

Kalli Christ

I have a strong background in fundraising, partnership development and working with a Board of Directors through my current role as ED of Big Brothers Big Sisters. I will bring leadership, unique ideas, and enthusiasm to The705 Board!



Casey Ardoin

Plenty of young leaders in our area want to get involved, but don't know where to start, or might be scared they don't fit the stereotypical depiction of a "young professional." I was one of those people. As a transplant to Lafayette, the 705 leadership team was instrumental in making me feeling welcome and boosting my confidence to network and get involved in a brand new community. Now I'm paying it forward as a 705 Board member. This past year I served on the board as a co-chair of the Programming Committee, where our goal was to plan more diverse socials and meetings for our membership. I'm proud that we hosted more events outside of Lafayette, got more active (Skyzone! Yoga class!), and partnered with other organizations such as One Acadiana and the Lafayette Bar Association. I'm committed to continuing the quality events and opportunities available for our members, but I'm also not afraid to address challenges and offer up new solutions. As young leaders, we can't just propose ideas for a better Lafayette – we must set the example and take action. As a board member, I'll help the 705 lead the charge.



Cecilia Fruge

I feel like I would be an asset to the705 board because of my experience in event planning and creating events based on people's specifications and desires. I have a love of organization and feel that follow-through is a number 1 priority. The organization that I maintain in my everyday life has over flowed into helping me stay on top of various events and tasks that I must accomplish for my career and positions that I hold in other organizations. I believe these are a few of my strengths that could greatly benefit the705 achieving their goals for the 2020-2021 term. I look forward to getting even more involved in the705 and hope to bring more awareness of such a great organization to Acadiana.



Logan Simpson

I believe that if I become a 705 board member, I can bring new ideas and skills to the organization to further our mission. As an active member of the community, I hope to engage more people to become a part of our organization and find more ways that we can be involved in the community as well.

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Sarah Lopez

I love being able to bounce ideas off of others that can help any organization or company grow and expand. I think with my experience in financials, working with team development and marketing, I could be a part of a group that could really help the 705 grow to a new level while working with others to continue to honor the 705 mission to "develop our community and members personally, professionally and civically."

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Gerren Benoit

Fortified by my wide range of experiences in the community and my commitment to the 705's mission, I readily embrace the opportunity and challenge to serve on the Board of Directors. I am committed to open, purposeful and respectful dialogue and discussions that includes all perspectives. If elected I will do my best to ensure we continue to become increasingly open as an organization while simultaneously working to expand our outreach in the community.



Monica Rowan

I've been an active participant of the 705 since soon after I moved to Lafayette and I am excited about the opportunity to serve as a board member. It is because of the 705 that I have been able to get to know Lafayette and I love Lafayette and Acadiana because it is a place where I feel individuals truly can make an impact. The 705 plays an important role in that. For those of you who don't know me, I am a passionate and mission-driven person who sees everything through what I call "forest-colored glasses". I'm a big-thinker, a collaborator, and an entrepreneur who likes to get things done in a way that makes nothing but positive impacts on people, the planet we rely on, and the places we live. This is a unique viewpoint that I will bring to the organization. I work in Higher Education to ensure the generation of leaders behind us grow and learn with sustainability in mind and I would like the opportunity to do the same for members of the 705 -- a group known for producing leaders, ones whose opportunities to influence our community come sooner than college students'!



Katy Dupre

The705 wants me on its board because I view the world through interdisciplinary lenses and believe in the power of our generation. I see opportunities where others see failure or nothing at all. My experiences have molded me into someone that can ask the "right" questions (often difficult ones), expose hidden opportunities, and measure what truly matters. I'm committed to optimizing resource allocation by clearly defining goals, designing long term strategies, and performance/impact reporting. Numbers and metrics guide me but my heart belongs to Lafayette - its people, culture, and future. Consider me an insider-outsider, if you will? One that is impact and data driven, but also hopelessly in love with this place. I'm a strong believer that "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them" (Albert Einstein) and the future of Lafayette rests in our generation's hands. I'm ready to introduce and champion new approaches to our very real challenges. The705 board is an amazing opportunity for our generation to respectfully disrupt the status quo. I don't know about ya'll, but I came to the party to dance...so let's dance!



Jillian Bradley

Since beginning my career in economic development, I've grown a deeper understanding and appreciation for Lafayette and all those who work hard for its prosperity and success. Throughout my service in different organizations, my purpose has remained the same— to be a part of something bigger than myself. I'm a good fit for the705 board because of my deep-rooted ties to the community, my direct contact with a vast network of startups and small businesses, and my connections to the younger demographic who are becoming business professionals and are eager to get involved in our community.



Lizzie Domingue

I love being actively involved in the community. During my six years of membership in the705 I have grown significantly as a professional and attribute a great deal of that to this organization and the people in it. I have had the privilege of serving on the programming board for the past three years. As board members, we have an obligation to provide meaningful and engaging content to our members. It is essential that we present opportunities for our participants to connect and develop relationships with leaders in Acadiana. The705 is unique and truly offers something for everyone. I am a huge advocate for this organization and would like to continue my journey on the BOD. If elected I promise to bring innovative ideas and strategies to promote the group and help grow our membership. I want to connect people who want to do great things but aren't really sure where to start. Please re-elect me, and together we make that goal a reality.



