

2025-2026 IAVM SLATE OF OFFICERS



Chair of the Board: Stacey Church, CVE

Stacey Church, CVE currently serves as the COO at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) features 1.5 million square feet of prime exhibit space and is the world's largest LEED certified convention center. Consisting of three interconnected buildings, the GWCC offers a variety of flexible and dynamic spaces and hosts hundreds of world-class events each year.

She previously served as the General Manager at Dallas Fair Park in Dallas, TX. Covering 277-acres just east of downtown Dallas, Fair Park's cultural, historical, and entertainment venues play host to visitors from around the world every day of the year.

Church began her venue management career as Director of Finance in South Bend, IN at the Century Center and then in Springfield, MA at the MassMutual Center in both Assistant General Manager and General Manager capacities. She has also held leadership roles at the Fort Worth Convention Center and Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, TX; the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, KY where she reopened the newly renovated convention center; and served as the Assistant General Manager at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas.

Church, a graduate of the University of Kentucky (GO CATS!), earned her Certified Venue Executive (CVE) designation in 2022. She has a passion for giving back through volunteerism and has served on multiple IAVM committees.



First Vice Chair: Brett Mitchell, CVE

Brett C. Mitchell, CVE is General Manager of the Overland Park Convention Center.

In 2010, motivated to spend more time with his children, Mitchell resigned his position as Vice President of Convention Center Operations for Global Spectrum (now Oak View Group), choosing to return as General Manager of the Overland Park Convention Center.

Within the past five years Exhibitor Magazine named Overland Park Convention Center the Best Small Convention Center in North America three times and once Best Customer Service & On-Site Support for centers of any size.

Mitchell earned a Sports Business Management degree from Brigham Young University and later served on the Industry Advisory Council for the school's Facility Management Program. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Center for Exhibition Industry Research (CEIR), as Chair of the International Association of Venue Managers' (IAVM) Convention Centers Committee, and as Co-Chair of the Exhibition Services and Contractors Association (ESCA) Venue Council. In 2021, he was honored with ESCA's Volunteer of the Year award.

Mitchell, son of a United States Marine Corps General, is married to Sheila Cook Mitchell of Vernal, Utah and is most proud of being the father of Georgia, Emma, Noah, and Maia.



Second Vice Chair: Matt Hollander, CVE

Matt Hollander, CVE has been a member of IAVM since 1992 and earned his CVE in 2009. In his current role, Hollander works for Oak View Group as the General Manager of the Greenville (SC) Convention Center.

Hollander has been an active volunteer leader with IAVM over the years. He served as the Region 1 Director, a long-time member of the Convention Center Committee (including as its Chair), on the Audit Committee, and as a member of the *VenueConnect* planning committee. Hollander currently serves on the Industry Affairs Committee and as the Chair of the Certification Board.

Hollander's 35+ years of venue management have included senior positions in convention centers, arenas, theaters, and amphitheaters. He is excited to embark on this new Board Leadership role to help shape the future of our association to build engagement amongst our current and future venue industry professionals and the allied members who support our industry.



Past 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 served on the Venue Management School (VMS) Board of Regents and has served on IAVM's Audit, Governance, Leadership Development, 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.



Director – Region 1: Phil Costa, CVP

Philip Costa, CVP serves as the Deputy Director at the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC) where he reports directly to the Executive Director. He manages the 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 Venue*Connect*. 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: Jeff Steeg, CVP

Jeff Steeg, CVP is the Chief Operating Officer for Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts, a three-venue campus in Carmel, IN featuring the Payne & Mencias Palladium concert hall. Entering his 15th year with Allied Solutions Center, Steeg has held multiple roles with the organization including Lead Audio Engineer, Director of Production, and Vice President of Operations. Prior to joining the Allied Solutions Center, Steeg served as a Studio Engineer for Sweetwater Sound in Fort Wayne, IN. After joining IAVM in 2017, he began serving as an officer for Region 2 in 2022.

