



LEADERSHIP MISSOULA



SESSION DAY PRESENTERS

Quality of Life Session Day

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Thank you to our speakers for generously donating their time and expertise to support Leadership Missoula

Laura Millin, Executive Director - Missoula Art Museum

Email: lauramillin@missoulaartmuseum.org

After graduating from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, Laura spent a pioneering decade in Seattle's contemporary art world, serving as co-founder and director of On the Boards, Center on Contemporary Art, and the International Festival of Films by Women. She moved to Missoula, MT and became Executive Director of MAM in 1990. Laura guided MAM in developing emphasis on education and outreach while embarking upon improvements to its facility and collections care. In 1993 she steered the institution through AAM reaccreditation and transitioned MAM from a county agency to a private nonprofit, strengthening both the museum's independent governance and its position for growth.

Beginning in 2001 she shepherded the renovation and expansion of MAM's historic building to create accessibility, expanded educational facilities, and showcase the institution's modern and contemporary collections and exhibitions, including a gallery dedicated to Contemporary American Indian Art. MAM completed the successful \$5.3 million capital campaign in 2006 with support from local and state government, foundations, citizens, and businesses. MAM continues to implement strategies to reach new audiences and build cultural value in the community and region. Free access is at the heart of MAM's mission, and we activate it by offering inspiring exhibitions and programs to serve our community with compassion, all completely free!!

What Podcasts are you currently listening to: Many podcasts on Substack. Heather Cox Richardson: Letter from an American

What book(s) are you currently reading?: The Lost Journals of Sacajawea by Debra Magpie Earling

Volunteer Opportunities: Docent, leading exhibition tours at the museum

Slaven Lee, Executive Director – Missoula Public Library

Email: slavenl@missoulapubliclibrary.org

For 20+ years, Slaven Lee has drawn upon equity and inclusion frameworks to deliver exceptional patron experiences, build meaningful community relationships, and develop innovative services in public libraries. Slaven has held leadership roles in library systems serving rural and urban communities, including the King County Library System (Washington), Queens Public Library (New York City), and the Austin Public Library. Slaven has been the Executive Director of Missoula Public Library since April 2022 and is excited to have implemented a new strategic plan with a focus on community engagement. Slaven has served as Board President on the White Center Food Bank board in Seattle and is the current Chair of the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center board.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Robin Wall Kimmerer, Brene Brown, Ruchika Tulshyan, and Montana State Poet Laureate, Chris La Tray

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? I do not really like podcasts

What book(s) are you currently reading? Devotions by Mary Oliver and Strange as the Weather has been by Ann Pancake.

Maria Zepeda, Executive Director – Montana Area Music Association

Email: mama4mt@gmail.com

Maria Zepeda, a Montana native, singer-songwriter for Why We Went West (creator), music educator, professional musician and Executive Director/co-founder of the Montana Area Music Association 501c3 nonprofit. With a lifetime love of music, wellness and empowering others to help themselves (when you help yourself, you help the world), Maria serves the music community with her heart and soul.

Over the past decade she has created countless events that spotlight creators in the community, advocating for fair wages, professional development and equal opportunities.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Brene Brown, Eckhart Tolle

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? Ram Das, Here and Now

What book(s) are you currently reading? The Creative Act: A Way of Being - Rick Rubin

What is your 'why' and how does that relate to your leadership style? My purpose is to create, build community, and be kind. I believe that everyone should be able to do what they love, and I work with a variety of creators within the community to help them achieve their goals. I bring my heart into everything I do, and I believe that work should be like

Volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Joining our Volunteer Board of Directors

Volunteering at our events like Miles of Music, Open Mics

Volunteer to host a house show

Jean Zosel, Executive Director – Garden City Harvest

Email: jean@gardencityharvest.org

Jean grew up in a small farming community in the Midwest where she first learned the value of community and of neighbor helping neighbor. Those values exist at Garden City Harvest as well, and are a part of what drew her to this job in 2011. Prior to joining Garden City Harvest, Jean worked for KECI-TV, starting at the ground level and working her way up to Station Manager of a 3-station working group.

