

## Cosanti | The Cosanti Foundation | Arcosanti

*"We must redefine the American Dream before we can rebuild the infrastructure on which it is based."* – Paolo Soleri

## **COSANTI FACT SHEET**

An architect, urban designer, artist, craftsman, and philosopher, Paolo Soleri founded Cosanti, Arcosanti, and The Cosanti Foundation to test and demonstrate an alternative human habitat that creates balance between man and his environment.

The blending of two Italian words - "cosa" and "anti" - Cosanti literally means "before things." As a term to describe Soleri's conviction that man's ideal habitat is one that situates him with direct access to nature and to others, "cosanti" de-emphasizes materialism and at the same time promotes connection between people. Before there were things, there were people. The embodiment of "cosanti" is way of building, dwelling, and living that is materially frugal but experientially enriching.

The original dwellings, structures, and built spaces at Cosanti from the mid-1950's are among the earliest examples of Soleri's architectural experiments that have survived. Now designated a culturally-significant site on the Arizona State Registry of Historic Places, Cosanti is where Soleri perfected his innovative "earth-casting" technique, founded The Cosanti Foundation, and where he wrote his magnum opus, *Arcology: The City in the Image of Man*, which inspired him to build Arcosanti.

As a name given to both his original architectural and design studio in Paradise Valley and to the nonprofit foundation he founded there, as well Arcosanti, his micro-city 70 miles north of Phoenix that serves much as a protype of ideas, the ethos of "cosanti" is embedded into the culture of the entire organization.

Today Cosanti is the home to Cosanti Originals, makers of handcrafted bronze and ceramic windbells. Each bell is handmade onsite at Cosanti and Arcosanti in the same time-honored tradition as when Soleri began making them more than 60 years ago. Cosanti Originals Windbells are sought-after items and are collected by Arizonans and tourists from around the world.

The company, a for-profit subsidiary of the nonprofit Cosanti Foundation, also creates large-scale sculptural works from a cache of Soleri's original Styrofoam carvings which he created over many years with the hope that they would be cast, sold, and continue to support The Foundation. Because each

Styrofoam carving is destroyed in the bronze casting process, each resulting sculptural work is a one of a kind "original," much the same way as the windbells are.

In addition to appealing to private collectors, these large-scale sculptural bell mobiles and panel sculptures are included in several civic, corporate, and public collections and are among the holdings of art museums around the world. In the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area of Arizona, impressive examples of Soleri's art can be seen at the Burton-Barr Branch of the Phoenix Public Library, the main campus of The Mayo Clinic, in the collections of Phoenix Airport Art Museum, Neiman Marcus, among several distinguished others.

# THE COSANTI FOUNDATION FACT SHEET

"...to make conditions in the future a little better than they are now...that's the function of architecture." - Paolo Soleri

**EXPERIMENTATION AND INNOVATION** Soleri and his wife Colly established The Cosanti Foundation in 1965 in Paradise Valley, Arizona, as a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit organization to focus on progressive urban design ideas advocating for cities to be built around people not cars, and in which the environment was an integral part of the city planning versus an afterthought.

The Cosanti Foundation has since been dedicated to influencing the way the built world is created with minimal negative impact to the natural world. Through its publications, programs, and the culturally-significant experimental architecture it stewards at Cosanti (Paradise Valley, AZ) and Arcosanti (near Cordes Junction, AZ), The Cosanti Foundation continues its exploration of designing a sustainable habitat for humankind that is in balance with the environment.

The revenue from the sales of Cosanti Originals windbells provides supplemental operating support to The Foundation. In addition, The Cosanti Foundation is supported by its members, individual donors, and charitable foundations and through tours, hands-on workshops, and a robust schedule of performing arts events.

**ADVANCING THE VISION** Today, The Cosanti Foundation reaches hundreds of thousands of people each year through tours, educational and arts programming, and scholarly publications. Soleri's experimental architectural ideas have withstood the tests of time and have been studied by architects, scholars, and urban designers as examples of how cities of the future can be made more pedestrian, more multi-use, and more vertically-dense to alleviate strain on the planet's diminishing resources.

**LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE** As concepts like environmentalism, sustainability, and climate change continue to enter the mainstream, The Cosanti Foundation has an opportunity to help guide and demonstrate the way we live on the planet. Using the central tenets of arcology — a word coined by Soleri to blend "architecture" with "arcology," — to inspire citizens to leave a limited footprint; embrace frugality and resourcefulness; demonstrate ecological accountability; and learn by doing, The Cosanti Foundation can join the larger, global conversation about what humankind can do to live a more balanced existence with the environment.

## **ARCOSANTI FACT SHEET**

"...probably the most important experiment [in urban architecture] in our lifetime." Newsweek, 1976

The construction of the micro-city, a prototype arcology – an urban design philosophy in which architecture and ecology are blended and balanced - called Arcosanti began as a project of The Cosanti Foundation in the summer of 1970 and over 8,000 volunteers have spent anywhere from 5 weeks to 50 years building, improving, and for some, living it.

Originally built to put Paolo Soleri's theoretical and radical urban planning concept to the test, it was described as "an urban laboratory" by renowned New York Times architecture critic, Ada Louise Huxtable. Soleri very much liked that description and the moniker, "The Urban Laboratory," stuck.

A comprehensive perspective on the design of built environments focused around the idea that cities should function as a living system and evolve similar to nature, where, as an organisms evolves, it increases in complexity and becomes a more compact system

Built upon the framework of arcology which suggests that the thoughtful blending of architecture and ecology is capable of demonstrating positive response to the many problems of urban civilization – population growth, pollution, energy/natural resource depletion, food scarcity, and quality of life

An urban laboratory where the residents are part of a 24/7 living experiment. What is built to date is credited to the thousands of volunteers over Arcosanti's 50 year history who participated in a six-week workshop — and some who never left

From learning about the philosophical foundation of arcology and developing a societal structure among their fellow "workshoppers" and permanent Arcosanti residents, these volunteers were participants in anything from building multi-story buildings with heavy construction equipment to digging ditches and building fences

Supported by The Cosanti Foundation, Arcosanti lives with a sense of purpose that demonstrates its mission and seeks to include everyone in the conversation about how cities can reimagine themselves to use natural resources more sparingly and live/work spaces that use energy and square footage more responsibly from an environmental perspective.

Arcosanti reimagines what a city could be if designed around people, not cars. Pedestrian and compact in scope, the footprint of Arcosanti features provocative structures and vertical, multi–use spaces proactively designed to connect people to each other, to nature, and to their pursuits and work.

Supporters of Arcosanti are guided by the following principles:

**Intentionally Living Life with Frugality and Resourcefulness** — to carefully and thoughtfully approach planning, building, and daily life in a way that is experientially rich yet materially frugal

Demonstrating Ecological Accountability — to develop a human habitat that protects its surroundings and is within Earth's capacity to support
Learning by Doing — to embrace the empowering idea that doing for oneself is a dynamic and grounding educational experience
Leaving a Limited Footprint —to recognize that an urban planning model promoting vertical, dense, multi-use structures makes better use of limited natural resources and brings people together in a way that is an enhancement to man's sense of community and culture

Today Arcosanti welcomes 30,000 visitors a year and is currently home to 75 full-time residents. It offers a robust event schedule of multi-arts programming that ranges from concerts and choreographed stilt-walking performances to Shakespeare, educational lectures and hands-on arts workshops, as well as daily guided tours

Arcosanti encompasses a back-to-the-land spirit and connection to community of the original residents in the 1970s, and today its aim is perhaps more relevant than ever before as it represents the living thing that cities can become.

Arcosanti also offers a cafe, a windbell gallery featuring Cosanti Originals windbells individually handmade on site, and overnight guest rooms, campsites, and AirBnB suites. The extensive Archives at Arcosanti are an invaluable resource to scholars and students of Paolo Soleri, progressive architecture, and urban design.

# COSANTI ORIGINALS WINDBELLS FACT SHEET

**BRONZE** In response to the question of how the bronze Cosanti Windbells started being made in the 1960s, , Soleri himself perhaps explained it best. In an excerpt from the book *The Urban Ideal - Conversations with Paolo Soleri*, when asked how he started working with bronze, Soleri responded: "It just came to my mind."

