

2023-2024 IAVM SLATE OF OFFICERS



Chairman of the Board: Kerry Painter, CVE, CEM, CMP

Kerry Painter, CVE, CEM, CMP is the General Manager/Director of the Raleigh Convention and Performing Arts Complex which encompasses the Raleigh Convention Center, Duke Energy Performing Arts Center, Red Hat Amphitheater and Walnut Creek Amphitheater. Previously, Painter was the AGM in Tulsa Oklahoma where the convention center won the Venue Excellence award in 2017. Earlier to that, Painter was the President/GM in Niagara Falls Canada and has assisted in constructing/opening five venues in total throughout her lengthy career.

Painter is a member of IAVM, IAEE and PCMA, and has served on several boards/committees both within the industry and in her communities. She currently serves on the IAVM Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Board of Regents. Painter created the 100+ Women campaign now launched into its sixth year. She was awarded Venues Today Woman of Influence in 2015, and Woman of Distinction in 2017.

Painter teaches at the Venue Management School yearly and was the Exchange Instructor in 2013 for the Venue Management school in Australia. As well, she teaches both domestic and internationally for CEM classes through IAEE (Korea, Saudi and Bangkok), and advises for Meredith woman's college in Raleigh. Painter is a graduate of University of Michigan majoring in Business, Economics and Communications.



First Vice Chair: Adam Cook, CVE

Adam Cook, CVE serves as the Director of Tacoma Venues & Events (TVE) where he is responsible for leading the operations and management of the City's public assembly facilities. TVE manages renowned venues, including the Tacoma Dome (5,000-23,000 capacity); the Greater Tacoma Convention Center (119,000 sq ft); Cheney Stadium, home of the Tacoma Rainiers; and the historic Pantages and Rialto Theaters, and Theatre on the Square.

Cook has led sports and entertainment venues across North America for more than 20 years. His experience includes serving as Deputy Director for TVE, Vice President of Business Operations for Seafair (Seattle, WA), Vice President and General Manager at the Rose Quarter (Portland, OR), Venue

Director and General Manager at Edmonton Expo Centre and Rexall Place (Edmonton, AB, Canada), and Acting General Manager for Global Spectrum at Comcast Arena (Everett, WA).

Cook currently serves on the Venue Management School (VMS) Board of Regents and has served on IAVM's Audit, Governance, Arenas, and Membership committees, as a member of its Board of Directors, and as a part of Region 4's leadership. He was named a recipient of the Venues Today Generation Next Award in 2014 and has engaged in speaking opportunities and published articles throughout the industry.



Second Vice Chair: Anne Wheat, CVE

Anne Wheat, CVE has been the Event Operations General Manager at Pier 57 with Google since August 2021. This marquee venue features over 130,000 sq ft of broadcast-quality event space floating on the Hudson River in a historically preserved building that is longer than the Empire State Building is tall.

Before this position, Wheat served as the Vice President, Guest Services and Special Projects for MetLife Stadium, home of the New York Giants and New York Jets. In addition to hundreds of MetLife Stadium events, she has also worked as an NFL consultant for nine Super Bowls and as the Venue Director for the three NYNJ games of the 2016 COPA America Centenario tournament.

Prior to her time at the Stadium, Wheat worked for the Chicago White Sox for nearly 10 seasons which included working over 800 baseball games, the 2003 MLB All Star Events, and 3 post-season runs including the 2005 World Series Championship.

Beyond her experience in sporting venues, Wheat developed her guest service and leadership skills in various other organizations, including professional theater and retail stores. Key elements of her expertise come in the form of guest experience, staff training and development, communication, and organizational design. She is also proud to have been a master trainer with the T.E.A.M. Coalition since May of 2005.

Wheat currently holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Chicago, a Master of Arts in Arts Management from Columbia College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business with concentrations in General and Analytic Management, Operations and Organizational Behavior.



Past Chair: Adina Erwin, CVE

Adina Erwin, CVE is Executive Vice President, Business Operations and General Manager of the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. Home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets and the WNBA New York Liberty, the Barclays Center hosts over 200 events per year and has emerged as “the convening place” for community engagement and activism.

Prior to joining the Barclays Center, Erwin served as the Senior Vice President of Business Operations for TD Garden in Boston, Massachusetts and the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, GA. During her tenure at the Fox Theatre, Erwin launched the award-winning Fox Theatre Institute, an innovative community engagement and consulting division that has provided over \$3 Million in grant funding and support to communities in Georgia. She also developed and led a master plan that enhanced existing revenue streams, introduced new revenue opportunities and improved guest and premium experience assets for the Fox Theatre.

