



LEADERSHIP MISSOULA



SESSION DAY PRESENTERS

History & Culture Session Day

October 26, 2023

Name: Karla Bird - Tribal Outreach
Business: University of Montana
Address: 32 Campus Drive
Phone: 406-241-8424
Email: karla.bird@mso.umt.edu

Karla Bird is a member of the Amskapi Piikani Nation (Blackfeet). She has graduated with a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership, with an emphasis in Higher Education at the University of Montana. She also received an M.A. in Counselor Education, as well as a B.A. in Psychology with a Research Emphasis/ Minor in Native American Studies. The topic of her doctoral dissertation was on educational persistence among American Indian graduate students. This research orientation was used to view students as sources of strength and resiliency, with tools and assets that help them persist and reach success in academe. Dr. Bird has served in various assets of education and most recently has served as the President of Blackfeet Community College, as well as the Tribal Outreach Specialist at the University of Montana.

Name: Kristjana Eyjólfsson, Education Director
Business: Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
Address: 3400 Captain Rawn Way, Missoula, MT 59804
Phone: 406-258-3469
Email: keyjolfsson@missoulacounty.us

Kristjana Eyjólfsson has been the director of education for the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula since 2013. She received a BA in Anthropology from Scripps College, an M.Phil in Medieval Archaeology from the University of Glasgow, and an M.A. in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester. Before making the move to Montana she was an archaeologist in Scotland, worked for California State Parks, and headed the education department at the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy in San Jose, California. Her biggest passion in museum education is to make history come alive for people of all physical and cognitive abilities. In her spare time she enjoys teaching the Certified Interpretive Guide Class for the National Association of Interpretation (basically how to be a park ranger), serves on the Board for MCPS Family and Consumer Science programs, is the state rep for the National Association of Interpretation and the American Association for State and Local History.

History & Culture Session Day

Name: Tony A. Schoonen, CEO
Business: Boone and Crockett Club
Address: 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801
Phone: 406-521-1888

Has been CEO of B&C since 2007
Formerly worked for RMEF and Wonders of Wildlife
Member of NWTF, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Avid hunter, angler and outdoorsman
Licensed Montana Outfitter

Name: William (Bill) Taylor, Retired Teacher, Big Sky High School
Address: 6853 Lamar Trail, Florence, MT 58833
Phone: 406-239-4361
Email: wtaylor@centric.net

35 Years MT Secondary School Teacher (27 in Msla- Big Sky High – English & Journalism)
CO-Author of 5 Railroad history books on Mt Railroads with my wife Jan
4 years Onboard Manager “Montana Daylight” Passenger train Sandpoint, ID to Livingston Mt – 4 day trip
Vice-President Northern Pacific Railroad Historical Association
Graduate of Leadership 16 sent by Missoula County Public Schools
Owner of private rail vehicle for 25 years – 30,000 miles
Presenter on Rail topics at Montana History Conf., NPRHA Conventions, Milwaukee Rd Conv. And more

Name: Geoff Badenoch
Business: retired (former Executive Director of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency)
Address: 336 S 5th St. E
Phone: 406-360-7532
Email: geoffb@ism.net

Geoff was the director of the Missoula Redevelopment Agency from 1985 to 2004. Since then he has been a private consultant on real estate development matters, and taught at UM. Geoff has volunteered to serve on many boards of Missoula non-profits, including the Downtown Foundation, the Downtown Partnership, the Writing Collaborative, MCAT and others. Geoff is a member of the Board of the Montana Association of Retired Public Employees. Geoff has served on the Supervisory Committee of the Clearwater Credit Union since the early 2000's. He is currently Chair of the Missoula Library Foundation, and serves on the board of the Missoula League of Women Voters where he is spear-heading a public information campaign to inform Missoula voters of the upcoming vote on local government review. Geoff has been a polling place manager for Missoula County Elections since 2008.