Made of bronze, an alloy consisting primarily of copper, commonly with about 12% tin and often with the addition of other metals such as aluminum, manganese, nickel, or zinc, Cosanti bells are truly wind-*bells* and not wind-*chimes.* As such, they generally require a stronger gust of wind to sound.

Because of the various sizes of windbells created, the sound greatly varies in pitch, resonance, clarity, tone and timbre. The larger the bell, the lower the tone; and the smaller the bell, the higher the tone. But it is said that no other bell makes a sound quite like a Cosanti windbell. Cosanti produces windbells as small two-inches in length to the grand-daddy bell that is 30 inches.

There are currently 11 team members at each location; 22 total artisans in the foundries at both Cosanti and Arcosanti who individually create the windbells one by one, in a time-honored tradition, in which each bell features a unique hand-formed design of the artisan's own making.

Three pours (or "heats") per day are completed Monday through Friday at Cosanti and Arcosanti. Each "heat" requires the heating of 100 pounds of bronze ingots to 2,200 degrees of molten bronze, equating to 156,000 pounds of bronze that is poured each year to create the windbells.

The output of windbells vary based on the size of the molds that are used; the foundry managers generally vary the sizes of the molds within each pour. The team only has approximately five minutes

within each "heat" session to complete the pours because as the molten bronze cools down, its viscosity changes. The pours are conducted from the smallest-sized windbell molds first, up to the larger-sized windbell molds.

Approximately 28,000 bronze units were cast in 2019 between the two foundries — one at Cosanti and the other at Arcosanti.

**CERAMIC** While the bronze Cosanti Originals Windbells are more widely collected and known than the ceramic windbells the boutique company makes, the ceramic windbells came first. The method Cosanti Originals ceramicists use to craft these earthy and organic windbells is the same process first introduced by Soleri.

Soleri learned about the craft of ceramics when he was in Italy building the manufacturing factory for the Ceramica Artistica Solimene company. Soleri received this commission – the only commercial project in his career - shortly after his brief apprenticeship with Frank Lloyd Wright.

Mixing native clay excavated in Globe, AZ with water to form "slip," Cosanti Originals ceramicists create windbells from molds or holes dug directly into silt or dirt. When the forms have slightly hardened, the excess slurry of the slip is siphoned off and the windbells begin to air dry. When they are leather-hard, ceramic artisans begin carving designs into the surfaces. Ranging from freeform organic motifs, animals, and geometric shapes, each design is wholly unique from bell to bell. Before firing in a kiln, the surface of the windbells is lightly coated with an oxide powder to give it the distinctive textured appearance and ochre color.

In addition to ceramic Cosanti Windbells, various sized tiles, vessels, planters, and pots are also made in the ceramics studios of Cosanti Originals.

### **RECENT PRESS RELEASES**

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## **School of Architecture at Taliesin Announces New Location, Leadership and Board Updates** *Changes come following School of Architecture at Taliesin's break from Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation*

The School of Architecture at Taliesin announces a bold new direction with a new interim school president, plans for a new location and six new board members.

In March 2020, the school board voted to reverse its Jan. 25, 2020 vote to close the school and decided to stay open on both Scottsdale, Arizona and Spring Green, Wisconsin campuses. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, which owns the land that the school is located on, decided to terminate the school's lease as of July 31, 2020. After engaging in mediation with the foundation -- initiated by the school board in an attempt to reach a mutually beneficial agreement -- the school and foundation agreed to cut ties.

The school has been offering summer programming remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but is currently in the process of moving to the culturally and architecturally significant sites of Cosanti in Paradise Valley, Arizona and Arcosanti near Cordes Junction, Arizona, which were built by over 8,000 volunteers inspired by the arcology philosophy of the late theoretic architect Paolo Soleri (1919-2013) – a notable Frank Lloyd Wright apprentice in the late 1940s.

The School of Architecture at Taliesin and The Cosanti Foundation have joined forces on past projects, and this new venture expands on their continued collaboration. The school is currently working through approvals with state and institutional accreditors to move to the Cosanti and Arcosanti sites.

