



## 2024 Board of Directors Bios

### **DAVID McDONALD, President**

David moved to Savannah in 2007 with his wife Joyce. Having arrived here from Washington, D.C. where he was a police officer for almost 21 years. Retiring as a Deputy Chief of Police. After retiring David, like everyone in D.C., began consulting with police agencies around the globe before retiring for good in 2016.

Since his final retirement he has been active with the Downtown Neighborhood Association serving as Vice President and President. As President, David is committed to improving the quality of life of residents in our community. Since serving as President he has successfully established relationships with members of the City Council as well as within the Office of the City Manager. ***David is committed to establishing a balance between tourism and residential life downtown.***

### **AMY BROCK, Communications Chair**

Amy Brock has served on the DNA Board off and on since 2011. A native of Oklahoma City, Amy has called the Historic Landmark District home since 2004. After eleven years working at Visit Savannah in various sales, marketing and digital communications roles, she founded AB Marketing, working with clients on digital marketing strategies as well as political campaigns.

In addition to serving on the DNA Board, Amy has served on the Historic Savannah Foundation Board of Trustees, the Savannah Film Commission, Queensborough National Bank and Trust Company Advisory Board, Christ Church Children's School Board and is actively involved with the Downtown Garden Club of Savannah. Additionally, Amy and her husband, Dr. Chad Brock, own and operate an outpatient mental health practice in the Thomas Square neighborhood, **Shrink Savannah**. They live on Greene Square with their daughter and two French bulldogs.

### **ERIKA SNAYD, Membership Chair**

Erika co-founded Asher + Rye with her husband Joel in 2017 and opened up their first Brick and Mortar in December 2020. Located in the heart of Savannah's Historic District, the 2,500 square-foot shop serves up furnishings, apparel for all phases of life and gourmet coffee and pastries in a European cafe-style setting. Erika also manages the interior design studio as part of Asher + Rye's services – recently known as Rethink Design Studio (est. 2005), which has now been absorbed into the Asher + Rye brand.

An exciting new addition to the roster of brands owned by Erika and Joel, includes American Rhino. An apparel company that is manufactured in Kenya and employs local residents and donates money to help save Rhinos from poaching. A foundation has been created to continue the fight, one in which the Snayds will become a member of the Board at the end of 2024.

Before starting Asher + Rye, Erika attended Dickinson College. She graduated with a BA in Psychology and Music with a focus on behaviorism and opera. She was very active in the musical theater program and continued vocal training for many years. Her career started in NYC working for DDB Worldwide where she managed advertising accounts for Pepsi and Just Born, to later take over the research arm of the agency, becoming the Director of LiveWire Research. With the move to Savannah, Erika transitioned to real estate development, while working remotely for the NYC company.

When Erika's not connecting with clients or planning for the future of Asher + Rye, you can find her watching and playing basketball with her eleven-year-old son, Rye, or listening to podcasts on neuroscience and functional medicine. Erika is also very active in community initiatives as a board member of the Downtown Neighborhood Association and The Downtown Garden Club in Savannah, Georgia.

### **STEVE EDWARDS, MPC / Historic District Board of Review Liaison**

Steve and his wife live on Chatham Square and bought their first place in Savannah over 20 years ago. However after splitting their time between Atlanta and Savannah, they finally made the Historic Landmark District their permanent home.

Prior to his retirement in 2018, Steve was a lawyer practicing with several large firms and ending with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Atlanta as a partner. He practiced for four decades in the area of public finance, municipal law, and the approval and structuring of governmental projects. He also served as Treasurer of the National Association of Bond Lawyers, a professional organization representing lawyers involved in the financing and approval of projects by state and local governments. In his own practice, he worked on financings and projects throughout Georgia, as well as in many other states. Those projects involved preparing the documentation for the approval by governing bodies of public entities, providing advice on municipal law, and preparing opinions on the legality of municipal actions.

Steve loves living in the Historic District and is eager to help preserve it and support its residents.

### **MARYSUE McCARTHY, Public Safety**

Marysue became a full-time resident of Savannah in 2015 and attended the Savannah Citizen's Police Academy. This began her association with the Savannah Police Department and qualified her to become an SPD Volunteer. Along with the other volunteers she assists with many special events, various ceremonies, and a myriad of

other assignments. In 2019, she was asked to become the liaison between the 20+ volunteers and the department, which puts her in contact with many aspects of police work and direct interaction with everyone from the Chief all the way to new recruits. Utilizing her education, she has been privileged to teach both Report Writing and Public Speaking at the Professional Training Center of the Savannah Police Department. As a volunteer and instructor, she has developed positive relationships with individuals of all ranks and divisions within.

Marysue McCarthy has served as Tourism/Quality of Life Chair for the past two years. In that time, she has put her heart and soul into working to improve the QOL for our Historic District residents, especially through work to wrest some control of our tourism issues. In addition to attending the City's Tourism Advisory Committee meetings, and in conjunction with others in DNA, she is always observing, recording and reporting methods to make needed changes in the tourism industry.

#### **PAUL COBET, Vice President**

Paul currently serves DNA as the Ward Captain for Crawford Ward where he and his spouse Caren are full time residents. He holds B.Sc. degrees in Bacteriology and Fermentation Science from The University of California at Davis. Retiring from a 40 year career in the Brewing industry, he held positions ranging from Resident Brewmaster in Cartersville, GA, Group Director of Brewing and Director Technical Center and Eagle Packaging, Inc for Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

Paul has served on the boards of several organizations: Budweiser Wuhan, Inc., Eagle Packaging, Inc., Etowah Education Foundation (Cartersville, GA), and more recently, here in Savannah at the DeRenne Plaza Owner's Association. Paul would like to continue the efforts of past Ward Captains to engage ward residents in becoming more acquainted with one another and build upon the current sense of community in the Historic Landmark District. He believes that a strong sense of community enhances the quality of life for residents in the Downtown Wards and adds to the positive efforts of our Public Safety Officials.

Paul can be easily recognized walking his blonde Irish Wolfhound (sometimes confused as a polar bear) and his Corgi, known locally as "Moose and Squirrel" throughout the Historic District".