



# MAIA

## MAIA Board Members 2023

MAIA is registered as a 501c3 nonprofit organization in the United States and is legally registered as Asociación MAIA in Guatemala. All MAIA board members have three-year terms that are renewable for another three years. Each board member is also a member of at least one of the following committees: Executive, Finance, Fundraising, or Local (Guatemala) Support.

**PRESIDENT: Bill Ernstrom** (*Golden, CO*)

As a business leader, Bill has worked in both large corporations and small entrepreneurial companies during his 20-year career. Bill successfully founded and guided, as president & CEO, a venture-backed company through start-up, rapid growth, market leadership, acquisitions and eventual sale. At midlife, Bill embarked on a new journey in faith, personal growth, and facilitation. Since then, he has attended numerous trainings, co-facilitated YPO forum retreats, and led spiritual weekend retreats. Bill holds a BA in physics from Hamilton, a BSEE from Columbia and an MBA from Harvard. Bill lives in Golden, Colorado, with his wife and son.

**VICE PRESIDENT: Meg Ounsworth Steere** (*Boston, MA*)

Meg's professional experience is diverse—from park ranger to community and economic development and real estate consulting. Her favorite things are the north Maine woods (and their resident moose), writing (especially her blog), swimming (fast), traveling (somewhere new), connecting with people (the world is so small), and attempting to at least say hello or thank you in as many languages as possible (12 she can remember so far). She loves to improve efficiency and efficacy by building organizational structure and devotes her free time to enrichment and community service programs at her children's school, the local community children's center, and the A Better Chance program. She lives with her husband and two children outside of Boston.

**SECRETARY: Joanna French** (*Oakland, CA*)

Joanna is originally from Denver, CO, and has lived and worked in Colorado, Washington, Bolivia, Guatemala, and most recently, California. She is passionate about transformative education, gender and racial equity, community development, and participatory research and has spent 10+ years working in the nonprofit sector. From 2015 to 2018, she worked for MAIA Impact as Investment and Innovation Manager and then Director of Engagement. She currently works as Senior Manager of Research and Policy for Innovate Public Schools and lives in Oakland, California.

**TREASURER: Christi Nielsen** (*Whitefish, MT*)

Christi holds a degree in accounting from the University of New Orleans. She worked for numerous years for the National Flood Service and has also worked in campaign finance reporting for New Orleans elections. She is active in nonprofit work focused on preserving historical buildings in New Orleans and lives in Whitefish, Montana.

**Ana Teresa Bixcul\*** (*Ciudad Vieja, Guatemala*)

Ana is a graduate of MAIA's original wraparound program and is from the village of Monte Mercedes, Sololá. She is one of the first trilingual members of her community. Ana has represented MAIA and Maya women at events in Denver, NYC, and Seattle. She works as Human Resource Coordinator for Urban Smalls in Antigua, Guatemala and is pursuing her degree in business administration. Ana lives in Ciudad Vieja.

**Michelle Dorion\*** (*London, UK*)

Michelle is Guatemalan and a second-generation principal who has participated in the family advisory board since its inception in 2007. She serves as Executive Director of the family office and leads the NextGen and Philanthropy initiatives, with a focus on education, access to opportunity and emergency support. Her background is in international relations and finance, having worked for many years in banking in the US, Europe, and Japan. Michelle is Co-Founder and Vice Chair of the London-based Institute of Imagination, which creates physical and temporal experiences for children and families to develop their imaginations. Michelle was a member of the board of directors of Bacardi Ltd. (2001-2005), serving on the Audit, Nominations, and Remuneration committees. Michelle earned her MBA from the Kellogg School and her BA from Dartmouth College. She lives in London with her husband.

**Greg Goldberg** (*Denver, CO*)

Greg is a partner with the law firm of Holland & Hart LLP and chairs the firm's government investigations group. He formerly served as an Assistant US Attorney with the US Department of Justice and now counsels individuals and companies facing government investigations by federal grand juries and federal and state enforcement agencies. Greg graduated from Dartmouth College and Columbia Law School.

**Sonja Gustafson** (*Seattle, WA / Antigua, Guatemala*)

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Sonja graduated from the University of Oregon Honors College and earned her MBA from the University of Washington. She worked at Microsoft developing the Encarta brand, and raised her two children while serving the board of the Meridian School (K-5) and later the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS). While on sabbatical in Guatemala, Sonja and her family fell in love with the country and built a home and cultivate community there. Her interests include languages, travel, hiking, reading, and visiting national parks. She and her husband split their time between Seattle and Antigua.