History & Culture Session Day

Name: Amber Kukla, Program Director
Business: Downtown Missoula Partnership
Address: 218 E Main St, Suite C
Phone: 406-543-4238
Email: amber@missouladowntown.com

Amber Kukla comes to the Downtown Missoula Partnership from First Interstate Bank, where she served as a Financial Services Representative. Before that she was a manager at Scheels, moving from Bismarck, North Dakota in 2021 to open the Missoula store. Kukla is responsible for the Unseen Missoula program, the implementation of the Heritage Interpretive Plan, and the North Riverside Parks & Trails Plan. She also provides support for Missoula Downtown Foundation and Missoula Downtown Association initiatives. Kukla is a native of Killdeer, North Dakota. She has a BS in Political Science from NDSU with a minor in Broadcast Journalism. She was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority in college and was actively involved with their philanthropy and the Girl Scouts of America.

Name: Brandon Dewey, Director of Giving
Business: Downtown Missoula Partnership
Address: 218 E Main St, Suite C
Email: bramdon@missouladowntown.com

Brandon Dewey is the Downtown Missoula Partnership's Director of Giving. His primary responsibilities include fundraising strategies, donor development, grant writing, and community engagement. He works closely with the Missoula Downtown Foundation to assure a longtime investment into the greater Downtown Missoula area. Dewey coordinates communications for the organization, curating content for weekly e-news, newsletters, and more.

Prior to his role as the Director of Giving, Dewey was the DMP's Program Director where he spearheaded various initiatives, including the implementation of the Heritage Missoula Interpretive Plan and the North Riverside Parks & Trails Plan, and oversaw the Unseen Missoula program.

Dewey comes to Missoula from the Bitterroot Valley, where he significantly contributed to the Town of Stevensville serving in several different roles over a 10-year period. His diverse responsibilities spanned multiple departments, encompassing parks & recreation, public safety, planning, community relations, finance, and human resource management. He was elected to public office and served as Mayor of Stevensville from 2018-2021. His community involvement included service in community organizations such as the Stevensville Main Street Association and Stevensville Civic Club.

Brandon has two small children Carter and Bryar. Embracing a love for community engagement and outdoor activities, they all eagerly participate in local events and seek opportunities for outdoor recreation."

History & Culture Session Day

Name: Libby Brunell , Senior Consultant
Business: Cascadia Management
Address: 269 W Front Street, Suite D
Email: libby.brunell@cascadiabusiness.com

Libby joined the Cascadia Management team as a Senior Consultant providing workforce and team development, instructional design, project management, operations management, and technical expertise at the local and state level. She effectively leads clients through operational, organizational, and cultural transformation with an eye to operational efficiencies and team and stakeholder engagement. She facilitates development and advancement of organizations, focusing on decision making that supports long-term sustainability and the ability to pivot and adapt to changes. Libby leads teams to focus on continuous improvement and innovation. Libby has served in interim C-level and executive leadership roles in both the private and public sectors. A Montanan born and raised, with family roots in Butte, Libby values strong work ethic and giving back to the community, and is dedicated to Montana, its people and its economic growth.

Name: Paige Judnich, Senior Consultant
Business: Cascadia Management
Address: 269 W Front Street, Suite D
Email: paige@cascadiabusiness.com

Paige joined the Cascadia Management team as a Senior Consultant in 2020 to provide ad hoc HR support in partnership with the rest of the Cascadia team. Paige offers almost a decade in corporate Human Resources and Talent Acquisition. Her specialties include HR leadership training, HR infrastructure development and support, employee relations, and culture building.

Starting with her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Puget Sound, Paige has always had a passion for effective and productive communication in the workplace. She provides expert guidance through difficult situations and offers accessible frameworks for her clients to use for future situations.

Paige has provided HR support to Montana businesses since 2003 and is proud to raise her two daughters with her husband in Missoula. When Paige isn't supporting clients; she can be found running her two kids around town, substitute teaching, walking her dog around the neighborhood, or coordinating her church's youth group