

# COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

CLASS OF 2021

## THE COMEBACK

This year's honorees are looking forward to everything from travel and concerts to community and family celebrations now that the worst of the pandemic is behind us.

40/40  
UNDER

PAGES 4 - 60

PHOTO OF CMHA'S JUSTIN DAVIS BY JEFFRY KONCZAL FOR ACBJ



**COLUMBUS  
BUSINESS FIRST**

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# THE COMEBACK

## FROM THE EDITOR

**D**o you feel like dancing? The continuing good news coming out about our fight against the Covid-19 pandemic has me – and this year's 40 Under 40 honorees – rhapsodizing about good times spent with friends and family in better times.

These memories are what have sustained us through this life-altering shutdown, or else the monotonous dread from the year that shall not be named would have overtaken us.



Doug  
Buchanan

Remembrances of evenings spent around outdoor fires and inside coliseums, and on cold, dark nights on the Spanish Stairs. Of days spent atop mountains, in the surf and under umbrellas in the sun.

The light at the end of the proverbial tunnel has kept us going, and now it looks like we've made it.

As you'll see in the following pages, this year's 40 Under 40 honorees are looking forward to getting out now that we're all emerging like 14-month cicadas blinking at the light as we stumble to find our brood.

You'll see in their profiles, which are longer online, that they have plenty of ideas dreamed up for how to spend the rest of this year.

I had high hopes for celebrating with this year's 40 Under 40 honorees at what is normally an annual evening gala, but it had to be an encore Zoom event after our first-ever virtual celebration last year.

As it stands, I'm thrilled to have even gotten to meet this year's class in person, which happened over two weeks in late April and early May when we set up at a studio at Brainstorm Media in Grandview for our annual photo and video shoot.

We chose The Comeback as the theme for 2021 and asked the honorees what they were looking forward to when they could go back to life without reservations.

We wanted them to share what they're looking forward to in a time that should be remembered as one when we all appreciated our family and friends as never before.

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JEFFRY KONCZAL



# BEHIND THE SCENES



PHOTOS BY DOUG BUCHANAN

*The theme for this year's 40 Under 40 is The Comeback, highlighting the many activities envisioned by our 2021 honorees. We enlisted frequent contributor and freelance photographer extraordinaire Jeffry Konczal to capture the mood, and I think you'll agree he delivered. Special thanks as well to Brainstorm Media, which hosted us at their Grandview studios and were more than accomodating. And most of all we want to thank this year's honorees, who were game for Jeffry's suggestions for getting just the right shot. I was on hand both days and had the pleasure of watching the scene, which shines through on the following pages. Enjoy!*

– Doug Buchanan

# 40/40 UNDER 40 CLASS OF 2021

**Mike Abramo, PAGE 8**  
Partner | Plante Moran

**Abdul Akel, PAGE 9**  
CEO | T-Cetra LLC

**Arin Blair, PAGE 10**  
Planner | MKSK

**Jason Block, PAGE 12**  
CEO | BrewDog USA

**Candace Brady, PAGE 13**  
VP of advancement | National Veterans Memorial and Museum

**Brandi Braun, PAGE 14**  
Chief strategy officer | YMCA of Central Ohio

**Pete Coratola, PAGE 16**  
CEO | Ease Logistics

**Justin Davis, PAGE 17**  
VP of the Housing Choice Voucher program | CMHA

**Pamela Espinosa de los Monteros, PAGE 18**  
Assistant professor | Ohio State University

**Courtney Falato, PAGE 20**  
VP and program officer, global philanthropy | JPMorgan Chase

**Justin Fincher, PAGE 22**  
VP of advancement | Ohio State University

**Josh Fitzwater, PAGE 23**  
Chief visionary officer | Holden Ellis

**Joanna Frankel, PAGE 24**  
Concert master | Columbus Symphony Orchestra

**Alex Frommeyer, PAGE 26**  
CEO | Beam Dental

**Autumn Glover, PAGE 26**  
President | PACT; Senior director | OSU Wexner Medical Center

## HOW WE DID IT

### What goes into choosing the honorees

*Columbus Business First* has recognized 40 local individuals younger than 40 every year since 1993. They're up-and-comers making an impact in the professional world and giving back to their communities.

The work-from-home era didn't dampen enthusiasm for our longest-running awards program, now in its 29th year.

We received more than 250 applications, breaking records once again and confirming that 40 Under 40 is the most prestigious program for showcasing the region's best and brightest young community leaders.

To choose these 40 honorees, we look for people making a difference in their industries. And we tried to represent the full mosaic of entrepreneurship that's pushing the region forward.