She has served on a number of nonprofit boards including the YWCA, NCBI, Run Wild Missoula, and the Women's Hockey Association of Missoula (WHAM). She currently serves on the MAYHA board that is affiliated with Glacier Ice Rink. Jean coached youth soccer for more than 25 years in Missoula, and enjoys playing ice hockey.

What book(s) are you currently reading? *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*

Volunteer opportunities - From May to early October, we ask for volunteers to help at two of our farms doing physical farm work

Donna Gaukler, Director - Missoula Parks & Recreation

Email: gauklerd@ci.missoula.mt.us

As Director of Missoula Parks and Recreation, Donna has guided the Missoula community in the development and adoption of several land use and management plans, and improvements ranging from neighborhood parks to regional pathways, and conservation lands to water parks. She also serves on the Mayor's Senior Leadership Team, including facilitating the city's Climate Smart and Justice-Equity-Diversity-Inclusion (JEDI) Strategic Implementation Teams. Partnerships, empowerment, inclusion, and engagement are what Donna views as the keys to the Department's success. Understanding the benefits Parks and Recreation brings to our individual residents, our community, and our place through stewardship, are critical to maximizing our shared potential. Donna notes her passion to be in the area of social science with an emphasis on engaging all populations in healthy lifestyles and outdoor play. Through play, we grow. In community, we thrive.

Education and Professional Work History –

(Missoula Parks and Recreation - Recreation Manager 1991 and then Director 2002 to present. BS Parks and Recreation Administration/Business NDSU Fargo, ND, Recreation Manager Mandan ND 1982-1991)

Donna Gaukler, Director - Missoula Parks & Recreation CONTINUED

Recent recognitions include Missoula Downtowner of the Year and Lifetime Conservation Achievement Awards, 30+ years of public service through the City of Missoula.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Several, but those with a passion for environmental and social justice are most likely to inspire me.

What Podcasts are you currently listening to? _None at the moment

What book(s) are you currently reading? Braiding Sweetgrass

Volunteer Opportunities

Numerous special events – tree care, fall family fest, run for the trees, trail building, clean up events

Adopt a park or trail, Trail Ambassadors

Trees for Missoula and Friends of Missoula Parks

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails (PROST) process will offer numerous opportunities to engage

Shaun Radley, Owner/Operator – MTCX Skis, Bikes, Events

Email: montanacyclocross@gmail.com

I moved to Missoula from Redmond, Washington to attend the University of Montana. While in Missoula I met my now-wife, Cassidy, out doing what we love – biking the Missoula trails. For the past 18 years we have continued Missoula adventuring, and grown our family to include three children while also building successful family-oriented businesses.

My passion for adventure and bicycling had space to grow and flourish for six years while working for Adventure Cycling. I started with the shop and online retail and quickly moved to office manager, I liked working directly with customers: getting to know them, helping them map out trips, and lending expert gear advice from personal riding experience.

In 2011 I started working for The Cycling House, a local adventure cycling trip business. Again, I started with the online retail side of business, but a genuine interest in others' cycling experiences led me to the Chief

Operating Officer position. Learning from TCH President Owen Gue and Trips Director Brendan Halpin, I sharpened my skills as a regional, national, and international, trip facilitator. While at The Cycling House, I also race directed Missoula's biggest cyclo-cross and cycling events, including: Rolling Thunder, Montana Gravel Challenge, and Missoula XC. I'm devoted to the local racing community and want to put events on that give juniors and masters an opportunity to test themselves and take a break from work and school.

I see MTCX as a way to culminate everything I've learned about the industry, do what I love, and support my local community. I have access to retail products for biking and nordic skiing to help athletes in need, but I want to be in the local community coaching and putting on events. I like working together with other Missoula Shops and hope to perpetuate the success of the cycling and skiing in Missoula. I have years of getting to know hundreds of cyclists. Getting to know bikes. Getting to know skis. Learning how to develop and support an enduring relationship between people and their gear.

Shaun Radley, Owner/Operator – MTCX Skis, Bikes, Events CONTINUED

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Five Valleys Land Trust

MTCX bike events

Run Wild Missoula events

MT Alpha biking group

Paige Judnich, Senior Consultant Human Resources, Cascadia Management

Email: Paige@cascadiamg.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.

