



EMERGING LEADERS

2026-2027 Cohort 4



Becca Bennett

Managing Director, Orr Group

Becca brings over 15 years of fundraising experience in the nonprofit sector and a proven track record in interim leadership, campaign development, and process management. Becca has successfully led numerous development efforts, most notably including the formation of the Obama Foundation Regional Advisory Councils; creating systems to help MedStar Washington Hospital Center secure transformational gifts; and designing and executing campaigns for organizations such as FUSE Corps, DC Central Kitchen, Gonzaga College High School, and others. She has frequently served in interim C-suite executive capacities for our clients to maintain progress during transition or spearhead growth initiatives. Becca has also partnered with leading local policy organizations, including the Center for American Progress and Third Way, where she conducted comprehensive development assessments, staffing audits, and helped chart a strategic growth path to strengthen their fundraising capacity and impact.



Ben Scarbro

Senior Associate, Perkins Eastman

Ben believes well-designed spaces are those that extend an invitation. Like many, he got his start in the building industry at age 3 with a set of Legos. And while growing up on the cobbled streets of Annapolis, Maryland, Ben unwittingly learned the importance of living in a human-scale world. Since he began practicing in 2012, his most cherished pursuits have involved planning and design in the College + University practice area, including the new alumni center at the U.S. Naval Academy in his hometown. His experience also encompasses town plans, multifamily residential, science laboratories, a casino, a museum, churches, and schools for various age ranges.



Beryl Jolly

Chief Executive Officer, The National Theatre Foundation

Beryl Jolly serves as CEO of The National Theatre Foundation, ensuring the preservation and vitality of one of the most illustrious and historical theatres in the country. Ms. Jolly was previously a Vice President at The Trustees of Reservations, overseeing cultural properties throughout Massachusetts. She also served as the Executive Director of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, presenting headliner talents of diverse genres to hundreds of thousands of audience members. Ms. Jolly has worked in management roles in theatres on and off-Broadway, and in fundraising and development at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM). She received a Massachusetts Senate Citation for fifteen years of superior artistic leadership as Executive Director of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center and served on the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Economic Development Strategy Committee. She currently serves on the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Board of Directors.



Brigid Myler

Director, Corporate and External Affairs, Clark Construction Group

Brigid Myler is an operations and project management leader with 15+ years of experience driving organizational efficiency, financial performance, and team development across high-end residential interior design and real estate/construction services firms. She has a proven track record building systems, managing operations, leading hiring and HR functions, and optimizing project delivery from onboarding through completion. Brigid is recognized for fostering supportive, efficient, and well-structured work environments.



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Casey Orr Whitman

Chief Operating Officer, Orr Group

As Chief Operating Officer, Casey leads efforts to optimize operational and financial strategies. This includes exploring efforts to expand service lines and driving initiatives in strategic partnerships. Casey is also a member of the Impact Group and collaborates with nonprofit leaders to understand their organizational needs and develop tailored solutions that drive results. Prior to joining Orr Group, Casey served as Managing Director in the equity research department at Piper Sandler & Co. At Piper Sandler and its predecessor Sandler O'Neill + Partners, Casey spent nearly two decades specializing in Mid-Atlantic and Southeast community banks. In addition to providing research coverage, Casey's role involved strategic and capital planning for numerous banks.



Daniel Erichsen-Teal

Assistant Director of Development, Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys

Daniel Erichsen-Teal's career reflects a purposeful path toward developing a relationship-oriented, data- and mission-driven fundraising skillset. From working in both small-but-mighty nonprofit fundraising teams and larger development offices with multiple complex funding streams, he has acquired effective skills in membership programs and grants management as well as individual giving work with major, planned, and annual donors. He has also developed grantmaking insights from private and public funder perspectives through serving on grant review committees for government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Moreover, he has nearly five years of experience in secondary education at international and public charter schools in Beijing, Houston, and Washington, DC, where he taught courses and developed curriculum in literary analysis, language arts, persuasive writing, visual literacy, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL).



Dr. T. Michelle Colson

Ward 4 Representative, DC State Board of Education

Dr. T. Michelle Colson is a dedicated educator, advocate, and third-generation Washingtonian committed to ensuring all D.C. students receive equitable access to high-quality education. As the first Ward 4 native, DCPS graduate, and DCPS employee to serve on the D.C. State Board of Education, Dr. Colson profoundly understands the challenges and opportunities within the District's schools. With a doctorate in Education Policy from Howard University, Dr. Colson has spent her career advancing student success, particularly for those furthest from opportunity. Dr. Colson currently serves as Dean of Students at a D.C. Public School, where she has implemented transformative initiatives, including Wash Wednesday, which provides students with access to laundry facilities, and specialized workshop series to support students' sense of belonging. Her leadership in creating a targeted intervention academy for 10th-grade students has helped many failing students get back on track toward graduation.



Gordon-Andrew Fletcher

Manager, Rental Conversion & Sales Division, Department of Housing & Community Development

Professor Gordon Fletcher, born in Jamaica and raised in New York, has called Washington, DC home for over 20 years. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and an Advanced Degree in Leadership Studies from American University, a J.D. from Florida A&M University College of Law, and an M.P.A. from American University, where he also served as Graduate Student Body President. A practicing attorney, he has worked at NOAA and currently manages legislative affairs for the DC Department of Employment Services. He is an Adjunct Professor at American University's School of Public Affairs and Washington College of Law, and a Bar Exam instructor with Merlin's Test Prep. A dedicated community leader, Professor Fletcher is a four-term ANC Commissioner, former ANC 5A Chair, past Ward 5 Democratic Party Chairman, and former Executive Director of the DC Poverty Commission.