Since 1993, Erwin has worked in various types of entertainment venues including arenas, convention centers and theaters. She served as the Director of the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville, Florida, home to the award-winning Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and a diverse mix of events from Broadway productions to concerts and corporate functions. In addition to her role at the Times-Union Center, Erwin also served on the Super Bowl Host Committee and Event Team for Super Bowl XXXIX.

Erwin served as an Instructor at the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) Venue Management School (VMS) from 2003-2019. She has served as Chair of the Board of Regents for VMS and as the 2011 Exchange Instructor for the Venue Management School in Australia. In 2013, she was awarded the Ray W. Ward Award for her dedication and extraordinary contributions to the overall success and quality of VMS.

VenuesNow Magazine recognized Adina as a “Woman of Influence” as well as a 2021 “All-Star” in the sports and entertainment industry. She was selected as one of the 2017 “Women Who Mean Business” by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.



Director – Region 1: Phil Costa, CVP

Philip Costa, CVP was recently promoted to the role of Deputy Director at the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC) where he reports directly to the Executive Director. He manages all Departmental Directors for all operations within the organization and oversees the contract and relationship

management of all Service Partners at the BCC. In this role, he also assists with organizational projects related to culture, sustainability, art, technology, and DEI.

In addition to Region 1 involvement, Costa is the chair of IAVM's Young Professional Committee and Sustainability Committee. His first involvement with IAVM (then, IAAM) was in college, where he was an intern at VenueConnect. Costa earned his Certified Venue Professional (CVP) designation in 2018.

Previously, Costa was the Director of Operations at the BCC where he managed a staff of over 60 employees and led many sustainability projects. Prior to Baltimore, Costa worked at the Augusta Entertainment Complex in Augusta, GA as the Event Manager where he oversaw operations for events. At the Stephen C. O'Connell Center in Gainesville, FL Costa worked as a Senior Event Coordinator.

Costa holds dual Bachelor's Degrees from the University of Florida and both a Masters of Business Administration and a Masters of Sports Business Management from the University of Central Florida.



Director – Region 2: Maria Talbert, CVE

Maria Talbert, CVE serves as Managing Director at Indiana University Auditorium, a 3,200-seat theatre that has been a model of campus and community programming and engagement since it was built in 1941. She holds a Master's in Arts Administration from IU and has over 25 years of marketing, event, and venue management experience.

Talbert joined IAVM in 2003 and earned her Certified Venue Executive (CVE) designation in 2016. She has not only been active in Region 2 leadership and volunteerism, but has served on the Performing Arts, Mentoring, Industry Affairs, Governance, and Young Professionals Committees.

When she's not at the Auditorium, you can find Talbert hiking at McCormick's Creek State Park, practicing yoga, reading, or spending time with her spouse, Brian, and their daughter, Emily.



Director – Region 3: Tiffany Vickaryous-Hubbard

Tiffany Vickaryous-Hubbard is the Assistant GM/Booking manager for SCHEELS arena in Fargo, ND and has been an influential part of the venue management industry starting out in Food and Beverage and worked her way to the building management side.

Vickaryous-Hubbard has worked in convention centers to racetracks and supported events around the US and Canada.

Vickaryous-Hubbard joined IAVM in 2016 and has been active with the Mentoring Committee as well as Region 3 leadership. She lives in Bemidji, MN where she enjoys her family, the lake life and fostering puppies!



Director – Region 4: Sara Waltemire, CVP, CMP

Sara Waltemire, CVP, CMP is the Chief Operating Officer at Meydenbauer Center, a convention center in Bellevue, Washington. She started her career at Meydenbauer Center immediately after graduating from University of Oregon as an event assistant. Since then, she has progressed through multiple roles in event management and sales before stepping into her current role in 2021.

Waltemire also has corporate event management experience from a brief stint at Zillow Group.

Waltemire has been awarded a place in the 30|Under|30 programs in both 425 Business magazine and through the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM). When not at Meydenbauer Center, she spends her time travelling around the Pacific Northwest, wine tasting and checking out restaurants, or at home with her husband and two cats.



Director – Region 5: Timothy Hemphill, CVP

Timothy R. Hemphill, CVP is the Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Events for the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. In this capacity, Hemphill is charged with strategic planning and oversight of the event services, sales, marketing and communications initiatives for the Center. He has served over 30 years in the meeting, convention and travel industry that included the involvement with various types of destinations and the design and management of several public meeting facilities. He

oversaw one of the largest CVB budgets in the country and received numerous awards for excellence in sales, marketing and public relations.

During his fifteen-year tenure at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Hemphill has been responsible for several unique initiatives including the acquisition of a UPS Store franchise, and launching a department to produce trade shows and conferences. Under his oversight ResCon, a global summit on resilience, was launched and most recently formed a partnership with the National Governors Association to co-produce the event. ResCon and the other owned shows are intended to fill need months and generate a new source of revenue.

