

B Kyle: As President and CEO of the St. Paul Area Chamber, B represents more than 1,700 Twin Cities companies and champions our diverse business community to create an economically vibrant, inclusive, and globally competitive region. Now in her fourth year, B is leading the chamber into a new chapter of growth and transition. B graduated from the College of St. Benedict and is a veteran of the U.S. Army. Prior to her work at the Chamber, she spent 11 years at the St. Paul Port Authority, ultimately co-leading its development work in St. Paul on projects such as the Treasure Island Center, CHS Field, the St. Paul Police Department's Public Safety Training Facility, and Major League Soccer. In 2020 she was recognized by the Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal as one of the top 10 Most Admired CEOs.

Alyssa Binsfeld is the Member Promotions Manager, working with both the Membership team and Marketing and Communications team to assist members in maximizing their member benefits and identifying growth opportunities. She also serves as the staff lead of the Chamber's Young Professionals Committee. Prior to the Chamber Alyssa was an account manager at Allegra Printing, where she won Rookie of the Year and Top 10 in Sales across all Alliance Franchise locations awards. Alyssa is currently pursuing a Digital Marketing specialization, enjoys hiking with her dog Lucy, skiing out west, and staying active through CrossFit workouts.

Beth Breidel is Director of Events, where she plans and executes programming to support the mission and vision of the Chamber and our members, while also looking for opportunities to address additional needs through new programming. Prior to the St. Paul Area Chamber, Beth held the role of Director of Events for Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest and the Midway Chamber of Commerce. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She volunteers for the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities; serves as a Community Board Member and Events Chair for the Midway Y; and is the Director of Community Outreach as a board member of the Park Bugle. Beth lives in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of Saint Paul with her husband and dogs and enjoys adventures with their daughters, time in the kitchen or in their perennial gardens.

Staci Christensen currently serves as the St. Paul Area Chamber's Vice President of Operations, handling overall office management, direct supervision of administrative support staff, and coordinates IT, contracts, tenants, vendors, and property management for the Chamber. Staci also is direct support to the CEO and Foundation Director and is the chief administrator for all Executive Committee, SPAC Board and SPAC Foundation Board meetings. Prior to joining the Chamber, Staci was an assistant office manager, Senior Paralegal and ran her own freelance Paralegal business. In her spare time, she is living her best life in Stacy, Minnesota where she resides with her husband, three kids, and their English Mastiff, Whiskey.

Victoria Ford is the DEI Collaborative Program Director with the St. Paul Area Chamber, where she leads the Chamber's equity leadership programming. She has over 15 years of experience in developing, managing, and facilitating leadership development, civic engagement, and diversity and inclusion programs. Prior to joining the staff of the Chamber, Victoria served as Program Manager of Community Leadership at the Wilder Foundation, Director of Leadership Development and Design at Leadership for Education Equity, Vice President of the Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service and Policy Manager at the Citizens League. Victoria holds a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts in geography from the University of Minnesota and is trained in the Art of Hosting and as a Racial Justice Facilitator with the YWCA of Minneapolis. Victoria lives in St. Paul with her husband, Matt, and their dog, Wanona.

Megan Forgrave is the Vice President of Programming and Member Experience, leading our events strategy and creating impactful experiences that connect people throughout our community. She came to the Chamber from the Bush Foundation, where as a Communications Program Manager she managed event production, partnerships and grant programs. Previously, Megan served as Communications Director for The World Food Prize Foundation and the Iowa Association of School Boards, and as a Reporter at The Des Moines Register. In the community she serves on the Boards of Sweet Potato Comfort Pie and the Kenny Parent Foundation, and on her local school's parent equity committee. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Drake University, where she also minored in Spanish and studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain. Megan lives with her husband and two kiddos in Minneapolis. They love exploring new places, hosting people in their backyard, reading, cooking and general adventuring.