"We're incredibly thankful for the support of our alumni, who championed the school through donations, new ideas and continued commitment to our unique place in the architecture world," said Dan Schweiker, the school's board president. "We see the school's new location and leadership as an opportunity to reinvigorate our dedication to our entire community, including students, faculty, staff and alumni."

John Walsh, board chairman of The Cosanti Foundation, said: "It is fitting for our two institutions to work together to influence a new generation of architects, much as our founders influenced architectural innovation in their lifetimes. The Cosanti Foundation has always nurtured the interests of architects, designers, urban planners and scholars who have come to Arcosanti and Cosanti to study our experimental architecture and the unique philosophy of arcology at the heart of our mission."

Chris Lasch, an award-winning designer, has been serving as the school's dean and became its interim president when former president Aaron Betsky was appointed director of the School of Architecture +

Design at Virginia Tech University in May. Lasch is also a partner at Aranda/Lasch, an experimental design studio whose work is featured in international galleries, including The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"The school has a bright future and we look forward to working with The Cosanti Foundation at both of its sites - Cosanti and Arcosanti," Lasch said. "I'm confident that through our collaboration we will continue to provide an exceptional educational experience that lives up to Frank Lloyd Wright's revolutionary vision, and also draws inspiration from the innovative urban planning theories of his one-time apprentice, Paolo Soleri. Together, we will honor our shared past and continue to leave an important mark on the architecture world."

Lasch's experience will be coupled with the addition of six new members to the board:

- Bing Hu, founder and the president, H&S International (Alumnus)
- Qingyun Ma, Former Dean, School of Architecture, University of Southern California; Member of Los Angeles Planning Commission; Xi'an Urban Planning Expert Consultant, Founder and Design Principal; MADA s.p.a.m.
- Chris Koch, Chief Executive Officer, Carlisle Companies Inc.
- John Sather, managing partner, Swaback Architects + Planners (Alumnus)
- James Benson, president and CEO, Benson Botsford LLC; and former president & CEO, John Hancock Life Insurance Co.
- Victor Sidy, former head of school and dean of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, and managing principal, Victor Sidy Architect (Alumnus)

"The School of Architecture at Taliesin and the Fellowship have provided me with a unique, hands-on educational experience that solidified my passion for architecture and shaped my future in the architecture community," said Hu, an esteemed architect and one of the school's new board members. "I'm excited to pay it forward and taking on a new role in shaping the school's bright future."

In the coming months, the school and The Cosanti Foundation will communicate additional details on their collaboration and the school will announce its new name.

In-person classes at the school are suspended due to COVID-19 and current students are working remotely. Plans to begin recruitment for its class of new Masters of Architecture students, who would begin in the program in January 2021, are underway. The school also anticipates hosting additional programs, such as its eight-week immersion program -- an architectural discovery program for those interested in exploring the program or learning more about architecture, as an art and profession.

"Education is at the heart of the work of The Cosanti Foundation. Through demonstrating a different way to live, we contribute to the broader dialogue on how cities of the future will be shaped. To be able to impart those ideas to tomorrow's architects through this exciting development with the school strengthens our mission," said Patrick McWhortor, President and CEO of The Cosanti Foundation.

Kirkland & Ellis represented the School of Architecture at Taliesin and the board pro bono throughout its negotiations with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

#### About the School of Architecture at Taliesin

The School of Architecture at Taliesin aims to change the world through architecture. Originally founded by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1932 as an apprenticeship program, the graduate school provides a program in architecture that teaches and practices learning by doing, new ways of looking, an ability to honor and build with the landscape and experimentation. The school offers a professional project-based Master of Architecture degree, with a focus on organic architecture and is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board and the Higher Learning Commission. Above all, the school aims to serve its diverse communities by making its environment more sustainable, open to all and beautiful.

