

TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE '24-'25

GINA CHAVEZ PRESIDENT

Gina Chavez is a wife, philanthropist and an award-winning independent musician. She is a 2020 Latin GRAMMY®- nominee for Best Pop/Rock Album, 12-time Austin Music Award winner, including 2019 Best Female Vocals and 2015 Austin Musician of the Year. Her NPR Tiny Desk concert has more than 1.2 million views and her hour-long PBS special is available nationwide. Gina's music is deeply personal. Her passionate collection of bilingual songs takes audiences on a journey to discover her Latin roots through music as she shares her story of life in Texas as a married, queer Catholic.



TERESA LABARBERA VICE PRESIDENT

Teresa LaBarbera is one of the top music executives in the world. She is responsible for the discovery of Beyoncé, Destiny's Child and Jessica Simpson working side by side with these artists in their development for decades. She has worked with Beyoncé on all of the superstar's music including the critically acclaimed Beyoncé and Lemonade visual albums as well as The Lion King: The Gift and The Carters Everything is Love. Until recently, Teresa was the Head of Music and A&R for Beyoncé's Parkwood Entertainment, where she oversaw all the company's music operations and the label's artist roster, which includes her development of the multi GRAMMY-nominated Chloe and Halle. Teresa was included in Billboard Magazine's A&R Power Player List and is a sought after speaker and mentor and served on the Recording Academy's Board of Trustees.

CAREN KELLEHER SECRETARY

Caren Kelleher is the founder and president of Gold Rush Vinyl, Austin's record pressing plant. Since launching the company in 2018, Caren and her team have pressed records for hundreds of musicians, offering the fastest turnaround times in the industry. Before moving to Austin, Caren worked at Google where she launched Google Play and was later promoted to Head of Music App Partnership, managing the company's work with Spotify, Pandora, iHeartRadio and other music app developers. Caren is also a former band manager and served on the board of the San Francisco Chapter of the Recording Academy®.



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TAYLOR HANSON

TRUSTEE

Taylor Hanson is a multi GRAMMY-nominated singer, songwriter, producer, writer, and entrepreneur, and Oklahoma Music Hall Of Fame inductee, born and bred in Tulsa. He has worked in the music industry for 30 years and sold over sixteen million albums as a member of the pop-rock trio HANSON. He is also a member of acclaimed power pop band Tinted Windows along with members, James Iha (Smashing Pumpkins, A Perfect Circle), Bun E Carlos (Cheap Trick) and the late Adam Schlesinger (Fountains of Wayne). He is CEO and co-founder of 3CG Records, Hanson Brothers Beer Company, The Hop Jam Festival and Take The Walk, a non-profit focused on issues of extreme poverty in Africa. In 2014 Taylor founded Food On The Move, focused on strengthening community partnership around the issues of hunger and eradicating food deserts, in Tulsa and Oklahoma.



PAUL WALL

TRUSTEE

Rapper, DJ and entrepreneur, Paul Wall is one of Texas's most successful independent musicians, earning him a major deal with Swishahouse Records' joint venture with Atlantic Records. Wall's "People's Champ" debuted on Billboard Magazine's Top 200 in the #1 spot and quickly reached platinum status. In 2007, Paul received a GRAMMY Nomination for Best Rap Performance as a Duo or Group for his work in GRILLZ. Paul has been a Governor and is a Trustee for the Texas Chapter and continues to be a leader in hip hop.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2024-2025

RODNEY ALEJANDRO GOVERNOR

In his 30+ year career, Rodney Alejandro has become recognized as a protean polymath within the entertainment industry. His career spans achievements as a musician, arranger, songwriter, music producer, music director, entertainment executive, public speaker, and educator.

Rodney has given speeches and masterclasses on performance, songwriting, and music production at various institutions worldwide. In 2022, he was appointed to Chair of Songwriting at Berklee College of Music overseeing the curriculum, 33 faculty, and over 450 students. He continues to perform, write, and produce for select projects around the globe.



