

2024 Nature Forward Board Slate

David J. Asai

In 2024, David retired as Senior Director for Science Education at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. At HHMI he created programs to advance equity and inclusion in science education. Prior to coming to HHMI in 2008, he was a professor of biological sciences and department Head at Purdue University and Stuart Mudd Professor and Chair of biology at Harvey Mudd College. His bibliography includes 20+ essays advocating inclusive science education. He is a member of the National Academies committee that authored the 2023 report *Advancing Antiracism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in STEMM Organizations*. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Fellow of the American Society for Cell Biology. He received the Bruce Alberts Award for innovative and sustained contributions to science education, and the Wm. E. Bennett Award for contributions to civically responsible science.

William Kirwan, AIA, LEED AP

William (Bill) Kirwan, Principal, Muse|Kirwan Architects, PC is a lifetime resident of Montgomery County, MD and received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Master of Architecture from the University of Maryland with High Honors. William joined Muse Architects upon graduation in 1987. In the ensuing years he served as Project Architect and Project Manager for many of the firm's award winning residential and institutional commissions. Following 15 years of employment from Intern to Senior Associate, he was elevated to Principal of the firm in 2003. William has been an adjunct faculty member of the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, and has been a member of the Board of Directors as Director of Design Issues. In 2007 he became an accredited professional with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. In 2009, William was appointed to the Montgomery County Maryland Historic Preservation Commission and served as its Chair from 2014 until stepping down from the Commission in 2019, following 10 years of service. Currently he is serving on the Woodend 2065 Committee for Nature Forward and serves on the Board for the Northwest Branch swim club.

Stella Koch

Stella grew up near the upper Chesapeake Bay in Aberdeen, MD. Stella majored in Biology in college which combined her life-long naturalist's love for all living things and being outdoors, leading to her early career teaching that subject at Edmund Burke School in Washington, DC. One unit of her AP Biology class focused on the Chesapeake Bay, and the highlight for her and her AP students was spending four days in the spring each year at Fox Island, an isolated teaching center run by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Over the years, Stella noticed a decline in oysters, submerged aquatics, and other resources. Having been a member of Audubon Naturalist (now Nature Forward), Stella made a career change and began organizing and working on Bay legislation, local stream, and Potomac issues as a Conservation Advocate until her retirement.

Stella has had the pleasure of representing Nature Forward on various Boards (some start-ups) over the years (the Potomac River Keeper and the Choose Clean Water Coalition) and, personally as a volunteer, for the Tysons Task Force the Center for Watershed Protection and the Board of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters. Stella has been Chairman of Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) for 20 years and has authored the Water Chapter in their Annual Report on the Environment.

Stella's lifelong passion is water, starting with the streams and creeks of our local lands that ultimately flow to the Potomac and then the Chesapeake Bay.

Stella lives in Great Falls, VA with her husband of 40 years David Kinney and a thirteen-year old yellow Lab named Jack. She is lucky that most of her siblings and family live nearby in Maryland.

Inga Skippings

Inga Skippings is a consultant and facilitator who partners with mission-driven non-profit organizations and foundations of all sizes to tell compelling stories and live their values through their work. Inga was the first Black woman chief of staff of the two million-member Service Employees International Union (SEIU), where she was responsible for the strategic alignment of the union's program, resources and capacity. Inga is also an Emmy-nominated, former journalist who began her career in local Washington, DC and network television news.

Inga believes it is possible to create a world where everyone has access to clean air, water and robust green spaces, no matter where they come from or live. A decades-long resident of the DC Metro area, Inga raised her two children with frequent rock skipping in Sligo Creek and visits to Brookside Gardens and Wheaton Regional Park.

Inga serves on the advisory board of Cornell University's Global Labor Institute, which focuses on improving labor practices around the world. Inga and her husband live in Chevy Chase, Maryland and continue to enjoy the area's creeks and paths whenever they can.

Board Members standing for Re-Election: **Noel Carson, John Green, and Nancy Voit.**