# **About The Cosanti Foundation**

Since 1965, the nonprofit Cosanti Foundation has been dedicated to influencing the way our built world is created in balance with the environment. Through its scholarly publications, engaging public programming and stewardship of the architecturally-significant sites, Cosanti, in Paradise Valley, Arizona and Arcosanti, near Cordes Junction, Arizona, The Cosanti Foundation continues its important work of influencing the way cities and communities are shaped by the guiding principles of arcology. Arcology – a portmanteau of architecture and ecology – is a term coined by The Cosanti Foundation founder and theoretical architect, Paolo Soleri (1919-2013) and promotes exhibiting ecological accountability, leaving a limited carbon footprint, demonstrating resourcefulness, and learning by doing.

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# **The Cosanti Foundation Awarded AZ Humanities Grant for Living with the Land Lecture Series** *Funds to support the organization's free educational program offered to the community*

The Cosanti Foundation is pleased to announce its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Living with the Land Lecture Series has been awarded a grant from the AZ Humanities organization. The Foundation sought this grant via AZ Humanities because its efforts parallel the organization's mission to build a "just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection." The funds will support The Cosanti Foundation's lecture series program in numerous ways.

"We are extremely grateful to receive a grant from AZ Humanities in support of The Cosanti Foundation 50th Anniversary Lecture Series. Aligned with the goals of The Cosanti Foundation, whose educational mission includes informing the public about the future of the planet, this lecture series will address such topics as ecological accountability, sustainability, frugality and resourcefulness, alternatives to urban density, and how these intertwine with our socio-cultural thinking," says Norm Pratt Director of Education for The Cosanti Foundation. "Receiving this grant enables The Cosanti Foundation to create public opportunities for the community to engage and converse with scholars and experts in the fields of history, literature, philosophy, and other humanities disciplines that examine humanity's relationship to built and natural environments."

The Cosanti Foundation's goal for this series is to foster and stimulate thoughtful community exchange and build new audiences for the purposes of providing perspectives about "where we have been, where we are, and where we are headed in terms of sustainability, cultural growth and our natural resources."

Each lecture in the free eight-part series, which runs from Thursday, April 2 through Saturday, May 23, features a different speaker and topic — serving to help to inform participants about the future of the planet as well as to provide opportunities to explore provocative and intriguing perspectives about shared human experiences for the benefit of the community. The topics cover a variety of lived experiences of our Native American culture, adaptations and innovations of the water system, as well as other historical perspectives relevant to the Arizona. Lectures will include audience questions and responses to provocative or generative questions, thereby expanding perspectives and knowledge.

For more information about this lecture series as well as all the programming at The Cosanti Foundation and its sister site, Arcosanti, visit <u>www.arcosanti.org.</u>

## THE COSANTI FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

#### THE COSANTI FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick McWhortor, President and CEO John Walsh, Board President Jeff Stein, Board Secretary Stephen Ostwinkle, Board Treasurer Matteo DiMichele, Board Member Kathryn Joyce, Board Member Jai Singh Khalsa, Board Member Jai Singh Khalsa, Board Member Ivan Fritz, Board Member Kim Ruggerio, Board Member Sarah Marino, Board Member Kate Bemesderfer, Board Member

# **BIOS**

# Patrick McWhortor, President and CEO, The Cosanti Foundation

Patrick McWhortor serves as an *ex officio*, a non-voting member of the board of directors. He is a consultant providing leadership, strategy, and team building services for businesses of all sizes. Patrick is a certified associate for Emergenetics, which includes the Emergenetics Selection Program (ESP) that aids employers in finding the right people to join their teams.

Patrick's career in Arizona spans nearly 40 years and most of it within the nonprofit community. He founded the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits, where he served as CEO for 10 years. He is an adjunct professor at Arizona State University, having taught at the graduate and undergraduate levels in philanthropy, nonprofit management and leadership, public policy and political science. Patrick has also served on many nonprofit boards of directors locally and nationally, currently serving Arizona Town Hall, Herberger Theater and Chair of the Arizona Advocacy Network and is a past Chair of

the Board of the National Council of Nonprofits. He also has a background as a lobbyist at the Arizona state legislature for education and environmental causes.

Patrick is a 2011 Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy Fellow and a 2004 graduate of Valley Leadership. He earned both a B.A. in political science and M.P.A. in public administration from Arizona State University. He lives in Cave Creek with his wife, a public school teacher.