ARNAECIA ALRIDGE GOVERNOR

Arnaecia Alridge is a music executive and former publicist to GRAMMY Award-winning artists. With diverse genre experience, she has contributed to the careers of gospel artist Yolanda Adams, rappers Paul Wall, P. Diddy and more. An elected music leader, she serves on the Recording Academy's Rap & R&B membership committee and the Texas Chapter as Governor and Chair of the Chapter's Education Committee. Currently, Arnaecia is in development of music label A Jam Records, an ethical creative home for artists.

NORMA DURAN GOVERNOR

Norma Duran is a highly respected veteran of the music industry, boasting over 25 years of experience collaborating with influential Latin artists from Latin America, Mexico, and the United States. Her journey began as a young college student when she started writing a column for a newspaper. She was determined to make a name for herself in the music industry and seized every opportunity to work as an on-air personality and TV host. Her hard work and dedication paid off, and she was eventually recruited to work as an International Business Affairs Director at AFG Sigma Records where she had the privilege of working with world-renowned artists such as Los Temerarios and Conjunto Primavera.

Norma takes great pride in her recent achievements, including her contribution to Los Huracanes del Norte receiving their own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the No. 1 spot on national radio for Los Hijos de Barron, the international recognition of La Fiera de Ojinaga at Premios de la Radio in Mexico City, and Bobby Pulido's Latin GRAMMY win—a success story Norma has been a part of since the beginning of his career.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2024-2025

SHAUNA DODDS GOVERNOR

Simply put, Shauna Dodds is a creator. Has been since birth. Since the second she could wrap her tiny fingers around a broken crayon, she has been obsessed with creative expression. With an added passion for music, attention to detail and a competitive drive, she has forged an impressive career and has become a nationally recognized art director. Shauna is best known for her work in the music industry in partnership with her sister, Sarah Dodds, and Backstage Design Studio, which the duo formed close to two decades ago. Combining their individual talents and unique perspectives, the pair has crafted artwork for a number of respected artists including Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson, Robert Earl Keen, Jimmy Buffett, Jimmie Vaughan, Reckless Kelly, Def Leppard, Wynonna Judd, Guy Clark, Toby Keith, Bob Schneider, Dierks Bentley, Granger Smith, Jerry Jeff Walker, Mac McAnally, Turnpike Troubadours, Asleep at the Wheel, Rodney Foster, Rosie Flores, Pat Green, Aaron Watson, Parker McCollum, The Band Perry and Randy Rogers Band.



JESSICA COLLADO GOVERNOR

Jessica Muñoz-Collado is a music career consultant, composer/producer, percussionist, and an Assistant Professor of Music Business at the University of North Texas. She is also the Founder/Owner of NIZCO MUSIC: a music career consulting service that helps musicians compose their careers to their own B.E.A.T. (Business, Education, Artist Development, Technology). Her company offers services in music career planning, music technology training, artist development, and more. She also serves as an Educator Ambassador for The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC), serves on the education committee for the Music Business Association, and is Chair of the Music Industry Council for the College Music Society.

TIM PALMER GOVERNOR

Tim Palmer has produced and mixed albums for a huge selection of classic and alternative artists, from Robert Plant, David Bowie and Tears For Fears to Ozzy Osbourne, The Goo Goo Dolls and U2. With the recent success of the Psychedelic Furs album that Tim mixed, he has succeeded in having Top Ten albums in the UK for 5 Decades. Tim Palmer mixed "TEN" for Pearl Jam, which is now in the top 50 best-selling albums of all time and the album was inducted into the GRAMMY Hall of Fame in 2021. In 2001, Tim was nominated for a GRAMMY for his mixing work on U2's "All That You Can't Leave Behind." The album went on to win a GRAMMY for "Best Rock Album". Tim also mixed the GRAMMY winning songs "Stuck in a Moment" and "Elevation" from this album. Now based in Austin, Tim has continued producing and mixing for the likes of Tears for Fears, Jason Mraz, Blue October, Jackie Venson, H.I.M and The Psychedelic Furs.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2024-2025

