

Executive Summary

Greetings!

My true passion is to help people in the best ways possible as a storyteller, educator, and business leader.

Please review this summary and imagine how I can help everyone through my experiences and knowledge.

ErikListou@gmail.com

720-581-0277



CONTENTS

- Leadership 2**
- Education 3**
- Relationships 4**
- Recognition 5**
- Inclusion 5**
- Business Acumen 6**
- Volunteering 6**
- Communication 7**
- Governance 8**
- Integrity 8**

My history of understanding complex systems and guiding teams will enhance and bring a renewed excitement to leadership, staff, and especially to customers. As an ever positive and charismatic person, I am very approachable and promise to hold in the highest regard and respect both those who serve and those who are served. My 50+ years of experience managing and leading organizations is extensive, and my commitment is unflinching. I understand the importance of teams, fiducial responsibility, and focus on individual and overall accountability.

Notable experiences include:

- Retail store management / 2003-2004
- Providing professional business counseling and motivational presentations as the founder of Inspiring Your Business / 2021 to present
- Improved home and public safety as the Storyteller, Content Creator/Producer, Educator, Spokesperson, co-founder and product promoter for the Living In Place Institute / 2013 to 2021
- Created safer homes and improved businesses nationally as an early adopter, trainer, and spokesperson for the National Association of Home Builders and Certified Aging in Place Specialist #43 and Universal Design expert / 2003 to 2023
- Promoted accessibility, green building, and energy conservation to over 40k listeners weekly as talk radio producer and host of the popular Denver talk radio show, "Build Responsible – *With Erik!*" / 2006 to 2009
- Created a television pilot "Remodeling with Erik" focusing on green building, energy sustainability, and accessibility, and environment – national sponsors included Quad-Lock, Standard Renewable Energy, and Showcase Cabinetry.
- Improved lives and made clients, workers, and suppliers happy as the owner of the award-winning custom remodeling and home design business, Top Quality Remodeling / 1991 to 2013
- Volunteered and worked to end poverty housing and create volunteer opportunities as an Executive Board member, then full time Executive Director of Denver Habitat For Humanity from 1990 to 1994. Produced the first National Director Conference and introduced the local re-sale store concept

- Declined a U.S. Presidential Appointment to “fix” the U.S. public housing system / 1990
- Learned complex building systems and how teams develop and grow successfully, starting as a tradesperson, then after three months, elevated to management. Rapidly advanced to senior management of concurrent multi-million dollar private, public, and government building projects, including educational, public works, police, institutional facilities, and large public housing projects / 1970 to 1990

EDUCATION

- University of Maryland 1968-1970
- Attended and created numerous professional courses and programs with major vendors, organizations, and industry professionals
- Earned and taught advanced credentials to thousands of professionals:
 - Electrical Journeyman
 - Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS #43) - taught
 - Certified Living In Place Professional (CLIPP) - Cofounded, produced and taught
 - Living In Place Associate (LIPA) - Cofounded, produced and taught
 - Home Accessibility Trade Specialist (HATS) - Cofounded, produced and taught
 - Certified Active Adult Specialist in Housing (CAASH)
 - Green Building
 - Project Management for Professionals - taught
 - Lead abatement (RRP) for the Environmental Protection Agency - taught
 - Lead Dust Sampling Technician (LDST) for the Environmental Protection Agency - taught
- Raised awareness as author of 100+ professional education and consumer articles



RELATIONSHIPS

I thrive working with others to improve current systems/programs and develop new strategies and programs that benefit and bring comfort to everyone, through nurturing current relationships and cultivating new professional communities.

My international network includes:

- National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA)
- Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS)
- Voices From the Industry (VFTI/KBIS)
- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)
- International Builders Show (IBS)
- National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)
- National Decorative Representatives Network (NDRN)
- Custom Electronics Design and Installation Association (CEDIA)
- Ron Blank & Associates, Inc
- American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI)
- American Society on Aging (ASA)
- Society of Certified Senior Advisors (SCSA)
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
- American Electrology Association (AEA)
- LivABLE Environment Conference, Canada
- Thousands of professionals from a variety of industries and non-profit organizations.
- 14k+ on LinkedIn and 4K+ on FB

Local network includes:

- Colorado College
- Jefferson County
- City of Arvada
- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Colorado Home & Garden Show
- Evergreen and Conifer home shows
- Aging Well in Jefferson County
- Contract musician 18 years for worship services



RECOGNITION

Internationally recognized in many professional journals and interviewed on worldwide public radio. Named in 2019 as a Top 50 Innovator for the \$180B kitchen & bath industry. Awarded state and national leadership, project, and community service awards.

