

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPLICATION

Please complete the following information in full,
attach a cover letter, current resume or biography and return to the address below.

Type or print in blue or black ink.

Board or Commission you are applying for: Denver's Great Kids Head Start Policy Council

Last Name: Binford

First Name: Erin

Occupation/Employer: Program Officer – Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation

Work Address: 1666 S. University Blvd. Suite B City: Denver Zip: 80210

Work E-mail Address: ebinford@buellfoundation.org

Work Phone: 303-744-1688

Work/Home Fax: 303-744-1601

Home Address: 2719 S. Hazel Court

City: Denver

Zip: 80236

Home Phone: 303-362-1830

Cell Phone/ Pager: 720-220-5372

Home E-mail Address: erinallyson@hotmail.com

Are you a registered voter? Yes No If so, what county? Denver

Denver City Council District No.: 2

Ethnicity (Optional): Caucasian

Highest Level of Education or Degree Earned: Associate's degree - Marketing Year Completed: 1984

Memberships/ Organizations/ Volunteer Activities (include past or present): Community committee member of the Denver Foundation's Inclusiveness Project, founding and current member of Colorado Funders for Inclusiveness and Equity, member – Colorado Fatherhood Council, member (Buell) – Colorado Association of Funders, committee member for revision efforts of Colorado's Common Grant Application (CGA) and Common Grant Report (CGR), member – Denver Funders Forum, previous committee member – National Philanthropy Day in Colorado, previous committee member – Rural Philanthropy Days (Community Resource Center), previous board member – Community Shares of Colorado, previous member and board treasurer – DOVIA, previous voting member of Nonprofit Association's government relations committee (Buell is a current member of the Association).

References (List three persons, not related to you, whom you have known at least one year):

Name	Address	Phone Number
Ms. Danni Lederman	214 W. 5 th Denver, CO 80204	303-257-7723
Ms. Michelle Sturm	Anschutz Family Foundation 555 17 th Street #2400 Denver, CO 80202	303-299-1363
Mr. Ron Martinez	1393 S. Zenobia Street Denver, CO 80219	303-936-7804

Special Information:

Is there anything that would adversely affect public confidence in your appointment or service? Yes No
If yes, please explain on a separate sheet of paper.


Signature

12/5/10
Date

Return Completed Form to:

Suzan Moore, Director of Boards and Commissions

City and County of Denver Building, Room 350

Denver, CO 80202 Phone: (720) 865-9034 Fax: (720) 865-8787

Suzan.moore@denvergov.org

December 5, 2010

Suzan Moore, Direct of Boards and Commissions
City and County of Denver Building, Room 350
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Ms. Moore:

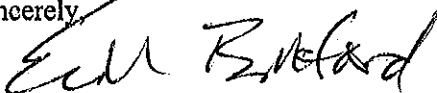
It is with great interest that I submit this letter of intent and application to serve on the Denver's Great Kids Head Start Policy Council. Mr. Chris Auer and Mr. Al Martinez brought the position to my attention. I have been a program officer at the Temple Buell Foundation for more than a decade. During that time, the Foundation, and therefore I as a program officer, have specialized in the field of early care and education.

Many years ago, the trustees of the Buell Foundation asked staff to conduct research in an effort to narrow the funding priorities of the foundation. Very quickly it became obvious that the best investment was in the state's youngest citizens. Currently, we seek out funding partnerships with quality providers of early education across the state. It is my job as a program officer to not only coach potential partners and support them through the application process, but also to serve as their advocate. I share what I know with them about grantmaking, budgeting, etc. while learning from them - the experts who spend their days providing critical services to young children and their families.

I understand what it takes to work effectively on a team. For many years, I have served on committees of all sizes. I have led, and I have followed. I know how to draw out the best in people while working toward a common goal. Willing to work hard to achieve excellence, I have built a reputation as a "go-to" person on collaborative projects. Earlier this year, I was nominated as Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy for the National Philanthropy Day in Colorado awards. The nomination was a surprise to me, one that left me speechless. Written by a peer, Michelle Sturm, a program officer with the Anschutz Family Foundation, it was supported by my own boss, Susan Steele, as well as the executive director of a nonprofit organization in Yuma (Baby Bear Hugs), and the director of resource development at Otero Junior College in La Junta. I have attached a copy of that document for your review as support for my nomination to the Policy Council.

