



---

## PRESS RELEASE

### Contact:

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters

Erika Monroe-Kane, Executive Director

608-733-6633

[emonroekane@wisconsinacademy.org](mailto:emonroekane@wisconsinacademy.org)

1922 University Avenue

Madison, Wisconsin 53726

**For Immediate Release**

April 3, 2025

## **Announcing Five New Wisconsin Academy Board Members**

**Five extraordinary Wisconsinites join the Wisconsin Academy Board to support the Academy's mission of bringing people together.**

**Madison, Wisconsin** – The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters is pleased to announce the addition of five accomplished individuals to its Board of Directors. These leaders bring a wealth of experience in the arts, sciences, business, and civic engagement, further strengthening the Academy's mission to cultivate civil discourse, increase understanding, and create common ground by connecting Wisconsin people and ideas.

Joining the Board are Linda Honold, an entrepreneur and nonprofit leader with a background in management consulting and civic engagement; Mike Kollath, an experienced entrepreneur, CPA, and active community leader who will also serve as Board Treasurer and Foundation Treasurer; Ben Kvalo, Founder & CEO of Midwest Games with a distinguished career in the entertainment and video game industries; Jennifer Savino, CEO of KW2, a Madison-based advertising and digital agency specializing in public health and education initiatives; and Toni Sikes, a serial entrepreneur in the arts industry and CEO of CODAworx. Their collective expertise across business, finance, the arts, technology, and civic engagement will bring valuable perspectives and leadership to the Board, strengthening the Academy's ability to foster connections across differences.

“At a time when Wisconsin needs to come together and fortify common ground, the Wisconsin Academy is especially important,” stated Erika Monroe-Kane, Wisconsin Academy Executive Director “and dynamic, thoughtful leadership of the Academy Board is essential. These adept and brilliant individuals join a 155-year line of Wisconsin luminaries who are dedicated to the betterment of Wisconsin.”



These five accomplished individuals are joining the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters Board of Directors:

### Linda Honold



Linda Honold is an accomplished entrepreneur and leader with a strong background in management consulting, nonprofit organizations, coaching, government, executive coaching, and fundraising. She has held several influential positions, including Executive Director for Citizen Action of Wisconsin, where she managed a \$2.5 million organization with over 80,000 members, and Executive Director for Wisconsin Voices, a nonpartisan network supporting civic engagement organizations. Additionally, she served as President of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin. Honold was Chair of the

Democratic Party of Wisconsin, where she led the development of a more diverse and unified state administrative committee, significantly increasing party membership and funding. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to advancing social, economic, and environmental justice while fostering leadership and collaboration.

### Mike Kollath (Board Treasurer & Foundation Treasurer)



Mike Kollath has a long career as an entrepreneur and a CPA. He has been involved in 7 startups over the last 20 years, most notably Kollath CPA. Currently, he is leading and supporting SustainableHR PEO, SustainableHR Recruiting, BananaVOIP, and Palladium Tax Advisory CPA. On the charitable side, he is chair of Madison Development Corporation, on the board on the Middleton Chamber of Commerce and a member of the finance committees for Agrace and Ronald McDonald House.



## Ben Kvalo



Ben Kvalo is the Founder & CEO of Midwest Games. Kvalo is an entertainment and video games industry leader, most recently supporting the build-out of films and games at Netflix. Prior to Netflix, he worked at two of the largest global video game companies, 2K and Blizzard, working across various roles in the publishing, marketing, and technology end of games and Esports. Kvalo has worked on some of entertainment's biggest brands across video games and film. He's led film campaigns for Bird Box, Extraction, Army of the Dead, and over 50 other titles. He has also worked on major game franchises like NBA2K, Borderlands, BioShock, Civilization, Mafia, and all of Blizzard's Esports brands, having helped to publish over 100 titles. Kvalo is originally from Wisconsin, having graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

## Jennifer Savino



Jennifer Savino is the owner and CEO of KW2, a woman-owned advertising and digital agency in Madison, Wisconsin, specializing in public health and education initiatives. With 30+ years in marketing, advertising, and brand strategy, she leads strategic planning and execution for KW2 clients. Before KW2, she was a brand strategist in Seattle. Savino is a guest speaker at the University of Wisconsin, a judge for the Governor's Business Plan Contest, and serves on boards including the Wisconsin Technology Council and the Madison Public Library Foundation. She has received the Jefferson Award in Public Service and the AAF Madison Silver Medal Award.

## Toni Sikes



Toni Sikes is the founder of three art companies and currently serves as CEO of CODAworx, the global leader in commissioned art. She previously founded The Guild Sourcebooks, connecting artists with design professionals, and Artful Home, a pioneering e-commerce company that became the largest U.S. retailer of artist-created home furnishings. Beyond the art world, Sikes is a General Partner at Calumet Venture Fund and has held key roles in investment banking and venture capital. She serves on multiple boards, including the Wisconsin Technology Council and Healthy Minds Innovations, and has received numerous entrepreneurial awards. Sikes holds degrees in Mathematics and Market Research and actively supports economic development and entrepreneurship.



For more information about the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, visit:  
<https://www.wisconsinacademy.org/>

---

### **About the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters**

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters connects, inspires, and advances Wisconsin thought and culture by fostering learning, collaboration, and connection—bringing people together across differences through common ground. Through exhibitions, publications, and initiatives, the Wisconsin Academy sparks curiosity, creativity, and dialogue across the state. The James Watrous Gallery celebrates contemporary Wisconsin artists, while Wisconsin People & Ideas magazine explores the intersections of science, culture, and the humanities. Our Climate and Energy Initiative advances pathways to a sustainable future, and public talks foster meaningful connections among engaged and inquisitive people. The Academy also honors excellence through the Fiction & Poetry Awards and Fellows Awards, supports the Wisconsin Poet Laureate, and nurtures ideas and conversations that shape a better future for Wisconsin.

###