Hemphill's career in the industry also includes service with CVBs in Fort Worth and Beaumont, Texas; Bakersfield, California; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana and was selected as a delegate to the White House Conference of Tourism. Hemphill holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University. He is or has been an active member of Professional Convention Management Association, International Association of Exhibitions and Events, Meeting Professionals International, Travel Industry Association of America and the American Society of Association Executives. He is a member of and is an officer for Region 5 of the International Association of Venue Managers. Hemphill is a past two-time President of the Board of Directors for the Skat International Club of New Orleans. In 2022, he was named to the CityBusiness "Power 20" list.



Director – Region 6: Nick Zazal, CVP

Nick Zazal, CVP is General Manager of the Walmart Arkansas Music Pavilion (AMP) in Northwest Arkansas. Previously he has served as Director of Events and Patron Services for the Walton Arts Center (Fayetteville, AR) and Events Director for the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (Champaign-Urbana, IL) along with several freelance positions with The Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon, International Festival of Arts and Ideas (New Haven), Colorado Shakespeare Festival (Boulder) and Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts (Little Rock).

Zazal has served on several IAVM Committees including Membership (Chair 2015-2017), Performing Arts, Amphitheaters & Fairgrounds, Industry Affairs and the Region Guidelines Task Force. He has been an officer in Region 6 since 2017.

Zazal holds a BFA in Stage Management (2004) and an MS in Recreation, Sports and Tourism (2010) both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A VMS graduate in 2013, he earned his CVP in 2017.

Zazal lives in Fayetteville, AR with his wife, Sallie, and two kids, Anya and Jack.



Director – Region 7: Danny Wheeler, CVE

Danny Wheeler, CVE works for OVG360 and serves as the General Manager of the Utah Valley Convention Center, located in Provo, Utah. He has worked in various venues over the past 20 years including LaVell Edwards Stadium and the Marriott Center on the campus of Brigham Young University, the Overland Park Convention Center, the Iowa Events Center and the St. Charles Convention Center, prior to opening the Utah Valley Convention Center. Wheeler currently serves on numerous boards including Past Chair of the IAVM's Utah Chapter, Chair of the Utah County Tourism Tax Advisory Board, Board Member and Sales Committee Chair for Explore Utah Valley, and Advisory Board Member for Utah Valley University's Event Management program.

Wheeler teaches the Event and Venue Management class at Utah's largest university, Utah Valley University, as part of the Hospitality and Event Management majors. He achieved IAVM's highest level of certification when he was awarded his Certified Venue Executive (CVE) in 2017. Wheeler has also previously served on IAVM's Finance and Convention Center committees. He and his wife Laura live in Lehi, Utah and are the parents of four children.



Director - IAVM/VMA Asia Pacific: Phil King, CVE, AVM

Phil King, CVE, AVM is the Chief Commercial Officer at the South Australian Cricket Association.

His previous role was General Manager of the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and Coopers Stadium, which encompassed the overall managerial responsibility for the operational and commercial aspects of both venues.

Prior to moving to Adelaide, King was the Director of Live Entertainment at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICCS) from 2016 to 2018 and was part of the pre-opening team. From 2011 to 2015 King was the Commercial Manager at Qudos Bank Arena (QBA), Australia's largest indoor arena. Prior to working at QBA, he was the Commercial Manager at Suncorp Stadium, widely regarded as the best rectangular venue in Australia, working there from 2004 to 2011.

King commenced in the venue management industry at Marvel Stadium in 2001 (formerly Colonial Stadium). He is well recognized as a Senior Venue Management Professional with more than 18 years' experience across Stadia and Arenas. King is an Accredited Venue Manager (AVM), and an alumnus of

the inaugural Venue Management School's Graduate Institute Program, a current instructor at the Venue Management School and a VMA Board Member from 2017.



Director - Allied: Erik Waldman, CVE

As Vice President of Venue Services for TVS, **Erik Waldman, CVE** brings more than 23 years of proven experience overseeing guest services, operations and events at some of the country's top public assembly facilities. Prior to joining TVS, Waldman served as the Senior Director of Special Events for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, overseeing special event operations for the top convention, sports and entertainment destination in the world.

In 2016, Waldman received his Certified Venue Executive (CVE) designation from the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM). He was also elected to the Board of Directors for IAVM where he served until 2019, and currently sits on the leadership committee of the Region 5 Board and is a member of the Allied Committee.

Waldman's experience in the public assembly industry provides a unique user perspective to venue design. His insight not only helps architects, but clients create ideas for revenue generating and guest experience opportunities that may have been otherwise overlooked.



