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BAC-10499

Contact Information

Contact Name	Liz Gardner	Home Address	[REDACTED]
Preferred Phone	[REDACTED]	Home City	[REDACTED]
Preferred Email	[REDACTED]	Home State	[REDACTED]
Other Phone		Home Zip	[REDACTED]
Other Email		County	[REDACTED]
DOB	[REDACTED]	Hispanic or Latino origin or Descent?	[REDACTED]
Gender	[REDACTED]	Race/Ethnicity	[REDACTED]
Other Gender		Other Ethnicity	
		Tribal Affiliation	
		Salutation	
		Pronouns	[REDACTED]

Application

Status	In Progress	Council Resolution Number	
Notes			

Board Information

Board Name	Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs (DCCA)	Original Start Date	
		End Date	
		Other boards or commissions served	

Work Information

Employer		Work Address	
Position		Work City	
Business Phone #		Work State	
Work Email		Work Zip	

Additional Information

Work or home in Denver	Yes	Objection to appointment?	No
Are you a registered voter?		Special Information	
If so, what county?		Registered Lobbyist	No
Denver City Council District No	6	Conflict of Interest	No

Conflict of Interest
Explanation

Education and General Qualifications

Name of High School		Name of Graduate School
Location of High School		Location of Graduate School
# of Years Attended High school		# of Years Attended Graduate School
Did you Graduate High School	Yes	Did you Graduate
		Graduate Major
Name of College		
Location of College		
# of Years Attended College		
Did you Graduate College		
Undergrad Major		

Reference Details

Reference Name #1		Reference Email #1
Reference Phone #1		Reference Address #1
Reference Name #2		Reference Email #2
Reference Phone #2		Reference Address #2
Reference Name #3		Reference Email #3
Reference Phone #3		Reference Address #3

Agree to a background check

Owner



Created By Denver Integration, 3/30/2026, 3:54 PM

Last Modified By Sterling Simms, 5/6/2026, 3:18 PM

Notes & Attachments

Liz Gardner - Headshot.jpg

Type **Attachment**
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Description
[View file](#)

Liz Gardner Biography.pdf

Type **Attachment**
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Description
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Liz Gardner Resume.pdf

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Applicants History

5/6/2026, 3:18 PM

User **Sterling Simms**

Action **Changed Status from New to In Progress.**

3/30/2026, 3:54 PM

User **Denver Integration**

Action **Created.**



LIZ GARDNER

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Visionary philanthropy and corporate social responsibility leader. Brings more than two decades of strong idea generation and implementation, grantmaking, internal and external relationship development, strategic impact investing, government affairs and sustainability.

EXPERTISE

- Partnership development
- Stakeholder engagement
- Corporate communications
- Grantmaking and partner management
- Employee Resource Group leadership
- Media relations and public speaking
- Budget planning and oversight

EXPERIENCE

June 2023-
Present

Executive Director, DaVita Giving Foundation and Director, Village Giving

- Lead enterprise-wide philanthropic strategy for the DaVita Giving Foundation and DaVita Inc., directing multi-million-dollar investments across health, education, and civic vitality to drive measurable community impact.
- Design and execute national giving programs and partnerships (e.g., kidney health screenings, workforce pathways, teammate initiatives and medically tailored nutrition) reaching thousands of individuals annually.
- Oversee governance, grantmaking, and compliance for the foundation, managing our funding portfolios and ensuring alignment with ESG priorities and business strategy.
- Drive teammate engagement through scalable volunteerism and giving platforms, mobilizing 60K+ annual volunteer hours and millions in charitable contributions across 2,600+ causes.
- Build and steward strategic partnerships with leading nonprofits, leveraging cross-sector collaboration to expand reach and impact.