The other half of the equation is community and philanthropic involvement. These people are leaders in their workplaces, they're raising families and yet they still make time to give back.

Join us in congratulating the 2021 Class of 40 Under 40.

**Joshua Hinderliter, PAGE 27**  
Associate | Thompson Hine LLP

**Jason Jenkins, PAGE 28**  
Director of community affairs | Office of the Mayor, city of Columbus

**LC Johnson, PAGE 29**  
CEO | Zora's House

**Alexandria Jones, PAGE 30**  
Director of prevention and wellness | Franklin County Public Health

**Mac Joseph, PAGE 32**  
Senior vice president | Paul Werth Associates

**Asimina Kiourti, PAGE 33**  
Assistant professor | Ohio State University

**Chris Knoppe, PAGE 36**  
Partner | New City Homes

**Jill Londino, PAGE 37**  
Director of operations and strategic projects | Pelotonia

**Jesse Longoria, PAGE 38**  
VP, strategy | OhioHealth

**Alison Marker, PAGE 40**  
President | Marker Inc.

**Aaron McDaniel, PAGE 41**  
Principal | Blueprint Investments LLC

**Joyce McKinnis, PAGE 42**  
Partner | Jones Day

**Sarah Pariser, PAGE 44**  
Director of grants & programs | The Women's Fund of Central Ohio

**Lauren Parker, PAGE 46**  
CEO | FrazierHeiby

**Lindsey Pavlik, PAGE 47**  
VP of human resources | Casto

**Sachiyo Peterson, PAGE 48**  
Partner | Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease

**Sam Porter, PAGE 50**  
Senior counsel | Ice Miller

**Josh Sarver, PAGE 52**  
VP of experiences and operations | COSI

**Nikki Scarpitti, PAGE 53**  
Director, strategic initiatives and advocacy | Columbus Metropolitan Library

**Mary Sheehan, PAGE 54**  
Senior research scientist | Battelle

**John Snoble, PAGE 56**  
Partner | KPMG LLP

**Katie Thomas, PAGE 57**  
Manager, population health marketing | Nationwide Children's Hospital

**Matt Welch, PAGE 58**  
Senior vice president | Rockbridge

**Kimmi Wernli, PAGE 59**  
President | Crazy Richard's Peanut Butter Co.

**Leigh Ann Williams, PAGE 60**  
Partner | Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP

6 | MAY 28-JUNE 3, 2021



COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

# THANK YOU.

**Columbus Business First** would like to thank our sponsors, honorees and guests for making the 2021 awards program a success.

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**GROW**  
BUDROS RUHLIN ROE

# 40/40 UNDER 40 2021 AWARDS

LET'S celebrate  
**THE COMEBACK**

**COLUMBUS  
BUSINESS FIRST**





# Congratulations, Forty Under 40 Honorees.

Your commitment, enthusiasm and generosity have contributed in a big way to Columbus' success story, and we're grateful for all you've done to make this such a wonderful place to live, learn and work.

Your ability to connect your passion with a greater purpose has led to amazing results. At Ohio Dominican, we take that same approach to prepare and inspire students to use their talents to make a difference in our community and around the world.

We are honored to sponsor this year's Columbus Business First's Forty Under 40 Awards for the ninth consecutive year to recognize the very best of our area's outstanding young professionals.

**Congratulations on being selected as one of Central Ohio's rising stars.**

*Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.*

[ohiodominican.edu](http://ohiodominican.edu)



# MIKE ABRAMO

Partner | Plante Moran

**Hometown:** Powell

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Over the course of Mike's career, the number of staff in the Columbus office has tripled. He has been a supervisor and mentor to many of these staff, helping to create new opportunities for future leaders in Central Ohio.

– **KEITH MARTINEZ**, PARTNER, PLANTE MORAN

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** One of our family traditions is an annual vacation to Marco Island, Florida. We had gone every year for over a decade until the pandemic. For my three children (ages 8, 6 and 2), Marco Island was their first ever trip to a beach, so all of us are looking forward to returning and continuing our vacation tradition.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** I'm looking forward to a sunny afternoon out on the patio at BrewDog Franklinton with my fellow 40 under 40 honoree, Jason Block.

## THE COMEBACK:

As an alum of Ohio State University, I'm looking forward to a fall Saturday at the 'Shoe with 100,000 of my closest friends to watch Buckeye football once again.





# ABDUL AKEL

CEO and co-founder | T-Cetra LLC

**Hometown:** Damascus, Syria

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Akel built T-Cetra on the values of innovation, compassion, diversity and teamwork. But it's his genuine concern for others as well as his innate ability to do the right thing which sets him apart from the crowd.

