



Nominating Committee Proposed Slate 2024-25

Updated 5.15.24

Returning Board members—completed 3rd year/1st term

Sarah Evans

Meagan Camp

Proposed New Board members

Steven Dominguez

Assoc. Principal Research Chef, PepsiCo

Nominated by Tammy Butterworth

Steven is an enthusiast, activist, and advocate of food and all the pleasure it brings to our senses and health. Steven graduated from *Johnson & Wales University*, earning a B.S. in Culinary Nutrition with double concentrations in clinical dietetics and Product Development. His passion for community nutrition, sustainability, and culinary education earned him the Dean's Award for his degree and induction as a Newman Civic Fellow; for his time educating at farmers' markets, teaching medical students, and other community outreach initiatives. In addition, Steven has cooked for small bistros, European restaurants, and fine dining establishments. Over the last seven years, Steven has increased his influence on food and health by working on Better-For-You Brands and Breakthrough Innovation for PepsiCo. Brands such as Quaker, Health Warrior, and Cheetos have benefited from Steven's ingenuity and passion for health. Currently, Steven is focused on creating, advancing, and evolving capabilities available for and from his team while continuing to be the Culinary Lead for the Quaker Oats Brand, while continuing to push a creative, food, and health-centric way of thinking, for all brands he gets to work with. Looking ahead, Steven plans to pursue a master's degree in Public Health and Nutrition. His ultimate goal is to address challenges in the American food system, with a focus on elevating public knowledge about food preparation, health, and home economics. He is dedicated to improving health outcomes for students and families across the United States.

Antonio (Tony) Font

Substitute Teacher, Special Ed.

Nominated by Rebecca Jerry

Born - Matanzas, Cuba, 1954. US citizen since 1975. Graduated from the University of South Florida (Microbiology and Chemistry). Work experience: Microbiologists 1980: Owen Pharmaceuticals Addison, TX 1 Area Manager, Project Manager Southwestern Bell, SBC, AT&T 1981 - 2009 Dallas, TX. Business owner: The Soda Gallery 2006 - 2012 Dallas, TX Bilingual Educator: DISD 2010 - 2021 Retired Dallas, TX Substitute Teacher, Special Education: 2022 - present DISD, Dallas, TX. Tony loves books, teaching, volunteering, and giving back. He is an active library member and along with his local library, he frequents the downtown library. Rebecca has known Tony for a number of years - he is a good friend and a good person.

Megan Townsend**Head of Marketing and Partnerships, Galleria Dallas**

Nominated by Juliette Coulter

She has worked for the past 20 years in marketing and public relations for retail companies including Neiman Marcus, Fossil, and Galleria Dallas. In her current role, she is the Head of Marketing and Partnerships at Galleria Dallas and manages a team of five along with a creative and public relations agency. Outside of work, she enjoys volunteering in her East Dallas neighborhood in the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA (LECPTA) and Lakewood PTA to ensure the public schools have the private funding that they need to meet their goals. She has also enjoyed being on the Retail Advisory Board for The Family Place's Partners Card and looks forward to being on the host committee of their Trailblazer Luncheon this Fall. In her spare time, she loves to take her three sons to all of their sporting events and cheer them on. She graduated from Baylor University with a degree in Marketing and Finance.

Nikita Sarin**Senior Technology Consultant, IBM Consulting**

Nominated by Leigh Hopkins

Nikita is an experienced consultant with a background in managing specialty projects, leading cross-functional teams, and providing strategic advice to clients. Skilled in implementing innovative solutions to enhance business operations and improve productivity. Strong knowledge of various technologies and their applications in various industries.

Farheen Charanya**Architect, F.E. Architects**

Nominated by Jeff Kitner

Farheen Charanya, is a multi-disciplinary designer and registered architect known for her expertise across various complex project types and market sectors. Throughout her career, Farheen has contributed to a diverse array of projects, demonstrating her versatility and dedication to innovative design.

