

## **Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority Board Member Bios**

**Russ Collins** – Appointed to the Board in 2005. Term was just renewed until 2017

Russ Collins is an Ann Arbor native who has been the Executive Director of the Michigan Theater since 1982. In addition, he serves on the State Street Area Association, teaches film at EMU, hosts “Cinema Chat” on WEMU, and presides at the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce’s Early Edition program. He also created, and now operates, Art House Convergence.

**Robert Guenzel**, Appointed to the Board in 2010

Bob Guenzel is on the Board of Directors for Ann Arbor SPARK, teaches at the UM’s Ford School and serves as Chair of the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and Co-Chair of the Washtenaw County Health Initiative. Bob retired as the Washtenaw County Administrator after 16 years (retiring in 2010).

**Roger Hewitt** – Treasurer; Operations Committee Co-Chair overseeing on finances and parking operations, appointed to the Board in 2004

Roger Hewitt owns two downtown businesses, Red Hawk and Revive and Replenish, and previously served on the Board of the State Street Area Association.

**John Hieftje** - Mayor

John Hieftje has been a very active community leader, serving on the boards of numerous area organizations, including the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Michigan Theater, Huron River Watershed Council, and Lake Superior Conservancy and Watershed Council. He is the Co-Chair of the Washtenaw Metro Alliance, and has served as Chair of Recycle Ann Arbor and of Urban Core Mayors of Michigan.

**Joan Lowenstein** – Partnerships/Economic Development Committee Co-Chair, appointed in 2007

Joan Lowenstein is an attorney at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, located in the First National Building. She also served on City Council from 2002-2008, doubling as a planning commissioner for part of that time.

**Al McWilliams** - Al founded Quack!Media in 2003 as an advertising and media company serving national clients from Main Street Ann Arbor. Recently, he has focused on more local clients including extensive work for Ann Arbor Non-Profits. He sits on the board of the Ann Arbor Club and his XBOX screen name is Turbo McAwesome.

**John Mouat** – Vice Chair, appointed to the Board in 2007

John Mouat is a partner in the firm Mitchell and Mouat Architects, Inc., a downtown Ann Arbor firm specializing in Community Architecture. He has been active with a number of civic organizations and served on the boards of City of Ann Arbor Housing Policy, Ann Arbor YMCA, Washtenaw Area Transit Study, and Ann Arbor Civic Theater. John lives in the Old West Side and walks to work downtown.

**Rishi Narayan**– Appointed to the Board in 2013

Rishi Narayan is a co-owner of Underground Printing, a national custom apparel provider and collegiate merchandise retailer based in Ann Arbor with locations in downtown Ann Arbor and throughout the country. Originally from the Lansing area, he came to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan, and is a near downtown resident. He currently serves on the board of the South University Area Association as well as the Ann Arbor Summer Festival.

**Keith Orr** – Operations Committee Co-Chair, overseeing transportation projects and programs. Appointed to the Board in 2009

Keith Orr co-owns the \aut\ BAR as well as the Common Language Bookstore in downtown Ann Arbor and is actively involved with the Kerrytown District Association.

**Sandi Smith** –Chair. Appointed to the Board in 2004

Sandi Smith is a former City Council member, a downtown business owner, and a near downtown resident. She was the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project Director for 5 years, and has also served on the Ann Arbor Area Board of Directors.

**John Splitt** – Operations Committee Co- Chair overseeing construction; appointed to the Board in 2006

John Splitt owns a small downtown business, Gold Bond Cleaners, and is an Ann Arbor native. He is also a board member of the State Street Area Association. John lives downtown.