Director - Arenas: Jamie Galileo, CVE

Jamie Galileo, CVE currently serves as the Senior Vice-President of Facilities for Vivint Arena/Utah Jazz and the Smith Entertainment group of companies where he has worked in various capacities for the last 26 years.

Properties include the Home of the NBA Utah Jazz at the Vivint Smart Home Arena, the Salt Lake Bees triple-A affiliate to the Los Angeles Angels playing at Smith Ballpark and Zions Bank Practice center.

Galileo is a graduate of VMS and GI programs from IAVM and received his Certified Venue Executive (CVE) designation in 2015. Galileo has served Region 7 as Director, also actively involved in the Utah Chapter where he serves as director and several other positions on the chapter board.



Director – Convention Centers: Naz Sabripour, CVP, CEM

Naz Sabripour, CVP, CEM brings over 20 years of experience in the meeting and events facility industry as the Executive Director of the Pasadena Convention Center. She is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the event management, guest services, engineering, event operations, public safety, and parking departments for the convention center.

Sabripour joined the organization in 2007 as the Senior Event Manager and was promoted to Director of Convention Services and Director of Events & Operations before assuming her current role.

Sabripour came to Pasadena after five years as a sales and events manager at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Houston, followed by a graduate degree from the University of Denver. Most recently, she was awarded the Smart Meetings Smart Women Industry Leader Award in 2023. Sabripour earned both Certified Venue Professional (CVP) designation and Certified in Exhibition Management (CEM) designation in 2016.

Sabripour is an active member of the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) and currently serves on the Convention Center Committee. She is also a member of International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE).



Director - Performing Arts: Cindy Vargo, AFMEA

Cindy Vargo is the VP of Sales at the Fabulous Fox Theatre – St. Louis MO. “The bar is set at FABULOUS!”

Vargo has over 25 years of combined experience in leading teams to exceed guest and member expectations through intentional guest service. Before joining the Fabulous Fox Theatre 19 years ago, she was Director of Membership Services for The Missouri Athletic Club. During her tenure, the MAC held Platinum status for City Clubs of America.

In her current role, Vargo oversees the sales and service initiatives that support the 32,000+ Season Ticket Holders, Group Sales, the two premium seat programs; Fabulous Fox Broadway Club and

Corporate Suites, and champions the Guest Experience. She serves on the Executive Leadership Team. While at the Fabulous Fox Theatre, Vargo has been an integral part of defining the Fabulous Fox culture and creating the guest service and core value training "IT'S SHOWTIME".

Vargo has served on the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) Performing Arts Committee and currently serves on the Strategic Leadership and Resources Committee. She has completed both Venue Management School (VMS) and the Graduate Institute (GI) and two of the three years of the Senior Executive Symposium.

Outside of work, Vargo serves on the Vision Committee for African Vision of Hope; a Non-Profit organization bringing sustainable help to the orphans and vulnerable of Zambia. On weekends, you will find her on the main stage at FBMaryville community church hosting and welcoming thousands in person and watching online.



Director - Stadiums: Brian Wright, CVP

First joining IAVM as a student in college, **Brian Wright, CVP** has been an active member for over ten years. A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Wright worked as Venue Manager at Finley Stadium & First Horizon Pavilion from 2014-2016. He moved to Atlanta in November 2016, as one of the first hires on the Stadium Operations team for Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Over nearly six years in Atlanta, Wright served numerous roles, including Assistant Facility Manager and Project Manager as well as on the steering committees for the Green Team and Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation.

Wright relocated back to Chattanooga in 2022, to become Executive Director at Finley Stadium and First Horizon Pavilion, tasked with overseeing a strategic capital plan to rejuvenate the 25-year-old facility.

Wright is a Venue Management School graduate, Certified Venue Professional, 30-Under-30 recipient in 2019, Mentor Connector Program participant, and has served on the Young Professionals, Stadiums, and Mentoring Committees. He is also active with other organizations, including the Green Sports Alliance and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga.



Director – Universities: David Bennett, MBA, CVP

David Bennett, MBA, CVP is an experienced public assembly venue manager with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education sector. He is a talented leader and coach, and is skilled in event management, facility management, safety and security operations, and technical operations.

Bennett currently serves as the Assistant General Manager of Fifth Third Bank Stadium and Director of Event Services for Kennesaw State University's Department of Event and Venue Management. He also provides oversight to the Night Owl student employment and development program. Previously he worked for Clemson University and the Charlotte Bobcats/Time Warner Cable Arena.

Bennett has been a member of IAVM for 10 years, served as chair of the Universities Committee for 3 years, and was named to the 30|Under|30 Class of 2016. He is a graduate of Venue Management School and the Academy for Venue Safety and Security, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Masters of Business Administration from Clemson University.