
epicenter

RURAL AND PROUD SINCE 2008

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

apply your vision, expertise,
and passion to the future of
creative rural investment.

April 2024

ruralandproud.org





Major current and upcoming projects:

Canal Commons - multifamily housing

Pearl Baker Community Park

***Come Home to Green River* - placemaking made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts**

Frontier Fellowships made possible by the Andy Warhol Foundation

[Visit Epicenter's Website to learn more](#)

Epicenter is an award-winning interdisciplinary group of designers and artists headquartered in the rural community of Green River, Utah.

As an organization committed to Green River, we steward creative initiatives that build a more resilient, equitable, and vibrant local community. As a hub for rural investment, we share knowledge, ideas, and leadership with other rural places and advocates.

A new leader in rural creative investment and nonprofit design, Epicenter blends art and design, affordable housing, collaborative events, direct service, public programming, and research. We are dedicated to this town and our work, and are constantly building on what we do and redefining how we do it.

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The ever-evolving group of staff and volunteers stewards creative initiatives that honor the past, strengthen the present, and build the future envisioned alongside our local community.

Serving on Epicenter's board is an excellent way to explore and improve your abilities as a leader, creative problem-solving, and collaborating with a team. As a board member, you serve as an ambassador for Epicenter, representing the organization to its stakeholders and general public.



We value your personal experience and professional expertise.

Rather than another “culture fit” we are looking for a “culture add.” Epicenter values diverse identities and perspectives, and we encourage applications from those who identify as members of the BIPOC, LGBT+, and/or disabled communities. To better reflect the local community, we highly encourage applications from those who identify as Latinx.

Ideal applicants have the following qualities:

- A commitment to and an understanding of Epicenter’s beneficiaries. Direct experience as a local resident, visiting artist, or other interaction is a great foundation.
- A natural affinity for cultivating relationships.
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, thoroughness, and reliability.
- A commitment to ensuring that Epicenter is upholding its mission to the beneficiaries served.

We are seeking applicants with any or all of the following expertise:

- Philanthropy / Donor Development
- Communications / Media
- Finance / Business Management
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Regional Arts and Culture
- Strategic Planning

What you do as a board members

- attend 1.5-hour meetings every other month where you vote on policy, budgets, and discuss the health and needs of the organization
- serve on committees that plan and steer projects or initiatives that help Epicenter achieve its goals and remain sustainable.
- attend a yearly weekend board retreat in Green River

Join a lively and devoted Board team

[BRYAN BUENACOSA-BROOKS: BOARD CHAIR](#)

Bryan Buenacosa-Brooks is a strategist at HUB Collective, a creative agency in Portland, Oregon. He regularly works with clients like the Utah Office of Tourism, Mercy Corps, and rural and urban municipalities from California to Maine solving long-term strategy and vision challenges. Prior to joining HUB, Buenacosa-Brooks served as an Americorps VISTA at Epicenter, facilitating such projects as This Is Green River, HDTs: Epicenter, and A Call to Place. He holds an MArch from the University of Washington where he also taught architectural representation studios.

[TODD ERLANDSON, AIA: BOARD VICE-CHAIR](#)

Having designed significant branded architectural projects both in the US and Europe before setting up March Studio (LA), Todd's breadth of architectural experience and reputation for creating successful projects for diverse brands and organizations has rendered him an expert in the field. Todd has a history of teaching, lecturing, and guest critiquing for renowned local and international design institutions. After over 20 years of experience in high-impact, brand-driven design, Todd expanded his academic and professional focus to include non-profit and community-based organizations, leveraging his skills to support his clients' social mission and build innovative spaces that engage their communities.

[LINDSEY BRICENO, AIA: BOARD TREASURER](#)

Originally from Louisiana, Lindsey spent six years working as an architect in Texa working primarily in mixed-use and

affordable housing, after receiving her BArch at Louisiana Tech (2010) and MArch at Kansas (2012). Lindsey Briceno served as an Architectural Rose Fellow with Epicenter from 2019-2020 developing Canal Commons, stayed on as staff through 2021 until moving to Colorado to work at Shopworks Architecture when she also joined the Epicenter Board of Directors. Lindsey approaches community development through a patient and iterative process that combines housing, the arts, and cultural exploration.

[ALYSSA KREIKEMEIER, PhD: BOARD SECRETARY](#)

Alyssa earned her PhD in American Studies from Boston University with fields in public history, cultural landscapes, environmental history, Native American and Indigenous Studies, and visual culture. Kreikemeier has taught environmental humanities, ethics, writing, and pedagogy. She holds an EdM from Harvard University and Bachelor's Degrees in Hispanic Studies and History from Montana State University. Raised on a farm in Montana, Alyssa is dedicated to rural places and people.

[KAYCE MAY-RICHES, GREEN RIVER SEAT](#)

A Green River native, Kayce May-Riches is principal of Green River High School where she is also athletic coach. She holds a Masters of Education from Utah State University.

[ERIKA LYNNE HANSON](#)

Erika Lynne Hanson is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher, and educator whose work is rooted in textile practices. The projects range from video installations to participatory public

workshops that actively engage with various sites and their inhabitants. Currently Associate Professor of Textiles/Socially Engaged Practices at Arizona State University, Hanson received her MFA from California College of the Arts, and a BFA in Fiber from The Kansas City Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited at spaces that range from Form + Concept in Santa Fe, to Field Projects in NYC, to the Tucson Museum of Art. Additionally, Hanson has participated in residency programs across the US and Scandinavia, with particular attention to rural locations that support the ongoing dialogue regarding posthuman ecologies within her practice. She is an Epicenter Frontier Fellow.

[ELPITHA TSOUTSOUNAKIS](#)

Elpitha Tsoutsounakis (she/her) is an Assistant Professor in the Multi-disciplinary Design (MDD) program at the University of Utah. She served as Associate Director of the Design program from 2017-2020 and is a founding member of the faculty. Elpitha completed a Bachelor of Science in Architecture at the University of Utah and a Master of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin.

She teaches design studios, research methods, and visual strategy with an emphasis in community engaged scholarship. Her design research practice with Ochre engages issues of design ethics, materiality, ecofeminism, and human/nonhuman entanglement.

Can't wait to hear from you.

Complete the [Board Member Application](#) by May 15, 2024.

Reach out: to Maria or Bryan with any questions or interests:

Maria Sykes: director@ruralandproud.org

Bryan Buenacosa-Brooks: buenacosabrooks@gmail.com

Service on Epicenter's Board of Directors is without remuneration, except for some costs in relation to member duties. New members are required to commit to two years of service and adhere to all organizational policies.

Epicenter is committed to providing equal opportunity. Epicenter does not and shall not discriminate in any of its activities or operations on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender identity and expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital and familial status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, political affiliation, citizenship status, veteran status, military status, or any other basis protected by federal, state, or local law. The policy applies to all areas of employment including, but not limited to, recruitment, hiring, training and development, promotion, transfer, compensation, discipline, termination, layoff, compensation benefits, selection of volunteers and vendors, social and recreational programs, provision of services, and all other conditions of employment. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all. In addition, Epicenter is required to comply, in all respects, with all local, state, and federal laws.