Her portfolio includes notable projects such as the award-winning EPIC Recreation Center and Epic Waters, along with the impressive Globe Life Field, home of the Texas Rangers. Farheen's experience extends to residential, educational, commercial, hospitality, and master planning projects, showcasing her ability to seamlessly navigate and excel in multiple architectural domains.

In addition to her professional achievements, Farheen is the founder of F+E Architects, a firm specializing in residential & commercial designs. Through F+E Architects, she brings her passion for creating functional, aesthetically pleasing living spaces to life, emphasizing personalized and thoughtful design solutions.

Farheen's commitment to excellence and her dynamic approach to architecture have established her as a respected professional in the field. Her work not only reflects her technical proficiency but also her passion for creating spaces that inspire and engage.

Philip Crew**Senior Portfolio Management Director, Morgan Stanley Wealth Mgmt.***Nominated by Annette Corman*

Philip's focus is on building strong client relationships and using his credentials and 30+ years of experience to provide customized investment plans that are uniquely tailored to each client's needs and delivered with consistently superior client service. He works with individuals and families who are looking towards retirement, balancing career and family expectations, or considering legacy issues and estate planning strategies. The broad scope of his experience and credentials provide you with personalized financial solutions tailored to fit your needs and goals throughout the changing circumstances of your life. He also prides himself on working seamlessly with his clients' accountants, attorneys and other advisors. While he aims to provide straightforward strategies that are elegant in their simplicity, the truth is that many investment instruments are subtle and complex. His credentials as an Executive Director, Senior Portfolio Management Director, Family Wealth Advisor and a Financial Planning Specialist allow him to provide perspective and solve problems that may seem unique or unusual.

Neil Schlager**Founder, Schlager Group***Nominated by Ken Benson*

Neil Schlager is a graduate of Southern Methodist University (B.A., history and Ibero-American studies) and the University of Denver Publishing Institute. After a long career with the Gale Group, during which he served as managing editor of the Multicultural Team and senior editor of New Product Development, he founded Schlager Group in 1997. Schlager Group publishes history materials for students, educators, and librarians. Their reference collections have won numerous awards and include landmark publications such as *Milestone Documents in American History* and *The Schlager Anthology of Black America*. In 2023, they launched the Schlager Digital Library, a comprehensive primary source ebook platform for learners and researchers across academic, high school, and public libraries.

Zhen Barrientos**Licensed Professional NeuroCounselor , CEO at Zhen Counseling, PLLC***Nominated by Nicole Paquette*

The Vision of ZHEN COUNSELING, PLLC is to use counseling and wellness practices to uplift and assist individuals on their evolution towards their highest version of self. The Mission of ZHEN COUNSELING, PLLC is to positively impact communities and evolve counseling outside of the "box" by providing uniquely tailored counseling and wellness practices to all.

Kara Cecala**Founder/CEO of 101Media + Dallasites 101***Nominated by Nicole Paquette*

Kara Cecala, Founder/CEO of 101Media, is a dynamic entrepreneur with a passion for fostering belonging and propelling citywide prosperity. Prior to co-founding 101Media, Kara served as the Events Manager at Teach for America, where she orchestrated impactful initiatives that extended the organization's influence. Kara launched and managed the Friends of TFA young professionals group, empowering emerging leaders to contribute to educational empowerment. Kara's transformative years at TFA-DFW played a pivotal role in setting the stage for her journey in founding 101Media, where she continues to make a profound impact in the community. Kara's platform reaches more than a million individuals across Texas on a monthly basis. She has harnessed this influence to uplift local businesses

and foster a sense of belonging. Her dedication to community goes beyond business; she is a member of the Junior League of Dallas, D Magazine's EWLN, Friends of Klyde Warren Park, and Entrepreneurs Organization Dallas.

Officers

Chairman	Ken Benson
Vice Chairman	Nicole Paquette
Secretary	Leigh Hopkins
Assistant Secretary	Melissa Chalmer
Treasurer	Stephanie Williamson
Assistant Treasurer	Larrie Weil
Immediate Past Chair	Gary Gadson

Advisory Council Nominees

Retiring Board Members - Completed Two-3 year terms

Michelle Alden
David Henderson
Jeff Kitner
Howard Schulman