



**Board of Directors
- 2023**

Mark Andrew

Mark Andrew served as the first President of Friends of the Falls, from October 2019 to January 2023, and led the effort to convert the board to Native American control and create a Native- centered identity for the project. He is Founder and President of GreenMark Enterprises, LLC, a sustainability consultancy that brands sustainable improvements to high profile venues, and is Co-Founder and past President of GreenMark Solar, LLC.

Previously, Andrew was elected five times to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. As County Board Chair, Andrew initiated and authored the first dedicated urban hiking and biking trails in the Twin Cities (Midtown Greenway), was chief author of the state's first and largest recycling ordinance, and was Chair of the transit authority that planned and selected the state's first light rail transit line. He helped to lead the effort to acquire and preserve the Stone Arch Bridge and re-build the Hennepin Avenue Bridge. Andrew's initiatives won more than a dozen Innovation Awards from the National Association of Counties.

Kevin J. Armstrong (Treasurer)

Kevin J. Armstrong is a regulatory attorney and expert in financial technology law and corporate governance. He has built a reputation as a trusted advisor able to provide solid advice to drive business strategy, growth, and service delivery. He is an advisor and board director for NeuroColor, LLC who thinks broadly about his role as a trusted advisor. As an influential business leader, he has a consistent record of providing strategic and operational direction and support to drive growth. Kevin has a reputation of successfully collaborating across functional and business teams and effectively leverages his expertise in corporate governance, e-commerce, payments, digital, risk management and M&A to achieve business goals. With a focus on culture-building, he has been a vocal advocate for sustainability, diversity, inclusion, and equity, and has held leadership roles on corporate affinity groups, and promoted actions to create and foster purpose driven/value-oriented corporate brands.



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Edna Brazaitis

Edna Brazaitis, an attorney and riverfront champion, co-founded Friends of the Riverfront, a nonprofit whose mission is to protect and preserve the cultural and natural resources of the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park. Since 2005, Friends of the Riverfront has advocated for riverfront parks. Edna is active on numerous boards and committees. In addition to Friends of the Falls, she serves as the Minnesota Historical Society appointee to the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board. She previously served on the board of Mississippi Riverfront Partnership and Preserve Minneapolis. Edna is also a member of the St. Anthony Falls Alliance. She has advised on numerous plans and initiatives related to parks, heritage, and riverfront development over decades. From riverfront and St. Anthony park planning by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to area planning by the City of Minneapolis to the Power of the Falls planning done by the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, Edna has been an engaged and valued advisor.

Peter L. Gove

Peter Gove held executive positions in corporate communications and government relations with Control Data and St. Jude Medical. Peter was Minnesota Governor Wendell R. Anderson's environmental advisor, MPCA Commissioner, founding member of the Environmental Quality Board, U.S. Senate Legislative Director and Assistant Director of the National Park Service. He is a founder and longtime board member of Friends of the Mississippi River, past chair of the Wild Rivers Conservancy and Trust for Public Land's Minnesota Advisory Boards, a member of NPCA's Upper Midwest Council, a Trustee of Northland College and chair of the Episcopal Homes of Minnesota Board of Trustees.



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John Koepke

John Koepke is a Professor of Landscape Architecture in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota and the Department's former Chair. Along with his responsibilities as a Full Professor he is a principal at the firm Urban Ecosystems LLC. Because of his Ojibwe heritage John has had significant interests in both Native American cultures and environmental science. This has led him to conduct landscape-based research on ancient Native American sites and work with tribal and other communities in pursuing teaching and design opportunities that focus on environmental education, ecological restoration and reclamation. He holds a 5-year professional Bachelor's of Landscape Board Member Recognition Post:Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Washington. He was recently elected as a Fellow of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.

Senator Mary Kunesh

Senator Mary Kunesh (Standing Rock Lakota Sioux descendant) was elected to the MN House of Representatives, District 41B, in 2016 and elected to the Senate, District 39, in 2020. Senator Kunesh is the first woman of Native descent to be elected as a Minnesota State Senator. Through her tenure, she has passed legislation to create the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's (MMIW) Task Force and the Missing and Murder Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Office. Senator Kunesh serves as an Assistant Majority Leader for the DFL Senate Caucus. As an educator, Mary retired, from her role, as a public-school library media specialist after 25 years of service.

Greg Lais

Greg Lais is a successful entrepreneur, avid outdoorsman, and longtime adventurer. He founded Wilderness Inquiry in 1978 after a trip to the Boundary Waters involving people with disabilities. Now, 40 years later, the belief that people of all abilities can enjoy and benefit from the outdoors continues to be at the heart of Wilderness Inquiry's mission. As Executive Director of Wilderness Inquiry, Greg Lais directed the organization's growth and development, collaborating with cross-sector partners to build a world-class organization that directly serves more than 40,000 people annually. Today, Greg Lais is Wilderness Inquiry's Director of Strategic Initiatives, guiding the organization to success over the next 40 years. He also serves on the



Board of Directors - 2023

Metropolitan State University Foundation Board of Directors as well as Governor Walz's Outdoor Recreation Task Force.

Maggie Lorenz

Maggie Lorenz is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe and descends from Spirit Lake Dakota Nation. Maggie serves as executive director at Wakanj Tipi Awanyankapi, a Native-led environmental conservation non-profit on Saint Paul's east side. Maggie has spent her professional career in the fields of education, cultural resiliency and healing, and environmental justice. In addition to the Friends of the Falls Board, Maggie serves on the board of directors for the F. R. Bigelow Foundation and the Tiwahe Foundation. She is a proud east sider and mother of three amazing children.

