



**THE**  
*Original*  
**DENTON**  
**DISTRICT**

**Required Attachments:  
CDME Committee Roster**



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## Original Denton District CDME Board Roster

### Public Art Committee

Brian Wheeler, Chair

Monet Franklin, Vice Chair

Nick Bagherpour

Alicia Eggert

Jodi Ismert

Michelle Lynn

Terry Nobles (GDAC)

Ed Steele

Ex-Officio: Georgina Ngozi, Executive Director, Greater Denton Arts Council

Ex-Officio: Jessica Rogers, Director of Economic Development

Ex-Officio: Gary Packan, Director of Parks and Recreation

Staff Liaison: Michelle Cunningham, Business Development Officer

*\*One seat is currently vacant*

### **Brian Wheeler (Chair)**

Brian Wheeler is a 30-year resident of Denton and a graduate of the University of North Texas School of Visual Art, where he studied ceramics and fiber arts. Mr. Wheeler is currently the Assistant Director of the UNT Elm Form Education Center, a regional science education center with an active art exhibition space that focuses on environmentally themed art. He previously worked as a technician in the UNT Art Gallery and an exhibition designer and art handler on large-scale, international touring exhibits. Mr. Wheeler was appointed to the Public Art Committee in December 2013 and is the current PAC chair.

### **Monet Franklin (Vice Chair)**

Monet Franklin is currently a legal assistant at a local law office and is a graduate of North Central Texas College and the University of North Texas. Ms. Franklin has shown a commitment to community service throughout her career and has served as a mentor for the United Way of Denton County, is an active member of the Southeast Denton Neighborhood Association, and has been a volunteer with the Denton Black Film Festival, National Night Out, and Denton County Friends of the Family. Ms. Franklin was appointed to the Public Art Committee in August 2017 and currently serves as the PAC's vice chair.

### **Nick Bagherpour**

Nick Bagherpour is Division Manager for Megatrex Production Music, a leading independent music source for television, film, commercial, and multimedia projects. A lifelong passion for music has motivated him to advocate for and serve the Denton music scene since moving to Denton shortly after completing a bachelor's degree in English and Literature. Mr. Bagherpour is Co-Founder and President of the Denton Music and Arts Collaborative (DMAC), a nonprofit organization promoting the preservation, promotion, and continuation of the unique and culturally significant musical and artistic heritage of Denton, through programs aimed at improving the lives and livelihoods of local musicians and artists, and encouraging new musicians and artists to put down roots in Denton. Among its initiatives, DMAC subsidizes health insurance premiums for musicians who might not otherwise afford coverage. He has served on the board of 35 Denton (formerly NX35 and 35 Conferette), an annual 3-day music festival from 2005-2016 that received





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multiple awards/recognition by publications that include Dallas Observer, D Magazine, Huffington Post, and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Mr. Bagherpour was appointed to the Public Art Committee in August 2018.

### **Alicia Eggert**

Alicia Eggert is Assistant Professor of Studio Art and Sculptor Program Coordinator, College of Visual Arts, University of North Texas, and was previously Assistant Professor of Art, Bowdoin College. Ms. Eggert studied Interior Design at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, holds a bachelor's degree in Interior Design from Drexel University, and a master's degree of Fine Arts in Sculpture/Dimensional Studies from Alfred University. Her work has appeared globally in over 100 museum, solo, and selected group exhibitions, including several corporate/foundation collections, and she is a frequently selected panelist and lecturer. Her leadership in artists/arts supports initiatives include: co-organizer and curator of Kitchen Sink PDX, Portland, OR; co-organizer of CAMP, an annual thinking-making symposium workshops in New York and Maine; and most recently, board member, Emergent Ground, Oakland, CA, a nonprofit and social justice initiative that integrates art and design to bring about positive transformation in the built environment through youth-centered education and community-based projects. Ms. Eggert was appointed to the Public Art Committee in May 2019.

### **Jodi Ismert**

Jodi Ismert has lived in Denton for more than 20 years, staying after graduating from UNT with a Psychology degree. Ms. Ismert has spent her professional career in finance, accounting, and data for global banking institutions, and she has spent the last decade at JPMorgan Chase. Ms. Ismert is a community activist and has close ties to many members of the community. She is on the Denton Drilling Awareness Board, and is very involved with the city leaders and the community at large. She is also a direct stakeholder of ODD, living only a couple of blocks from the designated boundaries. Ms. Ismert was appointed to the Public Art Committee in March 2018.

### **Michelle Lynn**

Michelle Lynn is the media information specialist for the Denton Independent School District. Ms. Lynn is a graduate of Leadership Denton and also currently serves on the board of directors of the Greater Denton Arts Council. Ms. Lynn has served on the Citizens' Advisory Board for the Denton 2030 Plan and the Citizens' Advisory Board for the City Hall West redevelopment committee. Ms. Lynn previously spent 6 years on the Denton Historic Landmark Committee, where she served as co-chair. Before moving to Denton in 2010, Ms. Lynn worked in arts marketing for Shryock Auditorium in Illinois, at the Dallas Shakespeare Festival as a marketing and membership coordinator, and at the Undermain Theater and other Dallas-area theaters in marketing, membership, dramaturgy, and theater design roles. Ms. Lynn was appointed to the Public Art Committee in August 2017.