SYMBOLYC ONE “S1” GOVERNOR

Larry D. Griffin Jr., known worldwide as producer Symbolyc One (S1), was born and raised in Waco, TX. S1 found his passion for music early in life while listening to his parents' soulful record collection. This passion led him to play piano during Sunday School at his local church and also learn the alto sax in band throughout his teen years. In high school, he would go on to create a hip-hop group (Symbolyc Elementz) along with his cousin Kevin Gaither, which became the origin of his production.

Today, S1 has established himself as one of the top music producers in the music industry. From working with iconic legends such as Madonna and Gladys Knight, to crafting songs for other great artists such as Drake, Lorde, Meek Mill, Lil' Uzi-Vert, The Game, 50 Cent, Kirk Franklin, Common, amongst others, as well as being a core member in Erykah Badu's electronic band, The Cannabinoids. His latest GRAMMY nomination would come from contributing two songs on Beyoncé's critically acclaimed "Renaissance" album.



JACOB SCIBA GOVERNOR

Jacob Sciba is a Texas born and raised Producer, Engineer, & Mixer with over 20 years professional experience. Sciba is currently the Chief Engineer and Partner at the famed Arlyn Studios in Austin, Texas. He started his career at Willie Nelson's Pedernales Studio and in 2012 transitioned to Arlyn Studios facilitating a full remodel of the facility.

Sciba has had continued success Producing, Engineering and Mixing for artists including Willie Nelson, Gary Clark Jr, Gov't Mule, Terry Allen, Shawn Colvin, Warren Haynes, Steve Earle and Black Pistol Fire. His efforts haven't gone unnoticed, taking home multiple Austin Music Awards locally and Globally by being a GRAMMY winner.

SANGEETA KAUR GOVERNOR

Sangeeta is a 2022 GRAMMY award winning Vietnamese American singer, multimedia artist and producer. This milestone makes her the very first female Vietnamese American singer to have won a GRAMMY in all of history. Sangeeta's body of work is both cinematic in scope and spans a wide range of genres such as Classical, New Age, Contemporary and Spiritual.

As she says, "My life's mission is to create and share music that brings joy and positive transformation to the listener." So far she has released five award-winning albums: *Niguma*, *Ascension*, *Mirrors*, *Compassion* and *Illuminance* and is the producer of the very first ever written Mantra Opera, *Niguma*.

Sangeeta is also the owner of the recording studio, Studio Hill in Austin, Texas.



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MARK LETTIERI

GOVERNOR

Mark Lettieri is an acclaimed guitarist, composer, producer, and instructor hailing from Fort Worth, TX. He is best known as a creator of modern instrumental guitar music, and for his work with leading instrumental bands Snarky Puppy and the Fearless Flyers. He is a five-time GRAMMY Award-winner as a member of Snarky Puppy, and a GRAMMY nominated solo artist. With these various projects, Lettieri has performed and toured on every continent except Antarctica.



SAMA'AN ASHRAWI GOVERNOR

Sama'an Ashrawi is a writer and producer of many kinds and host of the Nostalgia Mixtape podcast. His work has featured Megan Thee Stallion, Drake, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Kendrick Lamar, J. Cole, DJ Khaled, the Beastie Boys' Adam Horowitz, Bad Brains' Darryl Jenifer, Pharrell, Lupe Fiasco, A\$AP Rocky, Gary Clark Jr, Leon Bridges, Mac Miller, Thundercat, Ana Tijoux, Khruangbin, and dozens more. Music is the strongest thread in his life, stretching back to before he was born: in the 1960s and 70s his father Ibrahim was the lead singer of Al-Bara'em, the first rock n roll band in Palestine.

