

MEMORANDUM – DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM BOARD

TO:	City Council
FROM:	Esther Lee Leach
DATE:	11/22/2024
PURPOSE:	Appointments & Reappointments to Denver Preschool Program Board
PROCESS:	City Council Confirmation
NEXT STEPS:	City Council Confirmation

Staff liaison: Elsa Holguin / President & CEO – Denver Preschool Program

CURRENT BOARD STATUS – 2 APPOINTMENT, 3 REAPPOINTMENTS

The Denver Preschool Program supports Denver families by offering tuition credits to increase access to high quality preschool. Unlike most preschool tuition assistance programs, the Denver Preschool Program is for all Denver families, regardless of income or neighborhood. Tuition credits are available to families that reside within the City and County of Denver and have a 4-year-old enrolled in a participating preschool program in the year before kindergarten. The amount of support a family receives is based on the family's income, the quality rating of the preschool the child attends and the length of day a child attends. The Denver Preschool Program works to improve the quality of preschool in Denver and is a national advocate for equal access to early childhood education.

Mayor appoints 10-14 board members and City Council confirms appointments. City Council appoints 1 Council Member.

Appointment Candidate:

Chyrisse Harris – Vice President of Communications and External Affairs at Gary Community Ventures



BIO: Chyrisse leads a team of communications, storytelling and strategic partnership experts dedicated to advancing opportunities for Colorado kids and families. With over 17 years of brand development and communications experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors, Chyrisse believes in the power of communications to connect people, transform opinion, and inspire action. She began her career in New York at global branding firm Siegel+Gale before returning to Colorado to use her experience to expand opportunity at home. She's led brand development and marketing communications at Denver Public Schools and STRIVE Prep. To broaden her skills and perspective, she managed communications for DaVita's international kidney care expansion and led communications and activism for the national education advocacy organization, Brightbeam. Chyrisse holds a Bachelor's in journalism and technical communication from Colorado State University as well as a Master's in global marketing communications and advertising from Emerson College in Boston. She has served as a board director for various nonprofit organizations and has spent the last 11 years volunteering in the kids ministry at Red Rocks Church, a gig that has come in handy since becoming an aunt in 2023.

Term: 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027 until a successor is duly appointed.

Reappointment Candidates:
Erin Brown (Female)(African American) – Chief Impact Officer at Colorado Health


BIO Erin currently serves as the Chief Impact Officer (CIO), for the Colorado Health where she oversees, all programmatic strategies related to grantmaking, impact investing, and policy advocacy in service of the Foundation's mission to improve the health of Coloradans. As a member of the executive team, she oversees the deployment and impact of grants and community investments. Erin previously held the Vice President of Community Investment and Impact at The Colorado Health Foundation where she oversaw the deployment and impact of grants and community investments across the state of Colorado. Erin has served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and held an expanded role as Denver's first Chief Equity Officer for Mayor Michael B. Hancock in the City and County of Denver. As an appointed official for three consecutive administrations under Mayor Hancock, Brown has provided bold and forward-thinking leadership, and has been instrumental in building a system of collaboration among community members and organizations, local municipalities, businesses, and city agencies. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office of Children's Affairs, she served as Deputy Director for Denver Parks and Recreation, the Director of Resident Services for Kappa Management, held the position of Vice President of Programs and Development for the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver and was an Executive Director for the YMCA of Metropolitan Denver.

Term: 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027 until a successor is duly appointed.

Chris Daues – Partner at RubinBrown's Assurance Services Group


BIO Chris Daues is a Partner in RubinBrown's Assurance Services Group. He has over 14 years of professional accounting experience. Chris works with clients in various industries including, but not limited to, construction, manufacturing and distribution, private equity and public sector. Prior to joining RubinBrown in 2009, Chris attended University of Dayton.

Term: 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027 until a successor is duly appointed.

CURRENT BOARD:
TERM EXPIRY

Jennifer Luke, Aurora (F)(Two or More Races)	12-31-26
Chris Daues, Denver (M)(C)	12-31-24
Erin Brown, Denver (F)(AA)	12-31-24
Michael Baker, Greenwood Village (M) (C)	12-31-24
Andrea Albo, Westminster (F)(H)	12-31-26
Nathaniel Cradle, Aurora (M)(AA)	12-31-26
Dr. Lydia Prado (F) (H) –	12/31/26
William 'Zaki' Robbins, Denver (M) (AA) -	12/31/26
Lakeshia Allen Horner, Denver (F) (AA)	12/31/26

Anne Rowe (F) (C)

12/31/26

Councilmember Shontel Lewis City Council

07/21/26