### John Walsh, Board President

John retired from the fashion industry in 2015 after a 40-year career with a variety of companies in the retail sector of the business. Key positions that John held during that time included president and COO of Calvin Klein Retail; president and COO of G.H. Bass & Co., executive vice president of Donna Karan International and executive vice president of Van Heusen Retail. Since retiring in 2015, John has primarily devoted his time to the nonprofit sector as a board member and board chair of The Cosanti Foundation. John's skill set is business development, strategic planning, brand positioning, team building and organization. Over the years, John has turned around failing businesses, started new businesses and established organic growth strategies with proven success. John believes in building strong leadership teams that aspire to top quartile performance and teams that lead through example and take every opportunity to train and counsel new talent with an eye toward succession. His guiding thought is — a team is only as strong as its weakest link.

## Jeff Stein AIA, Board Secretary

Jeff Stein, AIA, is an award-winning architect, journalist, educator and long-distance motorcyclist; alumnus of Arcosanti's workshop program, and past president of The Cosanti Foundation. Jeff taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, headed the school of architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology and was dean of the Boston Architectural College where he served as architect-of-record for the BAC/Tufts 2009 US Solar Decathlon entry.

Jeff has lectured widely about the work of The Cosanti Foundation/Arcosanti in numerous public arenas including Docomomo, Forbes' Techonomy Conferences, AIA Conferences, The Santa Fe Institute, Oregon's Hopes conference; and throughout Europe and the Middle East. Jeff was a longtime board member of the Boston Society of Architects, The Frank Lloyd Wright School, Ecosa Institute, and EcoCity Builders. He has published widely, including "Visionary Architecture" in the AIA 150th Anniversary book, *Architecture: Celebrating the Past, Designing the Future*.

# Sarah Marino, Board Member

Sarah Marino is a Phoenix-based start-up executive and ceramics artist. As former director of team experience at Tuft & Needle, the company that disrupted the mattress industry and revolutionized the employee experience, Sarah nurtured the award-winning start-up culture by producing large-scale team events and a best-in-class work environment that enabled breakthrough work and team execution. After her time in the start-up world, she transitioned to focus on ceramics, where she currently creates both functional and sculptural designs that feature high-contrast, familiar silhouettes, with an eye for the underrated every day.

In 2019, Sarah and her husband, JT, purchased one of only two commissioned residential homes built by Paolo Soleri to preserve and share its unique history. As a board member, Sarah brings a passionate drive to help develop and progress Cosanti's big vision with a fresh perspective from her experience operating high-performance teams and creatively supporting digitally native brands.

## Kim Ruggiero, Board Member

Kim Ruggiero has held a variety of leadership positions and is a veteran in bringing organizational change to clients through information technology. Kim is managing partner for the Verizon Business Group focusing on the retail/hospitality industry. As a global technology leader, Kim is recognized for her strategic and technical savvy, building high performance teams and intrapreneurial vision. Kim is an ASU Professor of Practice for the Professional Sales and Relationship Management Class and chair of the professional sales advisory board for the department of marketing, W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. Using her corporate expertise, Kim developed the curriculum and this class is part of the Professional Sales Certificate.

Kim began her career at AT&T after graduating from ASU. She quickly progressed through the business, with focused efforts in sales, sales leadership and development. Kim spent 24 years at AT&T where she worked with hundreds of organizations worldwide and applied her industry experience to help businesses accelerate their growth. In her last assignment, Kim served as division manager, global account director.

Kim's passion is international travel, focusing on experiential adventure. Recent trips included Costa Rica eco-travel, Israel pilgrimage; Iceland hiking and wildlife photography; and Egypt to experience the rich history of the country. Kim is excited about future locations and experiences.

#### Ivan Fritz, Board Member

Ivan Fritz is a technology leader and filmmaker with strong ties to The Cosanti Foundation and Arcosanti dating back to the 1980s. Growing up at Arcosanti, followed by living and working on site as the Foundation's first network administrator, has given him a unique perspective around arcology and where it fits into the current society. His ties to the Arcosanti community, both past and present, and commitment to creating a sustainable future help guide his thinking as a board member. He currently heads the technology department at Music Together Worldwide while also growing CreatorTools, Inc. as its president.

