

MEMORANDUM – DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

TO:	Denver City Council
FROM:	Esther Lee Leach - Office of Boards & Commissions
DATE:	08/21/2025
PURPOSE:	Appointments and Reappointments for Downtown Development Authority

Staff Liaison:

Laura Swartz, Marketing and Communications Director, DOF

CURRENT BOARD STATUS

Scope of Board/Commission: The Denver Downtown Development Authority (DDA or DDDA) supports catalytic investments that help spur economic growth and revitalization in the heart of our city. Delivering on the promise of building a vibrant downtown, the city will use public investments through the DDA to accelerate economic growth and create a family friendly, thriving, and diversified downtown.

Appointment Process:

The Mayor appoints 6 members and 1 City Council representative (7 members total) for a term of 4 years.

Appointment Candidates:

Term: 10/01/2025 – 08/31/2029 or until a successor is duly appointed

Mary Nguyen (Female)(Asian) – Owner, Olive & Finch Collective



BIO: Mary Nguyen is a self-taught chef and a leading figure in Denver’s culinary scene with more than 20 years of experience. From her early career in investment banking and commodities trading to becoming North America’s only female executive sushi chef, Nguyen has built a reputation as a prominent BIPOC chef. She is the founder and president of the Olive & Finch Collective, a diverse portfolio that includes restaurants (Olive & Finch), cafes (Little Finch), a food and beverage production and distribution company (Finch, On The Fly) serving institutional clients and a hospitality management consulting firm (Collective Management Partners) supporting hospitality brands. Beyond her success in the hospitality industry, Nguyen is deeply committed to mentorship, education, and inclusive community development. She serves as Chair of the Asian Chamber Foundation and sits on

the board of the Emily Griffith Foundation—both of which support education and workforce development initiatives. In these leadership roles, she works to remove barriers to entry for historically excluded communities and champion opportunities for growth and meaningful representation in both education and leadership.

Term: 10/01/2025 – 08/31/2029 or until a successor is duly appointed

Patty Salazar (Female)(Hispanic) – Executive Director, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies



BIO: Patty Salazar was appointed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis as Executive Director for the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) in January 2019. As DORA's Executive Director, she leads the state's umbrella regulatory authority and consumer protection agency which has oversight of more than 50 industries, whose work is supported by nearly 700 employees and more than 40 boards, commissions and advisory committees with more than 350 appointees. Patty earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. With more than 20 years of legislative and regulatory experience, she is the recipient of the 2019 Latinas First Foundation Trailblazers Award and the 2021 Council of State Governments 20 Under 40 Leadership Award. She also serves on the Denver Library Commission, is a gubernatorial appointee to the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Board of Directors and is a Trustee of the Board of Women's Foundation of Colorado.

Reappointment Candidates:

Term: 10/01/2025 – 06/30/2029 or until a successor is duly appointed

Jay Lambiotte (Male)(Caucasian) – CFO, East West Partners



BIO: Jay spent the first 9 years of his career with East West Partners in Lake Tahoe securing development financing in excess of \$500M. In addition to being a lead member of the development team that created The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe, Jay's responsibilities included overall financial management for East West's California location. In 2013, an opportunity presented itself in Denver, where Jay transitioned his CFO role to the new location and has helped lead the nationally recognized Union Station redevelopment. In 2018, Jay became CFO for East West Partners with responsibility for financial oversight of all EWP projects in Charleston, Denver, Steamboat, Vail, Aspen and Deer Valley. Throughout his career, Jay has served on numerous HOA boards, Metro District boards and is a current board member of Downtown Denver Development Authority. Jay is a product council president for Urban

Land Institute and serves on the board of the non-profit arts space Union Hall. Combining his resort experience with a deep understanding of the urban environment, Jay brings a well-rounded perspective to his responsibilities include financial management and reporting, securing debt and equity financing, acquisition and disposition of real estate assets and project management.

Term: 10/01/2025 – 06/30/2029 or until a successor is duly appointed

Frank Cannon (Male)(Caucasian) – President, Union Station Neighborhood Company

BIO: Frank is active in many community and professional organizations. Initially appointed by former Mayor, now United States Senator John Hickenlooper, Frank serves on the Denver Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and is the immediate past chair. The DDA is the tax increment financing entity created by the City of Denver to assist in the financing of the Denver Union Station Transit Center. As chair, Frank was deeply involved in both the initial financing and more recent refinancing of the Denver Union Station project debt, an obligation that is on track to be retired by 2024. Frank is a past board member of the Downtown Denver Partnership Civic Ventures Board. He is involved in both the Urban Land Institute and NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association. Frank is a graduate of the University of Colorado, College of Architecture and Planning. He resides in Denver with his wife and two children.