Austin Owen

Austin Owen (Tasia popo dowan) lives in St. Paul and represents Tinta wita Bdewankanton (Prairie Island Dakota) and the Hopi nation. He is one of many grandchildren to Amos Owen, a well known Dakota man who brought Dakota spirituality and reconciliation to this state of Minnesota and the world. Austin had the privilege of working alongside his father, who was a prominent figure in bringing buffalo back to the Dakota people.

Austin has spent over twenty years in the music industry, from a DJ spinning vinyl and carrying crates, to now performing in the digital era. Austin received a degree in audio engineering from the Los Angeles Recording School in 2008. When not involved in music, Austin works with the American Indian Prison Project, whose goal is to continue changing the concept and definition of restorative justice using Dakota culture, and values to reconnect our incarcerated relatives to their heritage, and sacred teachings.

Paul Reyelts (Co- Founder & Chair)

Paul Reyelts was the Chief Financial Officer of The Valspar Corporation from 1982 until 2008 and retired in 2009 to pursue his interest in design. He received a Bachelor of Arts in architecture from Harvard College and an MBA from Harvard Business School. Paul is a director of Schafer Richardson Development, a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Minnesota College of Design and serves on the Boards of Directors of The Minneapolis Foundation, MacPhail Center for Music and Gold Medal Park Conservancy. He championed the development of Water Works Park and is co-founder and Chair of the Board of Friends of the Falls.



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- 2023**

Kit Richardson

Kit Richardson is a founding Principal and owner of Schafer Richardson, LLC, a Minneapolis based real estate development firm. A registered Architect, Kit began his professional career working in the office of famed Minneapolis Architect, Ralph Rapson, before forming his own architectural firm with another partner. After spending a number of years practicing architecture, and later working in the real estate investment brokerage industry, he co-founded Schafer Richardson, LLC in 1995. Kit spends the majority of his time at SR in conceptual design, entitlement, and construction review of virtually all of SR's projects, with a special interest in historic properties.

Mona Smith

Mona Smith, Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota, is a multimedia artist, educator and co-founder of Allies: media/art and the Healing Place Collaborative. Her media work includes art projects for the web and multimedia installation work. She has served as consultant for the planning for Indian Mounds Park(sic) and provided video work for the site. She has been part of the Dakota Community Council and is currently in pre-production for a commission with M art museum in St. Paul, MN. She is a member of the PLaCE (Place, Location and Context and Environment) Research Consortium based at the University of West England in Bristol, and is a member of the Mapping Spectral Traces International Network. Her artistic and educational work uses image, sound and place to work 'between,' the place of healing, of relationship, of meaning, where spirit and physical, life and death, fear and strength, night and day intersect.

Cris Stainbrook

Cris Stainbrook, Oglala Lakota, has been working in philanthropy for 35 years and has been President of Indian Land Tenure Foundation since its inception in 2002. As the Foundation's president, Stainbrook provides leadership, strategic direction, management, fundraising and policy oversight to the organization with an emphasis on the successful implementation of the Foundation's mission. He also serves as Chairman of the Board for Indian Land Capital Company, ILTF's lending subsidiary. Stainbrook was a founding member of Native Americans in Philanthropy and served on the board of directors for 11 years. He was also a founder and longtime advisory committee member of the Two Feathers Endowment of The Saint Paul Foundation.



**Board of Directors
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Dana Thompson

Dana Thompson, a lineal descendant of the Wahpeton-Sisseton and Mdewakanton Dakota tribes and lifetime Minnesota native, has worked for nearly a decade within the food sovereignty movement. As co-owner and chief operating officer of The Sioux Chef, she manages all business development strategies for the company. In 2018, Dana jointly founded the non-profit NĀTIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems) for which she is executive director. Through this entity, she focuses her expertise on addressing and treating ancestral trauma through decolonized perspectives of honoring and leveraging Indigenous wisdom. An acclaimed jazz and Americana vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and music producer, Dana has released seven albums.

Angela Two Stars

Angela Two Stars is a public artist and curator. She is the director of All My Relations Arts, a project of the Native American Community Development Institute in Minneapolis, MN. Angela is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and received her BFA from Kendall College of Art and Design. Angela's professional arts career began at All My Relations Arts gallery as an exhibiting artist, which then led to further opportunities including her first curatorial role for the exhibition titled, Bring Her Home, Stolen Daughters of Turtle Island, a powerful exhibition highlighting the ongoing epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Angela 's public art graces the shores of Bde Maka Ska and honors the Dakota people of Mni Sota. Angela was selected as the finalist for the Walker Art Center's Indigenous Public Art Commission; her sculpture Okciyapi (Help Each Other) was unveiled in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden in fall 2021.

Mark Wilson

Mark Wilson is a board member of Winmark Corporation, The Goodman Group, Gold Medal Park Conservancy and past board member of The St. Paul Foundation (chair), Minnesota Community Foundation (chair) and GiveMn.org. Mr. Wilson enjoys whitewater rafting and skiing, and is a cum laude graduate of Carleton College and the University of Minnesota Law School. He is co-founder and serves as vice-chair for the Friends of the Falls board.