It would be an honor to contribute to the incredible work of Denver's Great Kids Head Start. I am comfortable within the early learning landscape in Colorado and know the players involved. I am very familiar with Head Start and believe in its efforts to prepare Denver's children for school and life. Thank you for considering me for the position. If you need any additional information or have any questions, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Erin Binford, Program Officer
Temple Buell Foundation

Erin Binford

2719 S. Hazel Court ♦ Denver, CO 80236

Cell 720-220-5372/Home 303-362-1830 ♦ erinallyson@hotmail.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Officer (March 2000 – Present)

Temple Buell Foundation – Denver, CO

Development Director (December 1995 – February 2000)

Harrison Memorial Animal Hospital – Denver, CO

VISTA Placement Officer (April 1994 – December 1995)

Corporation for National Service – Denver, CO

Community Relations Coordinator (October 1992 – August 1993)

Urban Peak – Denver, CO

VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) (October 1991 – October 1992)

Urban Peak – Denver, CO

Manager – Flight Services (May 1987 – October 1991)

Northwest Airlines – Boston, New York, Detroit

Assistant Director, Marketing Department (January 1985 – January 1987)

Saks Fifth Avenue – New York, NY

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Inclusiveness Project of The Denver Foundation - current voting member

Colorado Funders for Inclusiveness and Equity (COFIE) - founder and current voting member

Colorado Fatherhood Council – current member

Denver Funders Forum – current member

Colorado Nonprofit Association (1998 – 2000)

Government Relations Committee, voting member and Colorado Nonprofit Day, steering committee member

Community Shares of Colorado (1997 – 2000)

Agency member and board member

DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) (1997 – 1999)

Member and board treasurer

National Philanthropy Day in Colorado (1998 – 2000 and 2007 – 2008)

Chair, Awards & Selection Committee and steering committee member

EDUCATION

A.O.S. Marketing and Management – 1984

Tope Coburn School, New York, NY

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY IN COLORADO

2010 AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

*These awards recognize exceptional philanthropic and volunteer contributions in Colorado.
Awardees will be honored in November 2010, at the Denver Marriott City Center.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please type and use a separate form for each nomination.
- Please list and answer all questions in the nomination narrative on no more than two (2) typed pages.
- Nominations must include letters of support from two other organizations/individuals expanding on or validating the nominee's qualifications.
- Do not send a cover letter, any other attachments, or supplemental materials.
- Previous award recipients are not eligible for nomination.

NOMINEE:

Name: **Erin Binford** _____ Title (if applicable): **Program Officer**

Organization (if applicable): **Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation**

Address: **1666 South University Blvd, Suite B** **Denver** **CO** **80210**
street city state zip

Phone: (303) 744-1688 Fax: (303) 744-1601 email: ebinford@buellfoundation.org

CATEGORY OF NOMINATION (Please check ONLY ONE):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Business or Corporation – Large or Small* | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Service Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Philanthropist | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Youth (18 and under) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Youth Group (18 and under) |

* Please indicate number of Colorado employees _____

SUBMITTED BY:

Name: **Michelle Sturm** Title (if applicable): **Senior Program Officer**

Organization (if applicable): **Anschutz Family Foundation**

Address: **555 17th Street, Suite 2400** **Denver** **CO** **80202**
street city state zip

Phone: (303) 299-1363 Fax: (303) 299-1235 email: michelle.sturm@tac-denver.com

Relationship to Nominee: **colleague for the past nine years**

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. What are the nominee's specific achievements?

Professional background: Erin Binford is an extraordinary professional in philanthropy. She began her work in the nonprofit sector in 1991 when she left the corporate world and came to Denver as a Vista Volunteer for a 1-year placement at Urban Peak, a nonprofit serving homeless youth. The next year she served as their Community Relations Director. She subsequently returned to the Corporation for National Service as a Placement Officer for Vista Volunteers. From there she became the Development Director at Harrison Memorial Animal Hospital, and then in 2000, she joined the staff of the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation as Program Officer.

Erin has a large fan base ranging from Buell grantees and potential grantees, to other nonprofits, to colleagues she collaborates with on various projects, to her boss and co-workers at the Buell Foundation. This application speaks to Erin's contributions to the field of philanthropy since joining the staff at Buell.