November 2021 –
June 2023

Area Manager, Community Relations & Government Affairs | Xcel Energy

- Managed the city and county political, nonprofit business and company relationships in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties
- Led community investment, sponsorships and brand reputation in region

- Influenced public policy and lead key stakeholder engagement through service on area boards, community presentations and individual relationship management
- Served as a key project manager between all internal departments and municipal partners to deliver exceptional service
- Acted as the public figure for Xcel Energy and develop external stakeholder communication

December 2016
– November 2021

Corporate Social Responsibility Manager | Xcel Energy

- Led statewide corporate social responsibility strategy for Fortune 500 company including annual strategic planning, foundation grantmaking, community partnerships, corporate sponsorships, employee volunteerism and giving
- Launched new grant priorities, employee choice grant, and four signature programs focused on scale and long-term implementation
- Managed \$3 million philanthropic budget including impactful grantmaking, partner alignment, employee engagement and story telling
- Led corporate social responsibility team and worked cross-functionally to gain engagement and alignment on philanthropic initiatives
- Aligned corporate giving with and engaged employee resource groups in giving decisions
- Provided leadership for all employee engagement and volunteerism including Statewide Day of Service and 31,000 employee volunteer hours annually
- Represented Xcel Energy with a diversity of key stakeholders at public meetings

August 2012 –
January 2017

Vice President Resource Development | Mile High United Way

Senior Director, Corporate & Employee Engagement *(August 2012-February 2016)*

- Managed a high performing team responsible for annual operating revenue of \$33 million and strategic investments to drive community impact
- Collaborated with the Board of Trustees, Volunteer Committees, and CEO to create annual and long-range to support the strategic plan
- Led partnerships with 800 corporations
- Developed all stakeholder communication

November 2007 –
August 2012

Director of Development | American Lung Association in Colorado

Special Events Manager *(July 2009-July 2010)*

Donor Relations Manager *(November 2007-July 2009)*

- Managed the strategic direction (including 3 FTE) for all fundraising initiatives, including special event implementation, corporate partnership stewardship and development, major gift campaigns, communications, volunteer management, donor cultivation and stewardship and budget management for \$1.5M nonprofit

EDUCATION

Regis University, Denver, CO

Master of Arts: Nonprofit Management (Summa Cum Laude)

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Bachelor of Arts: Communications, Advertising & Public Relations (Cum Laude)

School of International Training, Ghana West Africa

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Denver Zoo, Leadership Council Member
- Denver Metro Leadership Foundation, Board Member
- Children's Museum of Denver, Birthday Bash Committee
- Denver Foundation, Helen McLoraine Scholarship Committee
- Women's Foundation of Colorado, Communications Committee
- Graland Country Day School, Vice President Community Enrichment

HONORS & CERTIFICATES

- 2024 Denver Business Journal Top Women in Business
- 2021 Denver Business Journal 40 Under 40
- Leadership Denver Graduate
- Impact Denver Graduate and Outstanding Alumni
- Downtown Denver Partnership Leadership Program
- Institute for Leaders in Development Graduate

Liz Gardner**Executive Director, DaVita Giving Foundation**

Liz Gardner is the Executive Director of the DaVita Giving Foundation and Director of Village Giving. In this role, Liz manages all philanthropic giving for DaVita Kidney Care. Prior to joining DaVita, Liz worked at Xcel Energy serving as both local government affairs and community relations roles as well as roles leading Xcel Energy's corporate philanthropy. Liz has a long history of blending her passion for service with business and spent nearly a decade in the nonprofit sector with Mile High United Way and the American Lung Association.

Liz has a Masters in Non-Profit Management from Regis University and Bachelors degree from Marquette University.

Liz serves on the Leadership Council of the Denver Zoo and is on the Board of Directors for the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation. She is also actively involved with the Women's Foundation of Colorado, Children's Museum of Denver and Graland County Day School.

Liz has been recognized as a Denver Business Journal 40 Under 40 recipient and a Denver Business Journal Top Women in Business award. She is a graduate of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Leadership Denver and a graduate Downtown Denver Partnership Leadership Program. Liz is married and is a mom to two elementary-aged sons.