

Aurora Public Schools
Zone Advisory Committee Biographies
2015-16

Norm Brownstein

Norm Brownstein graduated from Aurora Central High School.

A founding member and Chairman of the Board of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Norm is nationally recognized for his extensive experience in real estate law, commercial transactions and public policy advocacy. Resident in the firm's Denver office, his policy practice spans the economic spectrum, extending to telecommunications, financial services, agriculture, tax and health care interests.

Norm has helped dozens of major organizations and corporations successfully develop and execute myriad legislative and regulatory strategies, including Apollo Global Management, Ardent Healthcare, Western Union, Caesars Entertainment, Federal Express, Ares Management, Guggenheim Partners, Neiman Marcus, Simon Properties, National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, Real Estate Roundtable, Comcast, Intelsat, the National Cable & Telecommunications, T-Mobile and the Vector Group.

In light of these and many successes in other legal areas, the National Law Journal named Norm one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America" and Norm was named as one of Lawdragon's 500 Top Leading Lawyers in America. He has also been included in the Best Lawyers in America and Colorado Super Lawyers. Active in community affairs, Norm is involved in many activities on behalf of the University of Colorado and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), where he is currently vice president. He is presently a director of National Jewish Health and a trustee of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Norm is a past presidential appointee of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council (1996-2006).

Jim Kelley

Jim attended the following Aurora Public Schools: Sixth Avenue Elementary, South Jr. High and Aurora Central, graduating from Aurora Central, class of 1972.

Jim is a managing director and co-founder of Vestar Capital Partners. Prior to forming Vestar in 1988, he was a private equity executive with the First Boston Corporation in New York.

Currently a director of Sun Products, St. John Knits and HealthGrades, Jim previously served as a director for Celestial Seasonings, Del Monte Foods, Consolidated Container, Michael Foods and Wabtec, among others. He is also a board member at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and The Nature Conservancy Patagonia. Previous community boards include The Denver Foundation and the Clayton Foundation.

Jim earned a B.S. from the University of Northern Colorado, an M.B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame. Originally from Colorado, Jim is married with three children and lives in Denver.

Mariana Ledezma-Amorosi

Ms. Ledezma-Amorosi is a native of Guadalajara, Mexico. After moving to Colorado in 1999; she started her career in community development committed to serving the underserved and under-represented through a grassroots community development process. She worked for City of Aurora doing outreach to the Hispanic community to teach recently arrived immigrants about codes and regulations; she served as a liaison between the Hispanic community and the Aurora Police Department and spearheaded some of the neighborhood revitalization efforts in the Original Aurora area.

Ms. Ledezma-Amorosi also spent 4 years working for Adams County Community Development where she managed 2 large grants that funded programs in human services, affordable housing, community and economic development and neighborhood revitalization activities. She has provided oversight to over 21 non-profit organizations and 5 municipalities. Ms. Ledezma-Amorosi also worked directly with residents to increase their capacity in the areas of advocacy, constituency and community building and leadership development.

Prior to joining CPHP, Mariana worked at the Stapleton Foundation as the Director of Neighborhood Connections, where she worked with Community Based Organizations to provide capacity building and technical assistance.

Mary Lewis

Mary Lewis was elected to the APS Board of Education in 2007, and elected President of the Board in November, 2011. She is a long-time community activist and volunteer in Aurora. She has served as the president of the Conservatory Homeowners Association; was appointed by Governor Ritter to the Child Welfare Action Committee; supports Harvest of Hope, a fundraiser for the Africa Initiative of Church World Service; is the treasurer for the Aurora Action Coalition for Community Service; a member of the Aurora Housing Collaborative; and long-time volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and Aurora Warms the Night.

Lewis is a graduate of New Mexico State University and holds a bachelor's degree in Police Science. She married David Lewis in 1981 and moved to Aurora that same year. She and David have been foster parents to many children. They have two grown children, who attended the Aurora Public Schools, and two grandchildren who are currently enrolled in the district.

Ruben Medina

Ruben currently works for the city of Aurora and is the facility manager for The Moorhead/Hoffman Youth and Community centers. He also serves on numerous boards and commissions including, the Denver Foundation, Stapleton Foundation, Fletcher Elementary School and RISE Colorado.

Ruben started his career in the emergency medical field and at 20 years old owned his own ambulance service. He was a firefighter and a member of the search and rescue team as well as a member of the medical team at Children's Hospital.

Ruben spent 20 years working for the Metro Denver YMCA organization and during that time was involved in a variety of programs. In the past 30 years Ruben has worked in numerous professional roles as coach, trainer and referee for high school and USA National wrestling teams.

Over the years, Ruben has facilitated several seminars on community engagement, wealth building and motivational skills.

George “Skip” Noe

Noe was sworn in as Aurora’s city manager on Dec. 20, 2010. Most recently, Noe was a management consultant in Corpus Christi, Texas, with more than 30 years experience in city management. He served as the city manager and deputy city manager for the city of Corpus Christi between 1999 and 2008 where he managed 3,300 employees and an annual budget of more than \$500 million.