- Erin covers all proposals to the Buell Foundation that come from the Eastern Plains and she shares coverage of the Denver Metro Area. Her interactions with their grantees epitomize a true partnership based on mutual trust, authenticity, and respect. Erin provides counsel and resources to help grantees improve their operations and their success rate with foundations. (see letter of support)
- She served as the chair of the Colorado Association of Funder's Program Committee for 2 years. In 2008, Erin championed a CAF monthly gathering focused on the topic of Inclusiveness. The session proved extremely popular. Recognizing the interest level and her own convictions on the topic, Erin proceeded to deepen the funding community's engagement by scheduling a follow-up session that resulted in the creation of the Colorado Funders for Inclusiveness and Equity working group. According to Adrienne Mansanares, the Denver Foundation's Inclusiveness Project Program Officer, Erin is the driving force behind the group, committed to creating a formal funders' affinity group that goes beyond simply networking. Erin's keen interest in this topic stems partly from her extensive involvement with the effort to revise the Colorado Common Grant Application (2006-2008). The revised CGA includes a question that probes nonprofits on their inclusiveness efforts. Erin felt it was critically important to also raise the bar with respect to funders' efforts related to inclusiveness. Her goal is to improve internal practices at foundations, as well as enhance foundation staff's ability to be resources on the inclusiveness topic to their grantees.
- Erin served on the Steering Committee for three Colorado Rural Philanthropy Day Events held on the Eastern Plains. Erin is a tireless champion for small, rural nonprofits and building their confidence in working with foundations from the Metro Area. Involvement on the Steering Committee requires attendance at monthly on-location planning meetings and working with the region to create a memorable and effective 3-day event. (see letter of support)
- She participated on the National Philanthropy Day Steering Committee for many years. This was a natural fit, since Erin is so dedicated to nonprofits and the importance of the sector, and always eager to recognize the achievement and accomplishment of others.
- Erin advocated for and worked with others to create a Procedural and Protocol Manual for NPD to make life easier for future Steering Committees. Susan Steele, Executive Director of the Buell Foundation says that Erin also captures and codifies procedures and policies at the Foundation, making things more clear for grantees, staff, and board members. It's not a glamorous accomplishment, but it makes a significant difference in terms of efficiency and issues of fairness.
- Colorado Common Grant Report Committee 2002/03; Colorado Common Grant Application Revision Effort 2006-2008; Colorado Common Grant Report Revision Effort in 2009. Erin's active participation and leadership in these three collaborative efforts reflect her commitment to providing tools that promote excellence in the sector and effectively serve the interests of nonprofits and funders alike. Erin provided leadership on multiple subcommittees and it is not an exaggeration to say that her involvement was a key to the success of these endeavors. She was tireless in her commitment to creating the best product possible and hammering out the compromises. A stickler for getting things right, Erin recently helped update the Common Grant Forms website and volunteered to revisit the CGA User's Guide, recognizing there were sections that could be improved.

2. What impact has the nominee had on volunteerism and/or financial contributions and/or the community?

- Erin's personal commitment to inclusiveness and diversity stems from her conviction that we are at our best when we are inclusive. She now serves on The Denver Foundation's board level Inclusiveness Project Committee and is unflagging in her leadership on this issue. She attends sessions on inclusiveness and diversity on her own time and hosted a session in her home for friends and colleagues to further dive into the topic of inclusiveness. Her leadership has resulted in meaningful dialogue and commitment to inclusiveness practices in a number of Colorado-based foundations.
- Erin's dedication to excellence in everything she works on has raised the level of accomplishment for all of her involvements. During the Common Grant Application revision effort Erin was a champion for inclusion during the process, insisting at one point that we slow down to be able to engage more nonprofits in the design effort. Additionally, she is willing to bring sticky issues out into the open and is willing to bring up issues and concerns that are the minority opinion. Her good humor, frank style of communicating, and unquestioned commitment to the greater good helped the process move along on multiple occasions and resulted in confidence that we did the best job we were capable of doing.
- Erin often delivers trainings on grant writing and serves on funder panels for the express purpose of helping nonprofits feel more comfortable and adept in the grantmaking universe. Carol Crawford, the Director of Leadership, Training and Coaching at CRC shares that Erin never turns down an opportunity to share with grantseekers or participants in CRC's annual leadership class for nonprofit executive directors. In a note that Susan Steele shared with me because it so perfectly captures Erin, Carol wrote, "I am telling you the truth when I say you are our star panelist. Your level of clarity, direct style, expertise in your work, sense of humor, and how you came to do this job all help our grantseekers understand that grantmakers want grantseekers to succeed. You are approachable and want to form a partnership if the fit is right." During workshops Erin offers to edit and provide comments on proposals for any in her workshops. She does this on her own time on evenings and weekends, over the years helping hundreds of organizations put their best foot forward in proposals being sent to foundations other than Buell.
- Erin has mastered the ability to eliminate the fear and uncertainties that many nonprofits have about funders. She is extremely adept at engaging people and creating a very productive working relationship based on trust, respect and genuine affection and delight in the work. This is evident from seeing Erin in action during Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days and from knowing individuals whom Erin works with as Buell grantees.