In 2018, he helped produce Bun B's Houston Rodeo performance with Leon Bridges, and later the song "Gone Away," featuring a Texas triumvirate of Bun B, Bridges, and Gary Clark Jr, as well as "Blood on the Dash," another Bun B-Gary Clark pairing, from Bun's most recent solo album: *Return of the Trill*. In 2019, he was named a Culture Leader in Houston and the following year made Arab America's 40 Under 40 list.

GENE MOORE GOVERNOR

Gene Moore is a two-time GRAMMY nominated gospel artist, songwriter, radio announcer, and has served as a Governor for the Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy since 2021. Since Gene's initial election to the governor's seat, he has contributed the following: Served as team captain for the Recording Academy's District Advocate Day, a GRAMMY U mentor, and represented GRAMMY U & the GRAMMY Museum by speaking to junior high school students for their career day due to his heart for empowering today's youth.

In addition to serving as an officer of the Texas Chapter Board, he remains faithful to his love for music and media. He recently earned his second GRAMMY nomination for being a featured vocalist on GRAMMY winner, PJ Morton's song entitled "The Better Benediction," which was nominated for Best Gospel Song in 2023.



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SHONNIE MURRELL GOVERNOR

Born LaShonda Antrionette Harris on July 19 in Jonesboro, Louisiana and raised in Houston, Texas, Shonnie is a talented musician and performer. Shonnie's musical journey began at the age of 3 and has been marked by numerous accomplishments. After graduating from Sharpstown High School, Shonnie pursued her academic interests and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Grambling State University. Her time at Grambling State honed her musical talents and allowed her to showcase her showmanship on percussion as a member of the renowned Grambling State World Famed Tiger Marching Band in which she is the first female Quad/Quint Player. Within the band, Shonnie held the highest-ranked position of Master Drill Sgt. and gained recognition through her appearances on the hit BET show, "Season of the Tiger".



SUNNY SAUCEDA GOVERNOR

GRAMMY award-winning artist, Sunny Saucedo, has been a staple over the past 40 years in the music industry. In 2017 he was inducted into the Tejano Roots Hall of fame and has won 24 Tejano Music Awards including the most recent "Entertainer of the Year" for 2022. Sunny previously served on the Board of Governors and had a term as Vice President of the Texas Chapter but unfortunately had to step away to care for his son. Sunny continued to remain relevant and influential within the music scene as he toured the United States and Mexico and continues to branch out into new genres. He has gained new followers and continues to excite fans with his social media outlets and performances with multiple viral videos that caught the attention of millions internationally. Sunny would like to serve and use his voice to advocate for everything the academy stands for such as creating awareness, championing creators' rights, and outreach to the younger generation.



LAURA MORDECAI GOVERNOR

Laura Mordecai is a percussionist and harmony vocalist based in Austin and has toured and recorded with artists such as Tish Hinojosa, Patricia Vonne, Stephanie Urbina Jones plus Austin Music Hall of Fame inductees Beto y los Fairlanes. Her free-lancing career has also blessed her with some amazing opportunities in orchestral performances such as Willie Nelson, Steve Miller and David Amram. An 18 year member of the Recording Academy she has served terms as a Texas Chapter board member, Chapter Secretary and Chapter Vice-President. Laura is also a member of the Latin Recording Academy, the American Federation of Musicians (AFM Local 433) and a founding member of the Austin Jazz Society. Together with her husband Michael, they own BBA/Management & Booking and Fable Records, now in its 49th year. Laura says her best asset is that she is familiar with the gifts and the curses of all sides of the industry. "After 40 years I think I might know some things - and - I know what I don't know. I'm excited about changes in the industry and all the great possibilities those changes might hold for all of us."