# Matteo DiMichele, Board Member

Originally from Milan, Italy, Matteo DiMichele has lived in the U.S. since 2002. He received his Juris Doctor Degree in Como, Italy, with a doctoral dissertation focused on the international protection of human rights.

After working in Milan as a contract law adviser with a large telecommunications company, Matteo moved to Arcosanti where he resided and worked for more than 10 years with a variety of responsibilities including human resources management, workshop coordination, operations management, and the development of strategic partnerships with cultural institutions and universities. In 2012, Matteo received his MBA in Supply Chain and Operations Management at Arizona State University and relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he lives with his wife Emily and their two daughters. Matteo currently works with Bank of America where he holds the position of senior vice president with the global corporate services team.

### Kathy Joyce, Board Member

Kathryn's experience spans 28 years in the development profession, creating philanthropic resources through leadership roles that have helped sustain the mission and vision of academic institutions and non-profit arts and culture organizations including currently the Thunderbird School of Global Management, and formerly the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Vassar College, Dallas Museum of Art, and the University of North Texas where she was senior director over four colleges including the College of Visual Arts and Design.

Fostering significant philanthropic investments while providing strategic direction is central to her work that has brought forward pivotal collaborations and innovative relationships. She is adept at navigating complex environments and guiding dialogues on leadership, diversity, and culture around a global mindset. She also provides counsel to non-profit organizations through her private volunteer practice, Philanthropic Resources and has served on the boards of fine arts organizations, private schools, charter schools, and cultural institutions.

## Jai Singh Khalsa, Board Member

Jai Singh Khalsa has been practicing architecture and urban design since 1978. Khalsa Design, his firm in Somerville, Massachusetts, is more than 30 years old and primarily works on mixed use multi-family projects as well as adaptive re-use, office buildings, medical facilities and charter schools. Khalsa Design currently averages around 150 jobs a year with projects that scale from three-family to mixed-use projects of 500,000 square feet with hotel, retail, residential and parking components. On the community side, Jai has been involved in the administration of many Sikh-related nonprofits and business boards for more than 40 years. Jai is also an Arcosanti Alumnus – he spent six to eight months living and working in the Urban Laboratory and says, "I often reflect on it as a foundational moment in my development as an architect."

# Dan Shilling, Board Member

After teaching high school in Pennsylvania, Dan moved to Arizona in 1980 and earned a PhD from Arizona State University. He worked at the Arizona Humanities Council from 1984 until 2003; the last 14 of those years he served as executive director. Dan has served on more than 50 boards and commissions and has given hundreds of public presentations. To acknowledge his service, ASU presented him its most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dan's research on cultural tourism resulted in the book *Civic Tourism: The Poetry and Politics of Place* (2007), which earned him the state's highest tourism award. Since 2009, he has worked with ASU to direct summer institutes for college faculty who teach environmental policy. His most recent publication is *Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability* (Cambridge, 2018). An avid hiker, Dan lives in Phoenix and spends summers in the mountains of the West.

# Kate Bemesderfer, Board Member

A nonprofit education and development professional with more than 20 years of experience, Kate's passion is finding ways to take complex ideas and turn them into compelling stories, connecting great causes to people who care. In 2012, she spent two life-changing years living at Arcosanti, where she served as the PR and Development Coordinator as well as a member of Arcosanti Community Council. Her time with The Cosanti Foundation was one of growth and transition, and her work included significant expansion of both digital engagement and Arcosanti's live events, including the establishment of the multi-day FORM festival. She has since served on both the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and the Arcosanti Cooperative Board of Directors. She remains close with the current

Arcosanti community and its extended alumni network, and active with the co-op in the planning and production of its annual Convergence festival.