Channon Lemon is the Vice President of Economic Development. Channon has been driving innovation, spearheading organizational change, and leading economic development/new business development for several decades. Prior to the Chamber, Channon served as Chief Operating Officer of a privately held company in Chicago leading operational transformation in content development and delivery and overseeing an ERP/CRM implementation; Vice President of Enterprise Vendor Management for CareSource Healthcare in Ohio establishing a new corporate division, delivering procurement savings and reducing processing time; and creating the Minority Business Partnership (MBP) in Dayton, Ohio, an initiative which elevates and accelerates the growth of businesses owned by people of color. A native of the Twin Cities, Channon has an MBA in marketing from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She has two sons and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Kathleen M. Lohmar Exel is the Vice President of Community Advancement and the Executive Director the Chamber Charitable Foundation. Prior to the Chamber, she worked as a fundraising consultant for a multitude of nonprofits, running a team of grant writers and event specialists. Kathleen also served in multiple roles for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, the University of St. Thomas, and the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. At the Chamber Foundation, Kathleen runs the Leadership St. Paul program, helps with workforce development and equity initiatives, and oversees several Fiscal Sponsor relationships. She holds a B.A. in History from Carleton College; a Law Degree from the University of St. Thomas and she is licensed to practice law in Minnesota. In her spare time Kathleen can be found spending time with her husband, two daughters, two dogs, and one grumpy cat, serving as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, assistant basketball coach, and volunteering for the Westonka District #277 Foundation.

Shara Mafiz joined the St. Paul Area Chamber in January 2021 as an Event Specialist. Prior to joining the Chamber, she provided phenomenal support to members at the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, and the Midway Chamber of Commerce as part of the events team. She also completed internships with the Minnesota Historical Society and the Charities Review Council. All of these roles allow Shara the opportunity to interact and engage with members, which is the part she enjoys the most. Shara has a Bachelor of Arts from Metropolitan State University with a degree in Public Relations. During her free time, Shara has been exploring her artistic side by painting, or spending time outdoors with her new computerized telescope.

Evie Mouacheupao is a Director of Events, where she leverages creativity, project management and technology skills to produce innovative, member-centered experiences. Prior to the Chamber she worked for several years in arts program management, as a teacher at Concordia University and for the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in their early education programs. Evie served as the board chair for the first documented Hmong arts organization, the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT), and

currently sits on the Community Peace Celebration Planning and Advisory Committee. She has a Bachelor's in Education from Concordia University. Zoom calls with Evie regularly feature cameos from her Westie and other dog friends.

Kim O'Brien is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and leads the WorkStream professional services division. Within her role Kim also serves as the Executive Director of the Rice and Larpenteur Alliance, in addition to supporting other nonprofit and public clients. Prior to the Chamber, Kim served as Legislative Aide to St. Paul City Council President Amy Brendmoen for 7 years, the Community Relations Manager at a St. Paul-based nonprofit, and as an Account Executive for two advertising agencies. She has a master's in Public Policy from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of MN, and bachelor's Degrees in Communications and Sociology from the University of Colorado. She currently serves as a Trustee for the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. Kim lives in the Battle Creek neighborhood of St. Paul with her husband and two sons who all enjoy exploring local, state, and national parks.

John Perlich currently serves as the St. Paul Area Chamber's Public Affairs Manager, advocating for over 1,700 member businesses and organizations. John brings a wealth of public, private, and nonprofit sector experience to the Chamber, including stints at the Steve Rummeler HOPE Network, Ainsley Shea Communications, and various capacities with the Wisconsin GOP, the Wisconsin State Senate, and the Committee to Reelect a Republican Senate. John has a BA in History and Political Science. In his spare time, you can find John extolling the virtues of his adoptive city (St. Paul) and home state (Wisconsin), on the Board of the Domestic Policy Caucus, enjoying the great outdoors during pheasant season, and reading multiple books (non-fiction, of course). John and his dachshund, Winston, reside in the Highwood area of St. Paul.