Steeg holds a Bachelor's Degree from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and a Master of Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. He is also a 2019 graduate of the Hamilton County Leadership Academy and continues to serve on the curriculum committee for that organization.

Steeg calls Westfield, IN home with his wife, Sarah, two kids, Brecken and Charlotte, and two dogs, Ivy and Rizzo. In his free time, he enjoys coaching various youth sports teams while also cheering on the Pacers, Colts, Hoosiers, and Cubs.



Director – Region 3: Eryn Walters, CVP

Eryn Walters, CVP is the Manager of Patron Services at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. Starting her career as an Events Coordinator for MSU-WP and then moving on to become the Business Manager and eventual Director (August 2020) of the West Plains Civic Center, she brings a decade of experience in venue and event management to her Kauffman role. In October 2024, Walters accepted the position at the Kauffman Center.

Walters is an active member of IAVM. This year she will be transitioning to the role of Region 3 Director and the Chair of the Young Professionals Committee. Since joining, she has served on the CEO Search Selection Committee, Governance Committee, VenueConnect Planning Committee, Super Regional Executive Committee, and chaired the Registration Committee for the Super Regional. She earned her CVP in June 2021 and is currently working towards her CMP certification.

In her spare time, Walters enjoys spending time with her teenage daughter where they explore the new city where they just moved.



Director – Region 4: Cody Lund

Cody Lund serves as the Executive Director of Boise Centre, an award-winning convention facility located in beautiful downtown Boise, Idaho. With over 18 years of experience at Boise Centre, Lund has held various roles, including overseeing the successful expansion of Boise Centre East in 2016 and assisting in the creation and development of Boise Centre’s signature culture program, Wowgistics.

Lund is a proud and active member of Capital City Kiwanis, where he was named Kiwanian of the Year in 2022. In the same year, he was also recognized as Manager of the Year at Boise’s ROSE Awards. Lund is a member of several industry-related associations, such as SKAL, NIGP, IPPA, and IAVM, where he will assume the role of Director of Region 4 this year.

In his spare time, Lund enjoys playing golf and visiting local establishments for lunch, dinner, or to catch a game or concert, as he is a big fan of sports and live music.



Director – Region 5: Erik Waldman, CVE

As the Senior Vice President of Client Services at TVS, an architectural and interior design firm that specializes in public assembly venues, **Erik Waldman, CVE**, brings over 20 years of invaluable

expertise in supervising guest services, operations, and events within some of the nation's premier public assembly venues. Prior to joining TVS, Waldman held the position of Senior Director of Special Events at the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, where he led special event operations for the world's foremost convention, sports, and entertainment destination, including Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta.

Waldman actively contributes to the industry's growth by serving on boards and committees with various international associations. His passion for continuous learning and dedication to enhancing the industry's success are evident in his involvement.

Waldman's extensive background in managing public assembly venues grants him a distinctive user perspective on venue design. His insightful approach not only aids architects but also assists clients in cultivating innovative ideas for revenue generation and optimizing guest experiences, uncovering opportunities that might otherwise be overlooked. Erik is a driving force in shaping the future of design within the dynamic realm of public assembly venues.



Director – Region 6: Andrew Sims

Originally from Peoria, IL, **Andrew Sims** is a highly motivated professional with over 28 years of experience in public assembly and facility management. He began his career as a commercial loan officer but soon realized his passion lay in managing facilities and public venues.

Sims thrives in dynamic, fast-paced environments where he can lead teams, improve processes, and drive operational efficiency. His expertise spans nearly every department within arenas, theaters, and convention centers, with a focus on streamlining operations and enhancing service delivery.

As a senior management team member, Sims has developed a broad skill set that includes team leadership, large-scale budgeting, project administration, sustainability initiatives, capital improvements, corporate business development, event and client services, and facility operations and security.

One of the highlights of Sims' career is his involvement in the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Master Plan—a \$3 billion initiative aimed at constructing a new convention center, renovated arena and theater, and revitalizing the downtown Dallas district.