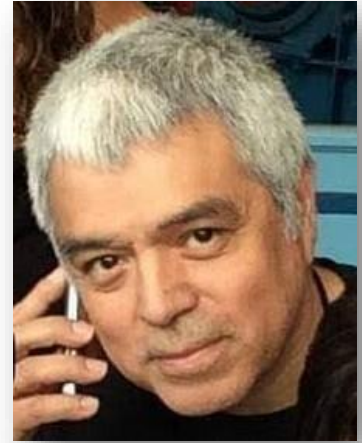


TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2024-2025

GILBERT VELASQUEZ

GOVERNOR

Gilbert Velasquez is a guitarist, songwriter, producer, arranger, recording engineer and a business owner. (V-Music / San Antonio) Velasquez has been an active musician in San Antonio for over 50 years. Has served numerous terms on the Board of Governors of the Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy also serving two terms as Trustee. Has served on Awards and Nominations committees/screening committees. Accolades include multiple GRAMMY Latin GRAMMY Awards for his work on various projects as a producer/engineer. He was recognized in 2007 with the "Gibson Guitar Special Achievement Award" for his work in Tex-Mex music.



CARL THIEL GOVERNOR

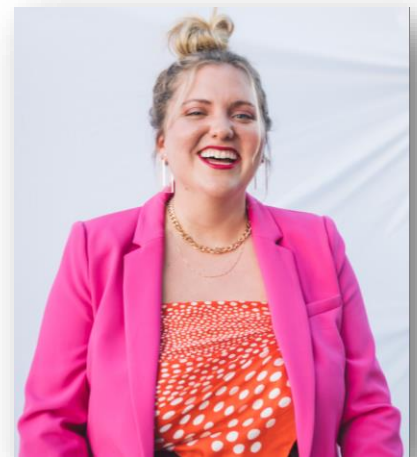
Carl Thiel is an award-winning film & TV composer and producer. Raised in Mexico City by European parents, Carl was exposed to a wide variety of cultural experiences and musical styles from an early age. He studied music beginning at age six, later earning high honors in high school in Canada, after which he attended the University of Texas where he pursued a degree in Radio, TV & Film. During this time, he also took courses in electronic music and collaborated with pop/rock bands. He later became a sought-after composer for national TV and radio commercials. By the early 2000s, Thiel's work attracted the attention of film director Robert Rodriguez, who hired Carl to produce the theme song for his second Spy Kids film. This marked the beginning of a unique musical journey that's lasted over two decades.



CASSIE SHANKMAN GOVERNOR

Cassie Shankman, aka DJ Cassandra, is an Austin-based DJ, composer, pianist, educator, and a big believer in community and collaboration. She's DJ'd events for global clients such as The Recording Academy, Goldman Sachs, NASCAR, Google, Adidas, Kendra Scott, Dell, SXSW, ACL Live, performing for virtual audiences of 18,000 to in-person audiences of 50,000 to national audiences of millions. As a pianist she's performed with artists such as DEVO's frontman Mark Mothersbaugh to indie-rock artist Ben Kweller to jazz trombonist Wycliffe Gordon. As an orchestrator and composer, and educator / music performance coach, her work has been recognized in major TV/Films and commercials.

As a proponent for music education, Cassie has been an active member with the Recording Academy's Texas Chapter Education committee for 6 years and counting, and is also a 4-time featured speaker for GRAMMY Career Day. She also recently joined the Texas Chapters' Songwriter and Composer committee this year. In addition, she co-founded the web-app Picardy focused on helping anyone develop music theory and musicianship skills.