Megan Ryan is the Vice President of Marketing and Communications for the Chamber. Since joining the Chamber, she spearheaded a rebrand to reflect the growing energy and momentum of the organization. She has also grown internal and external communication efforts to create a more strategic and targeted marketing approach to further engage members and the community. Megan previously served three administrations as the Communications Director for Minnesota Housing, and as Marketing and Public Relations Manager for the Twin Cities Marathon. As the Director of Marketing and Promotions for the City of St. Paul, she created the most successful public art project in the city's history, "Peanuts on Parade." Megan is University of St. Thomas alumni and in her free time, you can find her in her hometown of Cable, WI, skiing the Birkie, biking the Chequamegon Fat Tire, and spending time in the woods with her husband and two sons.

John Smith is the Vice President of Development for the St. Paul Area Chamber, where he heads the membership team, focusing on connecting members with personalized solutions to their needs. Prior to the chamber, John spent 15 years in sales and management, including Twin Cities YMCA and GNC. He also has experience in retail remodel and commercial construction estimation and project management. John earned his Associates Degree from Anoka-Ramsey Community College. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, dinners with family and loved ones, and his long-time passion of playing piano and writing music. John, his wife, and infant daughter live in Fridley where they are "right off the highway, but you may hit a deer on your way over."

Tong Thao is the Relationship Manager at the St. Paul Area Chamber, "matchmaking" members to help them find connection points to improve and grow, as well as getting the best return on their membership investment. Tong comes to the Chamber with experience as a community organizer, small

business owner, and then as a business advisor at the Asian Economic Development Association, helping immigrant entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. A life-long St. Paul resident, Tong graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a degree in Geography. He currently serves as a member of the Neighborhood STAR Program board with the City of St. Paul, and was recently awarded the Immigrant Champion Award by the National Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit.

Sherryln Thompson is a Manager of Strategic Initiatives, serving as the administrator for the Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce and other Chamber WorkStream clients. Sherryln has more than a decade of events experience as the Owner and Chief Events Officer of Highly Favored Events, serving numerous and diverse clients - from the NFL to 3M to the Graves Foundation, to name just a few. Her baby and brainchild, the Shades of Beauty Expo, has been a multi-state annual event since 2015. Sherryln also spent almost 15 years at General Mills, working in IT and leading an international procurement team. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma. In her spare time, she serves as a youth step team coach and dance instructor.

Cher Vang is a Digital Marketing Specialist for the Chamber. As a marketer, her goals include bringing innovation to the field and elevating new voices. Prior to the Chamber, Cher completed marketing internships with the Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce and Peach Mindfulness, developing graphics, digital and print assets, social media, and other communications collateral. She is a recent graduate, earning her Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Minnesota State University, Mankato with the class of 2020.

Shannon Watson is the Vice President of Public Affairs, leading our lobbying, campaigns, public policy, strategic communications, and media relations work. Prior to the Chamber she worked for U.S. Bank, the Minnesota Senate, and the National Conference of State Legislatures. Shannon has 20+ years of experience in the political arena, working on local and statewide races on both sides of the aisle in Kansas, Colorado, and Minnesota. She is currently in the running for longest-serving member of the Citizens League Communications committee and in her spare time works on dismantling structural partisanship with Majority in the Middle. An occasional op-ed writer and lover of twitter, Shannon has a bachelor's degree in English, Theatre and Psychology from Wichita State University and a masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Yao Yaj is a Manager of Strategic Initiatives for the St. Paul Area Chamber, while also serving as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce. Yao serves chamber members by administering Business Retention, Expansion, & Attraction efforts, and BizRecycling and Workplace wellness projects. Prior to the Chamber, Yao was an organizer, manager, and food hub director for Hmong American Farmers Association. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of St. Benedict, an honoree of Finance & Commerce 2020 Rising Young Professionals and was included on the TCB100 People to Know list in 2021.