Sims remains committed to innovation, excellence, and creating impactful experiences in every venue he has the privilege to manage.



Director – Region 7: Ashley Keen, CVP

Ashley Keen, CVP is currently a Senior Consultant and key member of Theatre Project’s Strategy & Operations division where she specializes in helping clients plan for the future. Keen combines her past experience of working in flexible spaces and multi-venue arts centers with a love of creative solution-finding to support clients’ strategic goals.

Previously, Keen was at the Mesa Arts Center for ten years, where she held roles as an event services coordinator, responsible for managing multiple simultaneous, cross-venue events, the production supervisor, where she coordinated all back of house, production, and artist logistics for over a thousand events in a year, and a theatre technical coordinator. Before her time with the MAC, Keen was the assistant master electrician and assistant lighting designer at the historic Ogunquit Playhouse; prior to that, she held positions with Orlando Shakespeare Theater and Arizona State University.

Keen earned a Master of Education in secondary education from Grand Canyon University and a Bachelor of Arts in theatre—design and production from Arizona State University. She is a Certified Venue Professional (CVP) and a member of USITT. She is the past chair of the IAVM Young Professionals committee, a member of the Research committee and the Strategic Leadership & Resources committee, and the former IAVM Arizona State chapter representative.



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

Phil King, AVM is the Managing Director for Ticketek Australia.

His previous roles were Chief Commercial Officer at the South Australian Cricket Association and 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: Kayln Denniston, CVP

Kayln Denniston, CVP is a distinguished live events industry professional with nearly a decade of experience in scoping, strategizing, and implementing enterprise-level venue management software for diverse venues worldwide. Based in Knoxville, TN, she currently serves as the Senior Client Success Manager at Prism.fm. In this role, she excels in driving customer success through a blend of technical expertise and business value consultation. Prior to Prism.fm, Denniston worked for Momentus Technologies. Her roles with Momentus included roles in account management, consulting and onboarding, and front-line customer support, allowing her to engage with every point of the customer experience.

Denniston is a graduate of the prestigious Venue Management School and holds several leadership positions in industry committees. She has served as Chair of the Allied Committee and has been a member of the CEO Succession Committee, the Foundation Task Force, and the Young Professionals Committee. Additionally, she holds a Board position as a Young Professional representative with the International Entertainment Buyer's Association (IEBA).

Denniston is passionate about being a voice for Allied membership, striving to shift the perception of Allied members from a transactional, vendor relationship to positioning them as industry thought leaders and valuable resources. Her contributions to IAVM have been recognized with several accolades, including earning her Certified Venue Professional (CVP) in 2024, the Chair Citation in 2023, the 30|Under|30 award in 2020, and being elected by her peers as Class Representative for VMS in 2018.

Believing that the relationships forged within IAVM have been fundamental to her career growth and advancement, Denniston looks forward to making continued progress as the Allied Sector Director.



Director - Arenas: Michael Gatto, CVE

As the Chief Venue Officer of Columbus Arena Sports & Entertainment (CASE), **Michael Gatto, CVE** oversees the operations of Nationwide Arena, home of the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets, and the Jerome Schottenstein Center, which hosts Ohio State Buckeye Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, and Men's Ice Hockey teams. Additionally, Gatto manages the booking and execution of all entertainment events at the iconic Ohio Stadium.

With a tenure spanning 26 years in Columbus, Gatto has played a pivotal role in establishing the city as the premier sports and entertainment hub of the Midwest. His achievements include the opening of the Schottenstein Center in 1998, the centralization of booking, marketing, ticketing, and finance departments under CASE Management, the development of Buckeye Country Superfest (a two-day country music festival at Ohio Stadium), the oversight of the \$32M renovation of the Schottenstein Center, and the leadership of the CASE team in producing and executing major sporting and entertainment events across the arenas and the Stadium. Under Gatto's guidance, CASE recently expanded its portfolio by adding Mershon Auditorium, a 2,600-seat theater located on The Ohio State University campus, to its family of venues.