Partial list of publications:

- New York Times
- Wall Street Journal
- Washington Post
- Denver Post
- AARP Bulletin
- Bottom Line Personal
- The Daily Journal
- Colorado Construction Magazine
- Kitchen & Bath Design News
- Professional Remodeler
- Qualified Remodeler Magazine
- Women's Day
- Outlook Magazine
- US News and World Report
- The White House Chronicles
- Serenity Magazine
- Golden Transcript
- Canyon Courier
- RENEW Magazine

INCLUSION

My parents raised me to be inclusive of everyone. Growing up in a military family and moving every year helped to instill in me the positive value of recognizing and accepting everyone, regardless of their present, past, or planned/unplanned future. I have now lived in Colorado for 33 years and for the first time in my life feel a sense of belonging and home. My work, public speaking, and writing are all without prejudice. I engage without judging and encourage learning from everyone.



BUSINESS ACUMEN

My background involves strengthening and supporting positive change through business development. Over 50 years and \$100M in business management roles of up to thousands of workers at one time, has helped me understand and upscale businesses and non-profits by keeping a focus on assisting individuals. Controlling strategic, financial, and operational development has always been a key strength. I have helped many companies and organizations understand and create their unique vision and mission statements, plus led them to create long term goals and immediate action steps to advance their mission and reach for their vision. Operational planning is fun and exciting when I take a backseat and allow others to suggest new ideas, then guide the team towards meaningful and successful results. I loved learning the complexity and interrelationships of building structures and organizations. A typical home has over 3,000 components. A school building requires an almost unimaginable number of parts and pieces. An organization of people is an infinite number of human ideas and relationships.

I always seek opportunities to help people through elevating businesses and organizations to the heights of the imagination of the organization and their clients.

VOLUNTEERING

I have volunteered as a worker, organizer, speaker, and educator for many community and national events and organizations.

In 1990, I volunteered to help raise money for the first Habitat home in Evergreen. My idea was to sell blue spruce tree seedlings. I stood in front of the local grocery store and was surprised how most passers-by said, 'No thanks, I don't need a tree'. I changed my sales pitch to, "Hello! Would you like to donate \$20 to Habitat For Humanity and receive a free blue spruce seedling?" Few could resist donating and most did not take the trees. That first Habitat homeowner thanked me personally for helping her and her



family out of homelessness by raising more money than any other single effort. I learned the value of focusing on benefits to everyone rather than a presumed value to the business. Later I served as president and board chair for the Denver Habitat and accepted a two-year position as Executive Director.

Volunteer:

- Habitat For Humanity
- Rebuilding Together
- National Association of Home Builders
- National Kitchen & Bath Association
- Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)
- Mayor's Council on Housing D.C.
- Mayor's Housing Summit D.C.
- Mountain Area Land Trust
- Evergreen Chamber of Commerce
- Senior's Resource Center
- Home Builders Foundation
- Mountain Resource Center
- Aging Well in Jefferson County
- City of Arvada
- Colorado Home & Garden Show
- Accessory Dwelling Unit legislation in Jefferson County, CO
- Housing in Summit County, CO
- Kiwanis
- Rotary
- Santa Claus

COMMUNICATION

When I was young, at my first piano recital, I reacted to the audience's applause by smiling, and their positive response grew. As my smile grew the audience reaction grew exponentially. My Mom remarked to Dad, "Our son is a performer." That natural charisma my parents recognized has continued and developed into unique skills that continue to make audiences smile. These gifts have enabled me to communicate ideas and lead in a positive, engaging manner that is pleasant and productive, never alienating. My public experience since 1990 includes over 1,500 live audiences, before virtual. I enjoy and thrive as an ambassador and spokesperson. And when necessary, I excel at impromptu and dynamic team and crowd interactions. I have created and presented several communication courses. I produced and hosted a live talk radio show, with guests, on Denver radio for 2-1/2 years with an estimated 40k



weekly listeners. I am occasionally on stage as a musician and for over the last 30 years have worn the Big Red Suit, and with my wife, brought smiles of delight for the present and hope for the future to children of all ages!

GOVERNANCE

I have created businesses, served and chaired governing boards, and learned the nuances of teamwork and strategic alignment. Following the practice of positive leadership, I can guide an organization through proactive understanding and recognition of key issues to assessment, education, and action. Also, I ensure effective processes for continuance and growth.

Through learning and understanding the current policies and procedures at Häfele, I will work closely with the team to effectively introduce change when necessary and celebrate the good works of every individual.

INTEGRITY

I hold paramount honesty, reliability, and respect for others. I promise to be trustworthy, hardworking, helpful, and responsible for my actions to the benefit of the entire organization. I will be patient working with others and inspire them to follow the values of integrity and diligence.

I place helping people before revenue.

More of my background and personal bio can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Thank you!