Since 2014, Kate has resided in Portland, Oregon, where she is currently the Development Director of 1000 Friends of Oregon, a statewide nonprofit that safeguards Oregon's unique land use planning program. This program began in 1973 as a means of protecting Oregon's vital farmland and environmental treasures from unchecked urban sprawl, while also ensuring the development of compact, highly livable towns and cities inside of intentionally-set urban growth boundaries. For Kate, it's a logic that resonates strongly with the principles of arcology upon which The Cosanti Foundation and Arcosanti are founded. Perhaps that is why there are so many Cosanti Originals windbells in Oregon!

# THE COSANTI FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM

# Patrick McWhortor, President and CEO, The Cosanti Foundation

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# Timothy Bell, Director of Community Engagement

Tim Bell is a native of the Southwest and currently serves as the director of community engagement for The Cosanti Foundation and Arcosanti. He is also the chief cultural officer for the Arcosanti Convergence, a conference festival hybrid event that seeks to build community in the Southwest and beyond through engaging in global thought and taking local action. His work with Arcosanti and The Cosanti Foundation began in the fall of 2017, and he has lived in residence at the Urban Laboratory since March 2018. Prior to this, he spent a decade working as an artist and community builder in both New York and Los Angeles where he discovered a passion for leveraging his privilege to build bridges between people and ideas in pursuit of a more equitable and collaborative world.

## Norm Pratt, Director of Education

With more than 30 years of experience in education, Norm Pratt joined The Cosanti Foundation in 2019 as director of education. Norm's extensive experience in education includes teaching as a visual arts teacher, principal of an elementary school, and director of fine arts for the Paradise Valley Unified School District in Phoenix. Norm has also worked as an education consultant for Scottsdale Arts, developing educational outreach and workshops for Canal Convergence, a 10-day public arts event. He graduated from Arizona State University with a B.F.A. in Printmaking, a Post Baccalaureate in Visual Arts education, and a master's degree in Educational Leadership. As a life-long advocate of the arts as well as a performing musician, Norm is an active member of the arts community in the Phoenix area.

# Rob Jackson, Director of Talent Development

As the director of talent development, Rob Jackson oversees human resources (HR), talent recruitment, volunteer management, and residential policies at Arcosanti. A resident of Arcosanti since 2018, Rob had previously been involved in coordinating the workshop program before assuming the mantle of director of talent development in July 2019. In 2018, Rob was selected to participate in the inaugural cohort for Emerging Sustainability Leaders in the state of Arizona.

Before joining the Cosanti team, Rob worked as an HR business manager, martial arts coach and competitor, project coordinator, and as an independent coach and consultant.

Throughout his career, Rob has cultivated a passion for developing people, advancing culture, and improving workflows within organizations. Working with The Cosanti Foundation has allowed him to unite this with another passion of his: sustainability and environmental justice.

## Kelly Bird, Director of Marketing and Communications

Kelly Bird is a professional with more than 25 years' experience, the majority of which have been working in the non-profit sector. With an emphasis on arts and culture, as well as higher education, Bird has developed an expertise in building brands, increasing visibility and awareness, directing creative and messaging, effective media relations, and targeting audiences through traditional and non-traditional marketing channels. She is the former Interim Executive Director of The Lit (formerly The Poets and Writers League of Greater Cleveland), Vice President of Marketing at The Cleveland Institute of Art, and Director of External Relations at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland and has contributed her talents and skills to the Cleveland International Film Festival as a marketing advisor for several years. She is a graduate of Miami University.

#### Vickie Mayer, General Manager/Director of Retail, Cosanti Originals

Vickie Mayer assumed leadership of Cosanti Originals, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Cosanti Foundation, in 2019. A retail veteran with a 30-plus year background in the management and merchant profession within department stores, big box retail and eCommerce platforms, Vickie brings her forte as a strategic leader, along with her unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, quality, and hands-on experience to the organization. She is leading Cosanti Originals with a focus on service excellence, product development, eCommerce growth and distribution channel expansion. A long-time resident of Arizona, Vickie is passionate about travel and enjoying her desert surroundings.

## CONTACTS FOR THE MEDIA

For all press inquiries including interview requests, site visit coordination, access to archival materials, or use of photography in the collection of The Cosanti Foundation, permission to photograph architectural assets and/or events.

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