Medical-Legal Partnership at Children's Hospital Colorado and served as its Legal Team Leader. Marie personally has represented pro bono clients in a multitude of cases both through that MLP and otherwise; her proudest moment as a lawyer was when she obtained political asylum for a refugee from Rwanda.

**Board Interests:** Girl Leadership, Children's Healthcare, Special Education, Prematurity, Adoption, Access to Justice

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**Sarah Vonnahme**  
**Vice President, Consulting Services**  
**Cura HR**

Sarah Vonnahme is a Principal Human Resources Consultant and Vice President of Consulting Services for Cura HR, a human capital consulting organization based outside of Boulder, CO. Sarah brings 20 years of experience in HR leadership, organizational development, project management and talent acquisition. A key member of the Cura HR team since returning to CO in 2010, Sarah provides strategic HR consulting to small and mid-sized organizations in various industries including start-ups, private equity and non-profit. In her current role, Sarah is responsible business development, strategic project and resource management as well as partnering with leadership team regarding organizational strategy. Sarah graduated from the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business with a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management and Marketing. She has also earned several professional designations including her Professional in Human Resources certification (PHR) and SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP). Sarah was selected to be a member of the University of Colorado's Women's Council where she spends time as a volunteer for the Leeds Business School's students. She also volunteers her time to Girl Scouts, the Parent Teacher Associations at her children's schools and her church.

In her free time Sarah enjoys spending time with her family and friends, hiking, yoga, live music, cooking and travel.

**Board Interests:** Youth Development, Education, Employment, Animal Welfare, Women and Children, Health and Wellness

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**Kay Gilbert**  
**Nonprofit Development**  
**Consultant**  
**Realtor, Madison & Co. Properties**

Kay has fifteen years' experience in nonprofit management and has contributed countless hours in voluntarism at various levels. Starting out in her early 20's as a PR professional in Denver, her career changed to nonprofit programs, volunteer management and fundraising. The opportunities that followed include forming a regional American Cancer Society office in central Washington and managing its three boards and 150 volunteers, providing marketing and PR for Tulane Cancer Center, writing development and marketing plans for various organizations. Kay is resourceful in providing solutions to issues within the community she is serving. Experience and understanding of the demands on women and children today drive her primary interest toward promoting safe environments and opportunity for their individual prosperity and fulfillment. Kay has a degree in Business Administration from Regis University and has lived throughout the U.S., in a remote jungle of Indonesia, and traveled internationally. This combination has helped give Kay tactical insight to solutions in cultural and societal barriers. Exploring and learning from individuals and cultures is her passion. Kay understands the circumstances surrounding health, wellbeing and safety are apt to change in one's lifetime and feels it her duty to provide assistance to those in need where she can have a positive impact.

**Board interest:** Women's Safety and Empowerment, Divorced/divorcing Women Seeking Confidence and Stability Toward Home Ownership, Child Safety and Stability, Education, and Health

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**Charissa**  
**Pilster**  
**Operations Manager,**  
**Customer Success**

Charissa Pilster started her journey as a big picture taker and pivoted to become a big picture thinker. Her weird but cool photographic style has given her an opportunity to tell stories and help those struggling after three major hurricanes, to documenting the journey of a church group recovering after their church building burned down among others. Her adventure started with a degree in photojournalism from San Jose State and a trip across the country to Daytona Beach, Florida. At the end of 2017 she moved from Kansas to Denver. For the past decade she has been a business owner at Pilster Photography and Operations Manager in the IT and Telecom industries. Her current side project, while she is in-between careers, is [msnetworker.com](http://msnetworker.com). It's mission is to help empower women by being a resource to all of the women's business organizations around Denver. Her strengths lie in process development, growth strategies, creative marketing, sales and relationship building. She is a member of the Colorado Women's Chamber Engagement Committee and a frequent volunteer. Charissa has a strong love for health and sport as an active triathlete herself and volunteered recently at the Colorado Classic during its first year of being an all-women's race.

**Board Interests:** Women's Rights and Issues, Health and Well-Being of Children, Fitness/Health/Wellness, Startups

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**Melanie Williams**  
**Financial Advisor**  
**Edward Jones**

Melanie Williams is a passionate, devoted, advocate for financial literacy, empowerment, and strategic planning as she fulfills the role of Financial Advisor for Edward Jones in Colorado. Her commitment is fueled through her life experiences and travels beginning with her bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Then continuing onto graduate school at the University of Westminster in London, England. She then grew to lead business development and sales teams globally. Her experiences with both developing and first world nations have informed her perspective on the magnitude of economic power. It is also through her own occurrences with overcoming adversity, breaking barriers, and claiming victory that she is inspired to also help people with social justice, equity, and education innovation. Melanie also enjoys exploring the world with her daughter through travel, food, and adventure such as whitewater rafting.