He also worked for the Texas cities of San Antonio, College Station and Kingsville as well as Fort Collins, Colo. Noe holds a bachelor’s degree in English and political science from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas, where he graduated Cum Laude. He is also a Labor Relations Fellow from the Labor-Management Relations Service in Washington, D.C. Throughout his career Noe has worked on many key projects and issues including strategic performance measurement, development and public works projects, information technology and telecommunications, destination development and economic development, public safety, budget challenges and many others.

As city manager, Noe is responsible for overseeing the city’s \$626.4 million budget and 2,665 full-time employees, and managing day-to-day city operations under the Aurora City Council’s direction. With the retirement of one deputy city manager and subsequent elimination of that position, Noe also directly supervises the Police and Fire departments as well as the Office of Development Assistance.

Betsy Oudenhoven

Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven assumed duties as Community College of Aurora’s president in December 2013 after a lengthy list of accomplishments as VP of Student Affairs.

Student Affairs under her guidance worked closely with Academic Affairs to support CCA’s academic mission and explore creative ways to foster student achievement. Her main tasks in her Student Affairs post included providing vision, innovation, direction, coordination, supervision, evaluation, and analysis in such areas as admissions, registration and records, advising, retention, financial aid, recruiting, student life, accessibility services and student success. Within two years, Oudenhoven helped implement numerous new policies, including: mandatory new student orientation for all first-time college students; on-campus counseling to serve students in need of short-term help or crisis intervention; new SARS software added to advising to increase access, customer service, departmental efficiency, and better management of the advising caseload; reinstatement of a Career Center to provide individual services, internships, employer relations, and career fairs on campus; and reorganization of the student conduct function, including a more proactive approach to behavioral intervention to address campus safety and student retention.

Prior to joining CCA, Oudenhoven served in higher education in varied roles such as assistant director, manager, director, dean, and vice president, dating back to 1979. Oudenhoven earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education from Loyola University in Chicago, a Master of Arts in Counseling and Guidance from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and a BS in Psychology from St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y.

Maisha Pollard

Maisha Pollard- Fields is a dynamic and passionate mother, wife, daughter, public servant and alum of Colorado State University. When asked what is your calling, she replied, "My passion is Health and my duty is to serve". Mrs. Pollard began her career in the intensive care unit at King Drew Medical Center located in the heart of South Central Los Angeles, where she developed a sincere commitment to improving the lives of children and families whom live on the fringes of poverty. Maisha has also worked as an Infectious Disease Nurse practitioner and Public Health Nurse, where she specialized in the treatment, diagnosis and case management of HIV and AIDS patients. She is currently the Deputy Medical Director for Aurora Mental Health and is responsible for building out an integrative care model for vulnerable adults and children with mental illness.

In 2010, Maisha moved to back to Aurora, Colorado to help her mother Representative. Rhonda Fields run for the state legislature and establish the Fields Foundation and Dayton Street Opportunity Center. Maisha serves as the executive director of the Fields Foundation, a non-profit in Aurora, CO, established after the horrific death of Javad Marshall Fields and Vivian Wolfe, Maisha's brother. Javad and his finance Vivian were murdered 30 days after graduating from Colorado State University in relation to him being a witness to a murder.

The Families created the Fields Foundation to ensure every child has a healthy start, a fair and safe head start in life towards a successful passage to adulthood. The Vision of the Fields Wolfe Memorial Fund is to empower children youth and families by providing access to health care, quality education, and positive character development. After a 3 year capital campaign Maisha was able to successfully raise over 400,000 for the build out of the Dayton Street Opportunity Center, a One-Stop- Community Resource Center, working to close the opportunity gap through early childhood education, health care, mental health services, and employment.

Karen Porter

Karen Porter is a parent of two Aurora Public School (APS) students. One Aurora Central High School 2014 graduate and her youngest child currently enrolled in Aurora Central with concurrent courses at Community College of Aurora.

Karen has served on multiple APS committees including budget, calendar, principal hiring panel and the African American Forum. She has also served as the District Accountability Chair and Chair Elect. Karen has a strong philosophy of parent's becoming knowledgeable to empower and expand opportunities for their children.

Aaron Thompson

Aaron Thompson attended Crawford Elementary, West Middle School, and Aurora Central High School.

Aaron Thompson's practice focuses on legal analysis, briefing, and strategy in complex trial and commercial litigation. He has represented clients in matters including data breach notification, constitutional challenges, and bankruptcy matters, in addition to more focused litigations involving corporate securities and regulatory inquiries. Aaron also has experience in issues involving zoning, land use planning, expert testimony, and spoliation of evidence. Aaron has performed extensive appellate work on behalf of clients and as Judicial Fellow at the Colorado Supreme Court and as a Clerk at the Colorado Court of Appeals, where he worked on criminal and civil appeals.

Aaron is a regular contributor to the firm's [Class Action Lawsuit Defense blog](#).