

# JOIN OUR BOARD

Do you dream of open spaces, big skies, bold colors, and promising futures? Are you a lifelong learner interested in making a positive difference in rural Utah? **If so, we want to hear from you.**





**We believe our desert town is a hidden gem, but there's always work to be done. And we'd like to do that work with you. We're looking for new Board Members to:**

- Keep the organization on mission
- Work with staff on long term initiatives
- Lead fundraising efforts
- Being an ambassador for Epicenter
- Develop new organizational resources
- Host events and campaigns
- Build on our existing assets

And so much more...



# WHO WE ARE

**Epicenter** stewards creative initiatives that honor the past, strengthen the present, and build the future that we envision with our community. Located in Green River, Utah, Epicenter is a vibrant hub for rural development and cultural exploration of the high desert of southeastern Utah. Beyond our region, we advocate for rural communities and contribute to the dialogue on contemporary place-based work in the United States.



We are dedicated to this town and our work, but are constantly building on what we do and redefining how we do it. **That's where you come in as a volunteer board member.**



# WHO YOU ARE

## Ideal applicants have:

Professional experience in resource development, business, and/or accounting

A commitment to and understanding of Epicenter's beneficiaries, preferably based on direct experience

A natural affinity for cultivating relationships

Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, thoroughness, and reliability



## DETAILS

Serving on Epicenter's board is an excellent way to explore and improve your abilities as a leader. It is an exciting opportunity for those interested in creative problem-solving, collaborating with a team, and ensuring that Epicenter is upholding its mission to the community it serves. As a board member, you serve as an ambassador for Epicenter, representing the organization to its stakeholders and general public.

Epicenter values diverse identities and perspectives, and we seek applications from those who identify as members of the BIPOC, LGBTQI+, and/or varying abilities communities. To better reflect our local community's demographics we highly encourage applications from those who identify as Hispanic, Latinax, Latin-American, Mexican-American, and/or Chicanx.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **Board Chair: Jason Wheeler, AIA**

Jason Wheeler is Executive Director of ASSIST, Inc. Community Design Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Prior to joining ASSIST, Jason worked as an architect at APM Architecture in Omaha, Nebraska, focusing on housing for seniors, historic preservation, and custom home design. From 2010 to 2013, Jason was an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow in St. George, Utah, improving the energy efficiency of affordable housing in the desert southwest.

## **Vice Chair: Joshua Rowley**

Originally raised in Green River, Joshua Rowley returned in 2014 to enter a partnership to revitalize the Tamarisk Restaurant into the even more successful business it is today. Prior to returning home, Joshua sought a design degree from Utah State University and worked at the nationally-known 3-Form in Salt Lake City. Ever the business entrepreneur, Joshua opened the unique and successful Skyfall Guestrooms on the Green River in 2016.

## **Treasurer: Ruth Linford**

Originally from Utah, Ruth Linford received a Bachelor of Arts from Utah State University in 2008 and a Master of Arts: Community Art Education from the University of Texas at Austin (2018). Ruth's nonprofit experience from 2010 to today includes extensive grant writing, financial management, executive directorship, board membership, and resource and program development.

## **Secretary: Ren Hatt, Esquire**

Green River local Ren Hatt has worked as a legal assistant, research assistant, policy analyst, and more in the Utah Court System, at the Milton A. Kramer Criminal Justice Clinic, and in other medical and law institutions. Upon returning to Green River, Ren began co-managing the family business (Hatt Ranch Inc.) and worked at Epicenter as a Community Coordinator. Ren now works at Green River High School as an educator and continues to co-manage the ranch.

## **Board Member: Shaleane Gee, PhD**

After graduating from the University of Utah, Shaleane received a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Chicago where she was an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow and a Woodrow Wilson Foundation Fellow. Shealeane was both a lecturer and the Associate Dean of External Relations & Strategic Initiatives at the University of Chicago before returning to Utah to be the Associate Dean of the Colleges of Architecture, Planning, and the Arts at the University of Utah. For four years, Shaleane was the Director of the Mayor's Initiatives as well as the Senior Policy Advisor for Salt Lake County under now US Representative Ben McAdams. Shaleane is now the VP of Community + Regional Development at Zions Bank.

## **Board Member: Dijana Alickovic, AIA**

After receiving a Master of Architecture from the University of Utah, Dijana worked in Salt Lake City as an architectural intern and an AmeriCorps VISTA. Throughout her professional career, Dijana has volunteered with architectural nonprofits and co-founded her own, COMMONstudio. She now works as a licensed architect at AJC Architects in Salt Lake City.

Service on Epicenter's Board of Directors is without remuneration, except for administrative support, travel, and accommodation costs in relation to member duties. New members are required to commit to two years of service and adhere to all organizational policies. In addition to making a difference at Epicenter and Green River, our board members gain free, first-hand experience with financials, personnel management, grant writing, and more.

### **Interested?**

**Send a letter of interest and résumé/CV to [maria@ruralandproud.org](mailto:maria@ruralandproud.org) by May 23, 2021.**