**Board interest:** Economic Development, Education, Technology

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**Judith Ackerman**  
**Corporate Engagement &**  
**Marketing Officer**  
**Metro Caring**

Judith is a strategic thinker and relationship builder who's lifelong love of food brought her to Metro Caring, an innovative anti-hunger organization serving the Denver metro area. As Corporate Engagement & Marketing Officer, she leads corporate partnerships, strategic communications, and events. A believer that food is a right, not a privilege, Judith brings her gift for storytelling and inspiring others to her public speaking work. A natural problem-solver, Judith is passionate about building relationships and connections for the greater good. Prior to Metro Caring, Judith spent over 18 years leading the event and marketing strategy for various Fortune 500 companies, including Morgan Stanley and most recently Goldman Sachs. Judith has always had a passion for helping others. She has been a nationally recognized fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) since 2011 and has run six marathons and numerous other races through LLS' Team in Training program. When Judith is not trail running in the Front Range while training for an ultramarathon, she can be found gardening, reading, or hanging out with her cat Holly.

**Board Interests:** Health and Human Services (focus on basic needs), Outdoor Recreation/Environment, Nutrition

**Contact Information:** 303-350-3630 ♦ [jackerman@metrocar.org](mailto:jackerman@metrocar.org)

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**Tracy Pike**  
**Financial Services, Investment**  
**Management**

Tracy Pike is an experienced financial services professional with 20+ years of investment management experience in analytical, product management, leadership and sales support roles. Most recently, as a vice president at Charles Schwab Investment Management, Tracy led the \$25 billion sub-advisor oversight business performing quantitative and qualitative due diligence. She was responsible for presenting to Boards and Investment Committees and representing the research team to clients and consultants. She has also held positions at Janus Capital Group (now Janus Henderson) and Merrill Lynch. Tracy has strong relationship management skills and a proven ability to get things done in large global organizations. She previously spent time volunteering with a local non-profit in northern India that seeks to empower marginalized women by teaching them practical skills and providing employment and emotional support. Tracy is actively involved with her church and currently teaches in the children's ministry. She also serves as the Director of Community Engagement on the Board of the Parent Teacher Organization at Southmoor Elementary. Tracy holds an MBA from Columbia University and a BS in Mathematics from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter holder and a member of the CFA Society of Colorado. Tracy enjoys spending time with her two children, ages 6 and 8.

**Board Interests:** Youth Development, Women and Children, Homelessness. Education

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**Valerie Conard**  
**Sr. Director PMO**  
**Ardent Mills, LLC**

Valerie has more than a 25-year career spanning fields of accounting, global strategic sourcing, procurement, global software implementation and project management in support of the food manufacturing industry. Over her career, she has managed over eight hundred million dollars per year in global spend spanning many categories of SG&A and COGS. As the Business Unit Procurement Manager for Cargill Corn Milling, she developed a supplier diversity initiative to grow business and mentor small, diverse-owned companies. Valerie is currently responsible for the development, management, and delivery of projects to fulfill the long-term strategy of Ardent Mills, LLC. Valerie's passion is to share her personal and leadership journey as a career oriented, mother of four children by mentoring future leaders. Valerie is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with BS in Accounting. Valerie has previously served on a regional board of directors for the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council in Omaha, NE.

**Board Interests:** Youth Development, Food/Agriculture & Nutrition, Women and Children

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**Denise M. Balkas**  
**Executive Leader for**  
**Governmental, Nonprofit & Public**  
**Policy Agencies**

Denise has worked in executive capacities at five governmental and public policy agencies in the Denver metro area and across the country. Currently, she is a FEMA Community Planning Expert for national disaster recovery efforts on an assignment basis. Her areas of expertise include organizational management, city and regional planning, land use development, transportation/transit-oriented development, affordable housing and economic development. Denise has been active in board service and as a foundation trustee. She holds a master's degree in City & Regional Planning from Cornell University and a bachelor's in political science and English from the State University of New York. As a believer in lifelong learning she has participated in numerous professional development programs including the Bighorn Center Public Policy Fellowship Program, the Cherry Creek School District Leadership Program and the Colorado Urban Land Institute's Real Estate Diversity Initiative to promote women and minorities in the real estate industry.