In summary, her impact has been profound. As a philanthropist both professionally and personally, she selflessly gives with a drive and dedication to enhancing every idea, every organization, every project, and every person that comes into contact with her. She has helped to change the landscape of philanthropy in Colorado, extending inclusion, providing direction, and expecting the very best from nonprofits and foundations alike.

3. What leadership qualities does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?

Erin practices her craft with humility, humor, integrity, precision, determination, and a willingness to do the hard work. Her focus is always on achieving high quality outcomes, never on recognition. She leads by example, epitomizing the notion of "walking the talk" when it comes to being a true partner to nonprofits, willingness to roll-up her sleeves to get the work done, and setting the bar high keeping her colleagues inspired to achieve excellence. Erin is diplomatic, able to bring up controversial topics, and adept at working out compromises. She willingly listens to divergent opinions, carefully weighing the arguments and willing to change her stand if she is convinced that the ultimate goals of an effort are not being compromised. She is invaluable on a team, willingly volunteering for jobs and quietly taking on even more if others aren't stepping up to the plate, because her commitment is to creating the best product. She is a stickler for detail and insists on high quality. She presents a winning combination of being brutally honest, as well as very humble. Erin is funny, self-deprecating, and sets a room of nonprofits at ease by clearly not taking herself too seriously. She cares deeply about people and organizations. Erin is effective as a leader, leaving her ego at the door and working tirelessly to increase the capacity of individuals, organizations, and the nonprofit sector as a whole. Her consistent approach is to be the best she can be and her example, good humor, and enthusiasm brings this out in others.

BABY BEAR HUGS

Regional Home Visitation Program



BBH Board of Directors - 2010-2011
Chair - Owen Elder - Yuma County
Vice Chair - Steve Burgess - Lincoln County
Recorder - Susan Roll - Phillips County
Treasurer - Sergio Sanchez - At Large

Emilee Weber - Kiowa County
Kirsten Schelling - Logan County
Debra Tolson - Morgan County
Kathy Reinhardt - Sedgwick County
Cheryl Kraich - Washington County

Ruth Seedorf - Executive Director
201 South Main
Yuma, CO 80759
Phone: 970-848-5274
Fax: 970-848-0357
e-mail: ruth.seedorf@babybearhugs.org

Re Letter of support to nominate Erin Binford
July 29, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privileged to write this letter in support of Erin Binford's nomination. Erin and I first met through her role as program officer for Temple Hoyne Buell, but I have come to know her as so much more... a great supporter of the philanthropic arena. Together we served on the committee for Eastern Plains Philanthropy Days, and through her suggestion I was able to work with her and others on the Colorado Common Grant Application Committee. There are many other ways Erin has been active in supporting the Philanthropic community.

Erin is always encouraging and professional. She is directed and forthcoming, and forever an advocate for nonprofit organizations serving great causes. In very supportive ways, Erin encourages nonprofit leaders to raise the bar - to strive for clarity in our mission and cause, utilize best practices when possible and do continuing board development. In subtle ways Erin has enhanced my professional development and that of other nonprofit leaders. One of the most powerful things Erin has provided is openness in communication. Early in my grant-writing efforts I was sometimes apprehensive in my communications with family foundation funders. I guess you could say I was intimidated... not by the people themselves, but by the names and positions. Erin helped me realize that the foundations want to have a close relationship with the organizations they fund. It is their role to carry out their causes through organizations by providing the funding. She encouraged me to communicate challenges, concerns and problems with a project as well as the successes. We don't necessarily need to have all of the answers, and some projects might need modifications that the nonprofit and funder can work out together. Baby Bear Hugs relationship with Temple Buell became a real partnership due to Erin's leadership. I want to communicate that there is a firm, directed side to Erin also. Erin was always open, but always honest and straightforward. I appreciate this and see it as a very important skill for leadership in philanthropy.

