



FUELING THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY

THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS & SUPPORT

I am thrilled to represent the Foundation Board as this year's Chair. Coming off the heels of Kat Paye's leadership and the incredible momentum of the IFEA's 70th anniversary, I am excited to build on that energy and help move our mission forward.

For those who are new to the organization, the Foundation Board is dedicated to raising funds that directly support our scholarship programs. The festival and event industry has always been built on creativity, resilience, and human connection, but its future depends on access. Every year, passionate and talented students and emerging professionals dream of joining this industry. Too often, those dreams are delayed or denied simply because financial support is out of reach.

That is where the Foundation makes a real and lasting impact. Through scholarships, education, and opportunities to connect with industry leaders, we help open doors for the next generation. Our board members work tirelessly to ensure that students not only gain industry knowledge, but also the relationships and confidence needed to succeed. As Chair, my goal is to continue raising the bar for fundraising so we can expand these opportunities and strengthen

the pipeline of future leaders.

In my day job as Chief Operating Officer of The Parade Company in Detroit, I am especially mindful of the importance of legacy and stewardship. This year, we are celebrating our 100th parade, a milestone that reflects a century of innovation, collaboration, and community pride. That perspective carries over into my work with the Foundation. Our responsibility is not only to celebrate where we have been, but to invest intentionally in where we are going!

Looking ahead, we are excited to share details about this year's convention and the experiences it will offer. These gatherings remind us why this industry is so special and why supporting its future matters. I hope you will join us, get involved, and help us continue creating meaningful pathways for those who will shape the festivals and events of tomorrow!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Jessica Kaminkas

IFEA Foundation Board Chair
Chief Operating Officer
The Parade Company
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