**Board Interests:** Public policy Boards and Commissions, real estate development in support of affordable housing, economic development and community revitalization, environmental sustainability and resiliency, personal fitness and health

**Contact information:** 303-656-0409 ♦ balkastevens@comcast.net

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**Kristen Dalton, M.D.**  
**Hospitalist- Internal Medicine**  
**Boulder Community Hospital**

Kristen is a Hospitalist, a specialty within Internal Medicine focused on the care of hospitalized patients. Prior to providing direct patient care, she gained healthcare experience at Medi-Flex, Inc. as a Clinical Specialist where she collaborated with Infectious Diseases clinicians and implemented infection prevention strategies in hospitals throughout the country. Kristen spearheaded in-servicing and CE-accredited programs for healthcare providers in Infection Control. She then branched out within the company as an Account Manager and secured growth sales of 65%; the largest among thirteen territories company-wide. Those experiences reignited her true passion for patient care resulting in her completion of medical school. She is now the Medical Lead of the Palliative Care Team, which provides patient and family-centered care to optimize the quality of life for patients with serious illnesses. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and exploring new cultures. Kristen participates in a multitude of activities including running, hiking, biking, and yoga.

**Board interests:** Homelessness, Women, Wellness/Fitness, and Healthcare

**Contact information:** 913-638-8164 ♦ Kdalton78@gmail.com

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**Audrey Kiszla**  
**Business Transformation Leader**

As a technology executive in various industries, Audrey Kiszla is known for building and leading high-performance teams that bridge technology and business, and deep expertise in driving business transformation. She's built Program Office capabilities with a focus on enterprise collaboration and continuously improving speed to market of solutions that drive system and organizational transformation. She was at the forefront of mutual fund company's efforts to connect with individual and institutional investors via an online presence. Audrey was a key member of the team that launched Women's Network, the first Business Resource Group at OppenheimerFunds. She partnered with Human Resources to develop resources for managers just beginning their leadership journey and designed an employee reward program to encourage behaviors that support organizational transformation efforts. Audrey also serves as a mentor for up and coming leaders. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from Colorado State University and a Master's in Management from University of Colorado. Audrey is married to a Denver sports columnist. She and her husband love living in Colorado, especially skiing, hiking and biking in the mountains and relishing the great Denver music and restaurant scenes.

**Board Interests:** Education, Equal Rights for All, Environment

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**Carolyn Bond**  
**Controller**  
**Girl Scouts of Colorado**

Carolyn has a 19-year career spanning the fields of accounting, finance, manufacturing, cryptocurrency mining and banking. She currently serves as the Controller for Girl Scouts of Colorado, where she manages the non-profit's accounting and finance team with special emphasis on compliance and regulatory reporting, efficiency and process controls, cross department leadership and budget management. Carolyn's background also includes building infrastructure and processes for start-ups, ERP conversions, IPO audit compliance and acquisition/merger transitions. She served as Controller for HyperBlock USA (North America's largest cryptocurrency mining company) and was the Controller for both start up and large manufacturing companies. Carolyn earned a Master of Professional Accounting with honors from Colorado State University and is currently sitting for the CPA exam. She is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants and proud supporter of SafeHouse Denver.

**Board Interests:** Economic Development, Women's Resources, Healthcare, Startups

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**Stephanie Ross**  
**Regional Manager**  
**Pacific Dental Services**

As a Regional Manager for Pacific Dental Services, Stephanie is responsible for all operational aspects - and ultimately the financial success - of her group of dental practices. Stephanie is often complimented on her professional composure, analytical capabilities and coaching / development skills. She has the ability to work with and influence the behaviors of a wide variety of stakeholders including team members at all levels of the organization as well as those in both clinical and non-clinical roles. Her 20 years of operations experience in the service arena includes the hotel industry and Starbucks. She holds a BS in Hospitality Management from San Francisco State University as well as an MBA from Penn State University. Stephanie moved to Colorado in 2018 and is looking forward to giving back to the local community!

**Board Interests:** Life Skills & Career Development for the Disadvantaged, Hunger & Homelessness

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**Margherita Mascolo, MD, CEDS**  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Alsana: An Eating Recovery**  
**Community**

As Chief Medical Officer at Alsana, Margherita Mascolo leads the medical component of Alsana's Adaptive Care Model™. She is responsible for the conceptualization, development, management, and implementation of the medical care across all Alsana sites and levels of care. After completing her undergraduate work at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Margherita earned her medical degree at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado in Denver. Following residency, Margherita worked as a hospitalist at Denver Health and Hospital and had the opportunity to join a new specialized unit dedicated to the medical stabilization of those suffering from eating disorders. She joined the ACUTE Center for Eating Disorders as a hospitalist and subsequently moved up to the role of Lead Physician, Associate Medical Director, and then was promoted to Medical Director following a national search. Academically, she has been promoted to the title of Associate Professor of Medicine and maintains a faculty appointment at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Margherita is board certified in Internal Medicine, has published multiple peer reviewed articles on the medical complications of eating disorders, travels nationally and internationally to speak on these complications, and has earned her certified eating disorder specialist certification. In her spare time, she can be found traveling the world and visiting her family in her native Italy, cooking, and hiking the beautiful Colorado mountains. **Board Interests:** Healthcare, Women's Rights & Issues, Arts Culture and Humanities  
**Contact information:** 281-235-3621 ♦ mmascolo79@gmail.com