Please consider Erin Binford for this position as she reflects all the qualities of an outstanding Philanthropist!

Sincerely,

Ruth Seedorf, Executive Director

BABY BEAR HUGS - A Promise to the Future!
www.babybearhugs.org



July 27, 2010

National Philanthropy Day
c/o Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
4130 Tejon Street, Suite A
Denver, CO 80211-1876

Dear National Philanthropy Day Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support for the nomination of Erin Binford as Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy for Colorado's 2010 National Philanthropy Day celebration.

As the Resource Development Director at Otero Junior College in rural southeastern Colorado, I work with non-profit organizations from throughout a three-county region and am often called upon to work with local organizations. At times, the assistance needed goes beyond my level of knowledge and I find myself needing to call upon foundation partners to provide their expertise. It is in this capacity that I began working closely with Erin about three years ago.

I first heard about Erin and her passion for her work through area non-profits, including a preschool and two childcare centers, who raved about what a hands-on program officer she is and how she genuinely cares for "her" grantees. I cold-called Erin to ask if she would come to La Junta to present a workshop with me and was delighted by her response: not "what for?" but "how soon?" I was not expecting such an enthusiastic response from someone who faced a three-hour drive just to get here.

Erin took the lead at that workshop, which was designed to introduce area non-profit organizations to the new Colorado Common Grant Application. As one of the funders who worked to make the application more user-friendly for non-profits, Erin provided valuable insight not only about what the changes were, but about why they were made. More than 50 individuals representing more than 40 non-profit organizations from a three-county region benefitted from her knowledge and came away with a vast array of knowledge to help them write better grant proposals.

Since that time, I have worked with Erin in a variety of ways and have come to think of her as a friend who I not only look up to, but who continually impresses me with her passion and excitement for her work with the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and with non-profits in general. For instance, when Erin saw that one of her grantees was struggling with putting the appropriate information into a grant application, instead of writing them off, she contacted them, asked what they needed and then called me and asked me how I, as a local resource, could assist them. She didn't leave it at that, but instead followed up with both of us to make sure the new

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La Junta, CO 81050-3346
(719) 384-8831 · Fax (719) 384-8880
www.ojc.edu

partnership she facilitated was working out. I have found that she takes this kind of individualized approach to each grantee with which she works and develops a solid relationship. She truly values the partnership she forms with every grantee and is proud to brag about the accomplishments of her grantees.

When I was asked to co-chair Southeast Rural Philanthropy Days this year and was looking for foundation partners to help serve on the steering committee, I immediately thought of Erin. Not only did she agree to help out, but she practically insisted on being involved. Not one to be a figurehead, Erin has been at almost every meeting, even braving a few snowstorms to get to our region. She jumped in to the role of committee member and has been a vital component of the Program Committee, helping us determine topics for capacity building workshops, securing speakers, volunteering for a variety of roles and determining how we wanted our overall event to look. Time and again, Erin has presented the committee with food for thought, challenging us to not just present topics, but to make sure they are relevant to our region and to the non-profits who will attend. It has become a standing joke that Erin's typical suggestion starts with: "I know this is your event, but what would you think of...?" The committee has been so impressed by her knowledge and insight that we asked her to come back to the region a few weeks after RPD to facilitate a "Now What?" session that will help participants determine what to do with the information they gather at Philanthropy Days. Erin was so excited about the idea that she immediately came up with an agenda that she saw as the most beneficial for our region.

I know that Erin's outreach to this region is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to her passion for nonprofit work and find it incredibly valuable to have her as a resource for the southeast region of the state as well as for my own professional position. She is always pleasant and friendly, and exudes qualities that I, for one, value: leadership, knowledge and a spirit of teamwork.

Thank you for your consideration of Erin as Colorado's Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy.

Sincerely,



Teri Erickson
Director of Resource Development
Otero Junior College