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Katy Beth Cassell

Senior Director, Orr Group

Katy Beth works with Orr Group's nonprofit partners, focusing primarily on creating and implementing efficient, capacity-building fundraising plans to meet their goals. Her expertise is in developing strategies for the cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of high-net-worth individual donors. Prior to joining Orr Group, Katy Beth worked in development for local and national organizations, including the Folger Shakespeare Library, Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, and Imagination Stage. Most recently, she was the Director of Development for First Book, a national education equity nonprofit getting brand new books and educational resources to students in Title I eligible schools and programs across the U.S. She has experience building a fundraising program from the ground up, including team and pipeline development, CRM launch and conversion, launching a major gifts program, building donor operations and donor relations infrastructure, and volunteer training and management.



Linda Toth

Climate & Sustainability Lead, Arup

Linda Toth leads Arup's East geography Climate and Sustainability team. She brings over 17 years of experience in the planning and design of climate responsive, high-performance projects to the role. Linda has experience on a variety of program types, from master plans and supertall buildings to airports and institutional projects. Her detailed knowledge of the impacts the built environment guides projects to innovative solutions in line with climate, nature and social factors. She is well versed in greenhouse gas accounting, building rating systems, progressive energy and green building codes, and guiding projects through innovative thought leadership and decision-making exercises.



Malik Moore

Client Management Executive, Bank of America

Malik is a Client Management Executive for Bank of America Private Bank covering the DCMV market, where he is responsible for driving operational excellence, executing strategic initiatives, and enhancing the end-to-end client experience. In this role, he partners closely with market leadership to deliver on business priorities, ensure strong risk management practices, and foster a high-performing, client-centric culture. Malik also serves as a key liaison across enterprise partners, helping to align market execution with broader organizational goals while developing and coaching talent to support long-term growth. Malik began his career with Merrill Lynch 2016. He started as a Financial Advisor before transitioning into leadership roles, managing advisors, and leading operations and sales teams in Hunt Valley, MD, and Lincoln, RI. Most recently, he served as Market Client Relationship Manager for the Morristown Short Hills and Greater Maryland markets, where he led Investment Analysts, support staff, and branch operations, driving efficiency, strengthening controls, and elevating the client experience.



Noah Dougherty

Director of School Talent and Academic Strategy, DC Charter School Alliance

Noah Dougherty is dedicated to enhancing the charter school sector in DC, by supporting member schools and promoting best practices. In his role as the Director of Special Projects, Noah designs, manages and implements special projects that support the District of Columbia's diverse community of charter schools. This includes working with charter school leaders and boards to create positive workplace environments. With a diverse background in education, Noah previously served as the Director of Educator Development at DC International School and worked as an Associate Partner at Education Elements. He has also held roles as a curriculum writer, instructional coach, and teacher at KIPP DC, where he taught social studies and ELA. Beyond his school-based work, Noah is the co-chair of Teach For America's National Prism Advisory Board, which supports LGBTQ+ corps members and alumni. In 2022, he was honored to be selected as a CityBridge Design Resident. He earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science and Urban Studies from the University of Pittsburgh.



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Salima Khalid

Former Deputy Director at the Mayor's Office of Nightlife & Culture

Salima Khalid is a seasoned professional who firmly believes in one simple principle: sports and entertainment are universal languages spoken and loved by everyone! So, with this in mind, she uses these languages to bring people together through her work in both fields! As a Sudanese American growing up in Washington, DC, she learned early what it meant to navigate between cultures — and discovered that the stadium, the stage, and the dinner table are where worlds stop being different and community is formed. That insight didn't just shape who she is. It became her career's identity. With more than a decade of experience at the intersection of sports, entertainment, hospitality, and public-sector engagement, Salima built her foundation at Events DC, the official sports and entertainment authority of the District of Columbia, where she led significant city activations including South by Southwest (SXSW), the Mubadala Citi DC Open, the opening of Care First Arena, and international U.S. Soccer matches in the nation's capital. She is the former Deputy Director at the Mayor's Office of Nightlife & Culture, she navigated licensing, interagency coordination, and stakeholder engagement to advance DC's cultural infrastructure and economic competitiveness.



Stephanie Budnicki

Senior Adult Volunteer Development Specialist, Girl Scouts Nation's Capital

Stephanie Budnicki is the Senior Adult Volunteer Development Specialist for Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, where she supports and recognizes the thousands of adult volunteers who make the Girl Scout mission possible across the National Capital region. With more than 10 years of experience in non-profit and youth development, Stephanie brings a deep understanding of volunteer engagement, leadership development, and community building. Since joining Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, Stephanie has led a variety of council-wide initiatives focused on volunteer recognition and support. She coordinates the council's adult recognition program, partners with volunteer committees and regional leaders, and works across departments to strengthen the volunteer experience. She also successfully launched the nationally recognized Teen Mental Health First Aid certification training within the council helping equip youth with skills to recognize and respond to mental health challenges among their peers.



Steve Colangelo

Vice President, Donohoe Development Company

Steve Colangelo is Vice President of Donohoe Development Company, a commercial real estate development firm located in the Washington DC area. His responsibilities entail overseeing the entire real estate development and construction process, including due diligence and property assessments, acquisition, financing, design, bid, permit, and construction, to ensure projects are delivered on schedule and within budget.