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HEATHER WAGNER REED

GOVERNOR



Heather Wagner Reed is the Founder + CEO of Juice Consulting, an Austin-based PR and marketing firm that specializes in sectors ranging from music and entertainment to tech and innovation, the nonprofit world, visual arts and much more. Founded in 2007, Juice's clients range from famed disco legend Gloria Gaynor and neo-soul songstress Erykah Badu to some of the top indie acts and entertainment clients coming out of the region. As one of the premiere boutique PR firms in Texas, Juice's motto is "adding vitality to your campaign" and they have a leave-no-stone-unturned approach to getting remarkable client results. AKA, they bring the JUICE! Before starting Juice in 2007, Heather served as Senior Product Manager for 32 time GRAMMY-winning artist Beyoncé, handling her day-to-day management and global marketing coordination for five years as part of Music World Entertainment/Sanctuary Records. There she also worked with artists such as Destiny's Child, Solange, Mario, and many other renowned acts on the label. With over 27 years in the sector, Heather's passion for the entertainment industry started with a long stint in college radio at WUOG-FM Athens at the University of Georgia. She went on to spend five and a half years working in Europe for companies such as Universal Music Holland (Mercury Records), music internet startup Soundartist, and Disneyland Paris, among others.

KITT WAKELEY GOVERNOR

Kitt Wakeley is a 2023 GRAMMY Award-winning composer, songwriter, musician, and music producer. He is also a 2021 Indie Music Hall of Fame Inductee, 5 Time #1 Billboard Charting Artist and has been a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences since 2014 and a current Texas Chapter Governor. He has been producing, recording, and performing since 1997. Kitt's personal projects such as his series of "Symphony of Sinners & Saints" albums, "Midnight in Macedonia" and "Cinematic Chaos" are a perfect blend of orchestra, rock, and EDM, creating an epic sound similar to movie scores and trailers. These projects have yielded numerous awards, as well as 5 #1 Billboard hits and capturing 11 other Billboard charts. These projects usually involve the London Symphony or Royal Philharmonic and his love for Abbey Road Studios in London, UK. The success of these projects expanded as Kitt's performances were sold out at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Oklahoma City Civic Center. His shows are known for their epic sound, combined with lights, video and effects, along with personal monologues to entertain the audience. However, Kitt's pinnacle achievement was his album "An Adoption Story", which won a GRAMMY in 2023 for Best Classical Compendium Album. The project featured the London Symphony and Starr Parodi on piano. It was co-produced by Kitt Wakeley, Starr Parodi and Jeff Fair. The album was a musical interpretation of Kitt's full circle journey as someone who lost his parents, entered the foster care system and eventually adopted three children of his own.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS ADVISORS 2024-2025



BRIAN COURTNEY WILSON

ADVISOR

Brian Courtney Wilson is a Chicago-area native and long-time Houston-area resident who is a highly regarded singer-songwriter (some call him a soulful-crooner) in and out of the Gospel music genre. He is a Stellar Award-winner, multiple GMA Dove Award-winner and an ASCAP Rhythm & Soul Award winner. Wilson has also amassed three GRAMMY nominations in addition to NAACP Image Award, Soul Train Music Award and Billboard Music Award nominations.

Since arriving on the scene in 2009 with his debut release JUST LOVE, Wilson has delivered some of the most beloved songs of the past decade, establishing him as one of our time's premier inspirational voices and a modern Gospel messenger.

RANDY ROGERS

ADVISOR

Whatever you do, don't tell Randy Rogers he's just a musician. Sure, the Texas native's namesake band has been making its mark on the Country scene for more than two decades now, having racked up seven singles on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart and continuing as one of the nation's perennial live acts. The man himself is also undoubtedly one of the Lone Star State's most accomplished singer-songwriters in recent memory. But Rogers has always spread his wings a bit wider than most. "I'm not just a dude in a band who goes fishing every day," he says with a laugh. No, he's certainly not. The 45-year-old Rogers is one of Country music's most forward-thinking businessmen, investors, and dreamers to boot. Whether cementing his name in the music industry, where he owned a management company and helped launched the careers of current superstars like fellow Texan Parker McCollum, owning retail stores with his wife Chelsea, investing in baseball teams and whiskey brands, revamping a beloved live music venue, or giving back to the community that raised him, Rogers is making an impact at every turn.