Libby Brunell, Senior Consultant, Cascadia Management

Email: libby@cascadiamg.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

Terri Elander, International Tour/PR Director - MCT, Inc (Missoula Children's Theatre/Missoula Community Theatre

Email: telander@MCTinc.org

I'm proud to be a native Montanan from a big family. Missoula has been my home since "Night Fever" was the #2 song in America (Google during a break) with the exception of 2 years in Corvallis, Oregon where I served as the Catering Manager for Hewlett-Packard. I was the host of Wake Up Montana from 2001-2014 on ABC/Fox Montana . . . a fun side-hustle!

As for volunteering, I am most passionate about being a regular blood donor with the American Red Cross and I've volunteered onstage with MCT and am a member of MCT's Bits & Pieces comedy/cabaret group. But spending time with and supporting 3 busy grandkids and their parents is the most fulfilling role I play, along with my husband, Eric.

What speaker(s) inspire you? Someone who can speak with passion, humor and knowledge inspires me.

What Podcasts are you currently listening to: none currently, but enjoyed Rachel Maddow's ULTRA

What book(s) are you currently reading? I'm hooked on books by Jo Jo Moyes

Please list any volunteer opportunities within your organization or those you serve that may be available.

Front of House (ushering, concessions, door greeter)-GREAT for businesses to come as a group!

Tech crews (running spotlights, helping backstage, in sound booth)

Production crews (helping in the costume shop, set building in scene shop and crafting props)

Rachel Gregg, Executive Director – Big Sky Film Institute

Email: director@bigskyfilmfest.org

Rachel Gregg (she/her) is the Executive Director of the Big Sky Film Institute, a nonprofit artist development institute and the home of the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. Rachel received her M.A. in Communication and Environmental Rhetoric at the University of Montana where she completed her professional paper on the utility of documentary film as a tool for social movement. Rachel was previously a public relations specialist for the Montana Film Office where she produced the first Montana Forum on Film and New Media and assisted in developing Montana's film industry infrastructure through workforce development projects and administration of the Montana Department of Commerce Big Sky Film Grant program. Rachel joined the Big Sky Film Institute in 2016 and oversees creative direction and production of institute programs including the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, the DocShop filmmaker's forum, the Native Filmmaker Initiative, the 4th World Media Lab and a full slate of youth education programs. Rachel served on the Montana Governor's Tourism Advisory Council for 6 years and as chair in 2021, the board of directors of Destination Missoula and Missoula TBID grant committee from 2020-2023, and now serves as a member of Friends of Montana PBS and the Board of Directors of Missoula's new nonprofit independent journalism outlet, The Pulp. His Name is George Floyd, Class, Code Girls, The Long Petal of the Sea, Solutions and Other Problems

Rachel Gregg, Executive Director – Big Sky Film Institute CONTINUED

Rachel will be presenting on the Big Sky Film Institute's role in promoting civic engagement, economic impact, media literacy, and cultural health in Missoula.

What speaker(s) inspire you?

Tristan Harris, Bill McKibben, Michelle Obama

What Podcasts are you currently listening to:

Your Undivided Attention, Smartless, The Daily (NY Times), Ologies, Over My Dead Body

What book(s) are you currently reading?

His Name is George Floyd, Class, Code Girls, The Long Petal of the Sea, Solutions and Other Problems

Volunteer opportunities:

Volunteers – Big Sky Doc Fest seeks over 150 volunteers to help run our annual event in February. Sign-up/registration opens in January!

Skye McGinty, Executive Director – All Nations Health Center

Email: smcginty@allnations.health

Skye McGinty (she/her) is an enrolled member of the Little Shell Chippewa tribe. She is a three-time graduate from the University of Montana with her Bachelor and Master of Art degrees in Sociology with an emphasis in Inequality and Social Justice, and a Master of Business Administration degree. Skye has dedicated her academic and career pursuits to examining and addressing the unique unmet needs of underserved communities. Skye wrote her master's thesis on low-income and first-generation college students' experiences in higher education and how campus programs aimed at assisting vulnerable students can improve. As an AmeriCorps Vista, Skye examined the impacts of poverty on rural youth. She also wrote the Project Beacon grant, an initiative geared towards providing comprehensive care to Indigenous sex trafficking survivors.