### **Terry Nobles**

Terry Nobles is the Director of Marketing for local architecture firm, Kirkpatrick Architecture Studio, where he oversees the tradeshow schedule and leads the company's business development team. He also has a hand in all marketing initiatives, including proposals, brochures, and website design. Mr. Nobles has dedicated much of his time in Denton to community service, including coaching soccer in the Denton Rec League, directing the Arts Guild Auction for GDAC, and managing stages for the Arts & Jazz Festival. Mr. Nobles is the Immediate Past President of the Board of the Denton Festival Foundation (Arts & Jazz Festival), Vice President of Membership for the Music Theater of Denton, and a board/committee member of the Greater Denton Arts Council, Beaujolais and More (annual fundraiser for the Campus Theater), and the Day of the Dead Festival. Mr. Nobles was appointed to the Public Art Committee in June 2018.





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### **Ed Steele**

Ed Steele is a Denton-based photographer who specializes in capturing the raw essence of entertainers, musicians, and performers. His work has been published in The Guardian, Denton Record-Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, Oklahoma Today, and the Dallas Observer. In 2014, Steele was awarded the title “Best Music Photographer in North Texas” by the Dallas Observer. Mr. Steele is also the director of photography for the Thin Line Festival, where he curates work from photographers from all over the world. Mr. Steele was appointed to the Public Art Committee in June 2016.

### **Georgina Ngozi (Ex-Officio)**

Georgina Ngozi is the Executive Director of the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC). Ms. Ngozi has worked across the country in the field of arts education and administration for more than 25 years. At the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, she managed a \$7 million budget for a community-based institution serving 250,000 onsite visitors and another 100,000 offsite visitors, via festivals, school-based programs and community outreach programs for children ranging in age from infancy through high school. A former member of the board of directors of the Association of Children’s Museums, Ms. Ngozi is active in the broader arts and museum communities. She has served as a grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and other organizations. She is a founding Board Member of the Sugar Hill Children’s Museum in Harlem, NY and is a graduate of SUNY-Binghamton. As the GDAC Executive Director, Ms. Ngozi serves as an ex-officio member of the PAC.

### **Jessica Rogers, Director of Economic Development (Ex-Officio)**

Jessica Rogers was named Director of Economic Development for the City of Denton in April 2019. Prior to that role, Ms. Rogers served as the Deputy Director of Public Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations and the City’s Public Information Officer. In that role, she oversaw the City’s operations in regards to communication, media relations, digital engagement, and community outreach, and she oversaw graphic design, copy writing, and messaging for the City’s website, social media, and multiple print and digital campaigns. Ms. Rogers now focuses on fostering Denton’s thriving business community and integrating the creative economy and art into the City’s overall economic development strategy. Ms. Rogers holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Texas A&M University and a master’s degree in public affairs from Indiana University. As the Director of Economic Development, Ms. Rogers serves as an ex-officio member of the PAC.

### **Gary Packan (Ex-Officio)**

Gary Packan was named Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Denton in February 2018. Prior to that role, Mr. Packan was the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Arlington, a position he held since 2007. Mr. Packan has previously served as an Assistant City Manager for the City of Sandusky, Ohio where he managed Parks, Recreation, and Economic Development, and as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Huron, Ohio. In addition to his professional experience, Mr. Packan has contributed significantly to the parks and recreation management profession through his involvement in the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS), and the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. While with the City of Arlington, he contributed to the department being recognized with the TRAPS gold medal in 2012 and 2015 and the department was an NRPA gold medal finalist in 2014, 2016, and 2017. Mr. Packan holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education in Recreation and Leisure Services from Bowling Green State University. As the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Packan is an ex-officio member of the PAC.





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## **STAFF**

### **Michelle Cunningham, Business Development Officer**

Michelle Cunningham is responsible for the City's business retention/expansion, workforce development, international initiatives, and is staff liaison to the Public Art Committee. Ms. Cunningham is a Leadership Denton graduate and has previously served as Co-Chair of Fiesta on the Square festival and Denton's Sister City program. She has served on the boards of Denton's Hispanic Chamber, Black Chamber, League of United Latin American Citizens, Rotary Club, Aids Services of North Texas (Health Services of North Texas), Owsley Community School (after school education and arts enrichment program), and has managed the City's employee United Way campaigns. She presently serves on the North Central Texas College Foundation Board and the Denton ISD Career & Technology Education Advisory Committee. Ms. Cunningham holds a bachelor's degree in business management and strongly believes cultural arts programs are pivotal in creating respectful, inspired communities that celebrate and express their residents' unique diversities and aspirations. Ms. Cunningham serves as the City of Denton staff liaison to the PAC.

**In addition to these individuals, staff rely on colleagues and co-workers with additional areas of expertise. Other staff members include:**

### **Julie Glover, Economic Development Program Administrator**

Julie Glover holds a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and a Master of Business Administration degree from Texas Woman's University. In 2001, she earned her Professional Certification in Downtown Management from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Ms. Glover is a past recipient of the Texas Historic Commission's Anice B. Read Award of Excellence in Community Heritage Development and has served as President of the Texas Downtown Association. She has worked for the downtown revitalization program since 1994. Ms. Glover serves on advisory boards for the Denton Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Denton Holiday Festival Association, and is involved in numerous civic and community service organizations. Ms. Glover is the staff liaison for the Downtown Task Force and Denton Main Street Association.

### **Roman McAllen, Historic Preservation Officer**

Roman McAllen is the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Denton. Previously, Mr. McAllen worked for the City of Brownsville as Historic Preservation Officer (2014-2016) and as a planner (2011-2014). He was a founding member of the Brownsville Preservation Society and is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Lower Rio Grande Valley AIA and Texas Society of Architects. Roman holds a master's degree in architecture from the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. McAllen is President-Elect of the Preservation Texas, has written numerous articles for regional publications, and has served as a lecturer and panelist for various regional and statewide conferences.