Maggi Bienvenu

I have been very active with the705 for the past couple years. I am especially grateful to the organization to allow me to sit on the Lafayette Public Education Stakeholders Council where I've been working with community partners to improve education in Lafayette. As a member of the705 board, I will be a stronger representative with LaPESC. I also hope to bring more education initiatives to the705 to bring our membership closer to area schools and students. I have been on the Civic committee for the last year, and am particularly interested in increasing civic engagement across the parish, including voter turnout and public participation in government. The705 has given me more than I ever could imagine, connecting me closely with this community and helping me become a leader here. I have much to give back to it. and look forward to more years of helping the705 develop our young leaders.



Bobby Fruge

The relationships I've made through my short time as a member and board member of the 705 have been extremely impactful in both my personal and business growth. I've been a part of multiple organizations over the past years which have taught me so much. With my previous board experience, I feel I have a lot I can contribute to the 705 moving forward. In addition to currently sitting as co-chair for the professional development committee for the 705 board, I'm in a couple leadership positions for other organizations. Examples include, being an ambassador for One Acadiana and the Referral Partners of Acadiana, both of which are centered at bettering our community. This year I have connected with many organizations and individuals to serve our community. Linking up with like minded individuals throughout the 705 has already proven to be an extremely effective way to create progress across multiple programs in our community and has provided a platform to help many of us grow in multiple aspects of our lives. I look forward to continuing to be involved and dedicated in whatever capacity I'm chosen to and aim to make sure we all have some fun with it along the way.



Marie McClain

I am hands down one of the biggest fans of the Acadiana Area. As a transplant to Lafayette - I have come to call this place my home and plan to live here for the rest of my life. I am a single parent to three young children, a full time working professional, and I live in south Youngsville LA. I have personally benefited from the opportunities that 705 has offered for both networking, skill development, and career advancement opportunities. I see the wonderful part we play in helping support and build a better local society and culture. I want to partner with the mission of The705 - develop our community & members personally, professional and civically. I aspire to offer a voice and advocate for Single Parent Professionals (and their loved ones) in our organization and Members that live in the suburban areas of Lafayette.



Danita Maldonado

I would LOVE to be a part of this organization on a bigger scale. I believe that coming from a very different and diverse community (Odessa/Midland), and being new to this area, would allow for a new, fresh perspective on this Board. I've been involved with various professional and non-profit groups over the past few years and I know that I'd bring a wide breadth of knowledge to the team - from budgeting to committee wrangling to marketing. I'm not shy, and have no problem making new connections. That always comes in handy! I've also done my share of Board development, retreats, SWOT analyses and the like. I know I'd bring something new to the table!



Abu John Chowdhury

the705 has been new breath of Air for my Life in Lafayette. I love Lafayette & its people and I believe if I have given a chance as the Board member I can add to the team value and strengthen the bond between the communities and our members



Marina Wilson

I learned about the 705 from a coworker shortly after moving to Lafayette and immediately was excited to get involved! As a young professional, I sincerely have appreciated the opportunity presented by the 705 to meet leaders in the community and give back to the place we call home. I am dedicated to serving our members and our community by continuing the great work the 705 has been doing and implementing our group's goals for the future.



Lindsey Stanford

One of my biggest strengths is my ability to organize and plan. I alone oversee the homeschool education of my children. I choose curricula, plan field trips, and help other parents overcome their education obstacles. This passion and skill has led to me being named President of the Adventures in Homeschooling group, which currently has a waiting list for entry due to its success. Since being taken on at Stanford Law Firm, I have taken the practice from being almost exclusively personal injury to one of the more prominent family law practices in the area. I manage the office, balance the books, oversee files, and address client needs. Without my ability to manage myriads of details at once this would not have been possible. Coupled with my ability to organize is my ability to network. With whatever task I am responsible for, I not only has the vision to see how to achieve it, but the networking skills to get others behind me. My authenticity, passion, humor, and intellect are traits that others resonate to.



Will Thiele

I am a licensed CPA in Louisiana and, if given the chance, I would love to bring my accounting and tax talents to the 705 board. I have served on other non-profit boards before and I believe that I was able to benefit them with my skills, hard work, and attention to detail. When I moved to Lafayette in 2014 the 705 group gave me the opportunity to network with some amazing young professionals, many of which I became lifelong friends with. I would love to give back to an organization that gave so much to me.



Justin Doucet

- I joined the 705 club 4 years ago as an out-of-towner looking to connect with this amazing area. I have met amazing people through this organization and would be honored to help facilitate and further these connections and networks of the ones to follow. Professional Development has been the sector that I most aligned with. It has helped me on a personal and professional level. I have always been an advocate for this group and try to educate those around me about it. 705 has and always will hand the tools and assist in any way they can. This is a great organization reaching across different demographics and industry to align with the ultimate common goal of developing Acadiana. I truly feel i align with this goal and the core values of this organization. Thank you all for your consideration of me for this nomination.