**Julie Hull** (*Shoreline, WA*)

Julie's 30+ years of experience as a volunteer, fundraiser, and philanthropist inspired her to visit MAIA's program in Guatemala in early 2014 and join the board of directors in January 2015. She returns to Guatemala each spring to introduce friends and family to the program. Julie holds a BA in Spanish and a certificate in professional editing. She and her husband have three grown children and reside in Shoreline, Washington.

**Marta Julia Ixtuc\*** (*Sololá, Guatemala*)

Marta Julia is Maya Kaqchikel and is from Sololá, where the MAIA Impact School is located. She brings a unique perspective to her leadership role as she herself is a Maya woman. Marta Julia has worked with the communications team at Friendship Bridge for 14 years and has committed her professional and personal career to the empowerment of women in Guatemala. She holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration and lives in the city of Sololá. Marta Julia serves as the president of the Board of Directors of Asociación MAIA, the legally registered entity in Guatemala.

**María Kaltschmitt\*** (*Guatemala City, Guatemala*)

María is the co-founder of Zen Interactive Media, a dynamic boutique digital agency in Guatemala. María completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees internationally and returned to Guatemala to support diverse economic and social development efforts. She has been recognized as a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum and as a Fellow of the Central American Leadership Institute for her efforts to introduce positive change in Guatemala. María advises MAIA on its communication and engagement strategies in Guatemala. María lives in Guatemala City and serves as the vice-president of the board of directors of Asociación MAIA, the legally registered entity in Guatemala.

**Andrew Kane** (*Denver, CO*)

Andy retired in 2017 from investment banking after 30 years financing affordable housing and public infrastructure on a national basis. That followed 10 years as an attorney practicing municipal finance with a large national law firm based in Philadelphia. Andy earned a JD degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and a BS in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of various bar associations and The Explorers Club. He is married to a physician, has two adult children, and lives in Denver and Maine.

**Ana Rocio Monzón Woc** (*New York City, NY*)

Rocio is a dual-qualified attorney admitted to practice in New York and Guatemala. She was born and raised in Coatepeque, Quetzaltenango (Guatemala), and she obtained her first law degree at Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala City. She then worked at the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration until she relocated to the United States to pursue a Master of Laws at Harvard University. After completing her degree, she moved to New York City to work at an international law firm. Rocio is currently an associate at Eversheds Sutherland where she focuses on international disputes and international law. Rocio is passionate about education, mentorships, human connections, and traveling.

**Susie Caldwell Rinehart** (*Boulder, CO*)

Susie is a writer, mother, and educational consultant. For 23 years, she was a high school teacher and principal, then the director of *Where There Be Dragons*, a study-abroad program in developing countries for teenagers. She helped schools to strategically place leadership development and the empowerment of girls at the center of their educational missions. Susie lives in Boulder, Colorado, with her husband and two children.

**Wende Valentine** (*Evergreen, CO*)

As an anthropology major, Wende studied abroad in Guatemala in 1995 and has held a commitment to working in the developing world ever since. After earning her MA in international development and working for Water For People for over a decade, Wende was invited in 2013 to join the team at MAIA as the Director of Development. In 2019, she transitioned away from MAIA to seize the opportunity to spend a year overseas with her family. She has since returned to her home in Evergreen, Colorado, where she lives with her husband, Jake; their two children; and beloved dog, Kibo, and is currently the executive director of the dZi Foundation.

*\*Also serves on the board of directors of Asociación MAIA, the legal registered entity in Guatemala*

***Only serve on Board of Directors of Asociación MAIA:***

**Dr. Carmelina Espintzay** *(Parramos, Guatemala)*

Carmen is a linguist and anthropologist from the small indigenous city of Tecpán and models the trajectory that MAIA aspires to for its Girl Pioneers. She is currently a Vice Minister in Guatemala's Ministry of Education. Carmen holds a graduate degree in ethnographic research from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and is pursuing her doctoral degree from Vanderbilt University. Carmen lives near Antigua with her husband and two children.

**Claudia Rossana Nunfio Reyes de Gálvez** *(Quetzaltenango, Guatemala)*

Claudia is a lawyer and public notary with a master's degree in civil law and civil procedure and has 16 years of experience. She is currently the president of Asociación Vivamos Mejor, an organization that improves the quality of human beings' life and the natural environment that surrounds them. For several years, she served as legal adviser to Friendship Bridge, a large women's microcredit organization in Guatemala. Claudia lives in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala and serves as the secretary of the board of directors of Asociación MAIA, the legally registered entity in Guatemala.