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**Deon MacMillan**  
**Chief Human Resources &**  
**Communications Officer**  
**Ardent Mills**

Deon MacMillan, Chief Human Resources & Communications Officer, joined Ardent Mills in February 2014. Deon is a dynamic, collaborative member of the senior leadership team who understands the critical nature and nuances of leading a people-first business. Deon plays an instrumental role in leading the organizational design of Ardent Mills, aligning each decision with the company's larger strategic vision. Deon drives business results and establishes trusted partnerships. She has vast experience across the spectrum of HR specialties, including organizational development and effectiveness, HR operations, mergers and acquisitions, and talent management. Deon transitioned from MacMillan Consulting, where she provided strategic HR counsel to a variety of major corporations, including Cargill, where she was an employee from 2008 to 2010. At Cargill, she was the Business Unit HR Leader for Cargill AgHorizons U.S. and Global HR Leader for IT Services for Business. She also has served in strategic senior HR roles at companies such as Lominger/Korn Ferry, Thomson Reuters, Ingenix/United Health Group and Koch Industries. Deon received her bachelor's degree in business administration, as well as her MBA in business administration with an emphasis in human resources, at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Deon was also an adjunct faculty member for several years. Deon resides in Denver, Colorado with her husband, Tavis. She has three daughters, Taryn, Camryn, and Lauryn. In her spare time, you'll find Deon watching soccer and hockey and spending time with her family and four dogs. **Contact info:** 651-260-7976 ♦ Deon.MacMillan@ArdentMills.com

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**Janice Neoh**  
**VP, Commercial Banking Middle**  
**Market Relationship Manager**  
**Bank of America Merrill Lynch**

Janice Neoh is a corporate and commercial banking professional with a passion for enabling entrepreneurs and businesses to succeed. Her experience includes financial analysis, relationship management, cross border trade finance and treasury solutions. Janice believes in the ripple effect, and that a successful business community can lead to far reaching benefits for their larger community. Janice joined the Global Commercial Banking group at Bank of America recently, as a Senior Relationship Manager based in Denver. Prior moving to Denver, Janice was a Corporate Banker with OCBC Bank, the second largest bank in Southeast Asia by assets where she managed a portfolio of Malaysian public-listed entities (and their subsidiaries) with market capitalizations between USD 250 million to USD 2 billion. Born and raised in Malaysia, Janice feels fortunate to have received Western style education, which has enabled her to travel the world and eventually cultivated her unique global perspectives. She believes in enriching the lives of those around her through meaningful interactions and volunteer work. Between 2013 to 2017, Janice co-founded and ran "Random Acts of Kindness" with a few friends in Penang, an informal fund benefiting charities ranging from soup kitchens, no-kill animal shelters, orphanages and not-for-profit homes for the elderly or disabled. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Biotechnology from University of Science Malaysia and is a Certified Credit Professional, recognized by the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers. In her spare time, Janice enjoys running marathons and travelling. Despite only having lived in the US for a year, she already has a goal to visit every state!

**Board interest:** Mental Health, Animal rights, Personal / Career development for the

Disadvantaged, Women's rights

**Contact info:** 720-987-1288 ♦ janice.cw.neoh@gmail.com

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**Dawn Sevy**  
**Management Consultant**

Dawn is a driven, dynamic Organizational Development professional with a historical record of driving strategic transformational changes to capture increased efficiencies and alignment with business goals. She is a proven leader who builds, mentors, and coaches talented teams to design, develop, and deliver impactful change management, organizational design, and leadership development solutions to a global client base. She has developed and implemented both internal and external strategic human capital solutions that enhance organization effectiveness and drive rapid business results. She has consulted for several consultancies, including PDI Ninth House (acquired by Korn Ferry), SHL, and the Hay Group. She then served in leadership roles at Edward Jones and Northwestern Mutual. Dawn has left the corporate world and is currently seeking an opportunity to give back to a non-profit organization. Dawn holds an MBA from Avila University and a BS in Business Administration. She is certified in PROSCI Change Management methodology and in a wide variety of assessment and feedback tools including those of Korn Ferry, Myers-Briggs, Hogan, SHL and others.

**Board interest:** Homelessness, Health and Wellness, Women, and Coaching Leaders

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