With over 30 years of experience in venue management, Gatto is an active member of the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM). He has previously served as Chair of the IAVM Arenas Committee and currently holds a position on the IAVM Board as the Arenas Sector Director.

Gatto earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Widener University and a Master of Education degree in Sports Administration from Temple University.



Director – Convention Centers: Robert (Bob) Fingerman, CVE

Bob Fingerman, CVE has more than 25 years of industry experience managing events and public assembly facilities in both the public and private sectors. He currently serves as Assistant Director at

the Phoenix Convention Center & Venues. Fingerman leads a talented team of industry professionals that are responsible for ensuring that our venues deliver on the promise of providing the highest level of professional services that creates memorable experiences for all our guests and visitors.

Throughout his career, Fingerman has ushered in numerous major events and fan experiences into Phoenix that include the Super Bowl, NCAA Men's Final Four, WrestleMania, MLB, NBA & WNBA All-Star Festivities, and Presidential visits from over the years. Prior to joining the Phoenix Convention Center in 2007, he spent his career managing performing arts centers and festivals.

Fingerman is recognized as a Certified Venue Executive (CVE) by the International Association of Venue Managers and is committed to providing the highest level of industry standards to all our clients and attendees. He received his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University.



Director - Performing Arts: Sarah Robertson, CVP

Sarah Robertson, CVP is the Vice President – Operations at Dayton Live in Dayton, Ohio. She joined IAVM in Fall 2009 as a Senior at Indiana University and has been an active member ever since. Previously, Robertson worked at the Alamodome, the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, and the Peace Center.

Robertson has attended numerous IAVM conferences and served on the Performing Arts Sector and Mentoring Committees as well as the Nominating Committee for Region 2. IAVM has been a driving force in her career. The lifelong connections made through our organization have changed her life and become a network of problem-solving professionals.

When she isn't at work, Robertson spends most of her time with her baby girl, Charlotte, and her husband, Dennis. Whether it is traveling, finding our next favorite restaurant, or figuring out her daughter's latest trick, she is always ready for a new adventure.



Director - Stadiums: Derek Michelson, CVP

Derek Michelson, CVP, is the Director of Stadium Operations for Sporting Kansas City and a committed leader in the venue management industry. With over a decade of experience spanning major league sports, arena operations, and large-scale live events, Michelson has held key roles at Sharks Sports & Entertainment, ASM Global at NRG Park, and Kroenke Sports & Entertainment, along with his roots at the collegiate club sports level.

He has managed or assisted operations for signature events including Super Bowl LI, the 2019 NHL All-Star Game, and multiple NCAA Men's Basketball Tournaments including the 2018 Final Four.

Michelson earned his CVP designation in 2022 and has served IAVM through various roles including a NorCal Chapter leader, the Region 7 Scholarship Chair, and several committee appointments including Young Professionals, Arenas and Stadiums.

Michelson brings a strong operational foundation, a passion for mentorship, and a deep commitment to advancing the profession—values that closely align with IAVM's mission to inspire, educate, and connect venue professionals worldwide.



Director – Universities: Michael Junod, CVE

Michael Junod, CVE serves as the Director of the University Center at Mercer University. He earned the designation of a Certified Venue Executive (CVE) by the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) in 2019. He also serves Mercer University as the Chair of the Board of Appeals, a

Title IX Investigator and Adjunct Professor in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Junod previously worked at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center and the Macon Centerplex.

Junod has over 30 years as a Citizen- Soldier, retiring from the United States Army Reserves in 2017 at the rank of Colonel. He held command positions from Platoon Leader to Battalion Commander – deploying four times in support of our nation's conflicts in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Junod is married to the former Leigh Ann Green of Alabama and has two daughters: Sara Grace (24) and Amelia Leigh (23) and an English Bulldog named Tubbs. The Junod family currently resides in Macon, Georgia.