

ULI Nashville – Civic Leadership Forum
Content Before Cocktails – Donelson Plaza and Donelson Branch Library
July 23, 2024

Speaker Bios

Allen Arender, Chief Development Officer, Holladay Properties

Mr. Arender joined Holladay Properties in 2006 and has more than 17 years of experience in the commercial real estate industry. From the Nashville, TN office, he has led the redevelopment and new construction development of more than \$500 million in asset value of commercial office, medical office, and warehouse properties in Nashville area.

Mr. Arender has recently led redevelopment projects including the Factory at Franklin, Donelson Plaza, converting an office complex to workforce housing and the development of Airport Logistics Park, a 100-acre business park development adjacent to the Nashville International Airport. He has recently assumed responsibility for all of Holladay's development efforts in the Midwest and Southeast. During his time with Holladay, Mr. Arender has led projects that have received local and national excellence in development awards from NAIOP, Urban Land Institute, and Metro Nashville Historic Commission, including the 100-year-old Sawtooth building, the Sheds on Charlotte, and redevelopment of the area near the Sounds stadium in Germantown including the BowTruss and Geist buildings.

Mr. Arender obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Mississippi State University and an MBA from the University of Notre Dame. He holds an active real estate license in the State of Tennessee and serves on the Board of Directors for Holladay Properties, National NAIOP Board, Mary Queen of Angels, Two Rivers Mansion and Nashville Aquatic Club. He is a member of CCIM, NAIOP, and the Nashville Chapter of the Urban Land Institute.

Ryan Darrow, Branch Manager, Donelson Branch Library

Ryan Darrow is the branch manager of the Donelson Branch Library and has worked in libraries for 14 years.

Eric Hoke, Design Director, Civic Design Center

Eric joined the Civic Design Center team in 2012. He was a board member of Transit Now Nashville and served as Vice President, he was part of WeGo Public Transit's Better Bus Committee, is an alum of the ULI Health Leaders Network, was on Smart Growth America's Complete Streets Leadership Academy Committee, and has represented the Civic Design Center on the Mayor's Sustainability Advisory Committee, served on the Technical Advisory Committee for Choose How You Move (Nashville's 2024 Transit Improvement Program), and Connect Mid-TN transit coalition where he continues his passion for sustainability, transportation, advocacy, and design. As Director of the Design Studio, Eric has been involved in most of the last decade of projects at the Civic Design Center in some

capacity. Some of his favorites include Prioritizing Pedestrian Safety on Dickerson, envisioning a new park in Madison, and working on the New East Bank Neighborhood. Eric fully designed the Civic Design Center's new logo and Brand Guidelines in 2020. He also manages strategic visual graphics and guides the design and style of all publications and project reports.

Benton Smothers, Vice President – Development, Holladay Properties

Benton Smothers joined the Nashville Development team in 2017 as a Vice President of Development. He brings over 10 years of experience in the commercial real estate industry. Previously, Benton worked with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency in Nashville, TN, serving as Assistant Director of Urban Development. In his time with Holladay, Benton has been an integral part of several high-profile projects, including the redevelopment of Donelson Plaza and Fifty Forty Flats. Currently, he is a part of the team redeveloping The Factory at Franklin.

Emilee Wilson Hamm, Associate, HASTINGS Architecture

Emilee Wilson Hamm is an Associate and project manager at Hastings Architecture where she has overseen some of the firm's largest and most impactful civic projects. She brings extensive experience in the design and construction of these complex projects, as well as a track record of successful collaboration with multiple city and community organizations. Among her most notable are the 24,000-square-foot Donelson branch of the Metro Nashville Public Library; Peabody Plaza, which transformed a surface parking lot into a pocket park and 290,000 square feet of office space; and the Asurion Gulch Hub, a 550,000-square-foot, mixed-use complex that includes a new greenway link to the North Gulch area.

Emilee is a LEED Green Associate and Living Future Accredited with the International Living Future Institute. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Tennessee College of Architecture + Design.