– **HEIDI AMES**, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, T-CETRA

**THE COMEBACK:** I plan on taking my kids to Lebanon to see my in-laws.

## Q&A

**Tell us about someone who helped you early in your career.** I have had many great mentors that imparted great wisdom on me: my dad Hisham Akel, Michael Baraz (IT consultant), James Zitesman (lawyer), and my banker for 14 years, Doug Andrews, to name just a few.

**What is an activity or event you're looking forward to once it's safe?** Trade shows where I meet my customers and partners.

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I prefer the office with some flexibility to work from home.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My parents.



# ARIN BLAIR

Planner | MKSK

**Hometown:** Dover, Ohio

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Arin's passion for advancing communities with equitable outcomes is rooted in her identity. She is a queer lesbian women from small-town Ohio, first generation college graduate, parent, spouse, entrepreneur, environmentalist and outdoor enthusiast, dedicated volunteer, frequent traveler, public speaker, anthropologist, and city and regional planner. ... Her approach seeks to highlight the inherent and equal value in each one of us, and invites us to take action and make ourselves heard.

**-BRIAN KINZELMAN, SENIOR PRINCIPAL, MKSK**

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I am really missing the in-person office culture, but there were some things I came to love about working from home (like cats on laps and a full kitchen for cooking lunch!). I'd like to primarily work in the office, but have the flexibility work from home a day or two a week depending on what I'm working on.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** The Lindy's patio on a nice spring day.

**THE COMEBACK:** I. Cannot. Wait. To go dancing with my wife and our friends. I hope that for Pride month this year it will be safe to joyously celebrate the summer and LGBTQ+ visibility in the form of loud music and dancing amidst our amazing and diverse Columbus community..







# BREWDOG

## CONGRATULATES FORTY UNDER 40 HONOREES!

### COME RAISE A PINT WITH US!

<b>DOGTAP</b>	CRAFT BEER BREWERY + PUB & THE WORLD'S FIRST BEER HOTEL	96 GENDER RD. CANAL WINCHESTER, OH
<b>FRANKLINTON</b>	ARTS DISTRICT FAVORITE & ROOFTOP BAR + RESTAURANT	463 W TOWN ST. COLUMBUS, OH
<b>SHORT NORTH</b>	A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD PINT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY	1175 N HIGH ST. COLUMBUS, OH



CASTO

# Congratulations

We are proud of you! A leader at CASTO and within the community.

## Lindsey Pavlik

Vice President, Human Resources

2021 | 40 Under 40 Award





# JASON BLOCK

CEO | BrewDog USA

**Twitter handle:** @jasonblock82

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Jason is the steady hand you want on your side whether times are good or bad. He earns the respect and trust of his team; demonstrating wisdom and maturity far greater than most people his age..

– **STEVEN WERMAN**, CFO, HOMAGE

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** We love to travel and look forward to those adventures. We've really missed having the ability to visit friends and family and see new places. Planning a few trips on the other end of this has really given my family something to look forward to. We're going to Maine for a wedding at the end of the summer and Mexico for a wedding towards the end of the year.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** I'd go with the obvious choices, Block's Bagels or BrewDog, but that would be too easy. Not that we get there often in normal times, but the Refectory is one of our favorite spots. It's a special experience with incredible food, service and ambiance.



### THE COMEBACK:

I really miss going to concerts. I love live music, experiencing it with great people, and being outdoors – having a couple beers doesn't hurt either.



# CANDACE BRADY

Vice president of advancement  
| National Veterans  
Memorial and Museum

**Hometown:** Cincinnati

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Candace has been a role model for women of color who aspire to break their own barriers and see their passions become their reality. This young woman has truly accomplished so much before turning 40, and as she would tell you, she is not planning to stop anytime soon.

– **WILLIAM BUTLER**, CHIEF OF STAFF,  
NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I believe a blended approach to work with both remote and in-office offers a well-balanced work-life balance. We have all now witnessed that technology can advance operations allowing employees to work anywhere and not miss a beat.

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** Yes. I have plans to travel the Mediterranean Coast visiting the south of France, Spain and Italy.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** My favorite restaurant in Columbus is The Avenue and I have already dined there safely.

**THE COMEBACK:** Family is important to me. I am looking forward to reunions and large celebratory occasions. I have hosted Thanksgiving in my home with my extended family for the last 14 years excluding 2020. However I am looking forward to having everyone around the turkey this year!



# BRANDI BRAUN

Chief strategy officer |  
YMCA of Central Ohio

**Twitter handle:** @brandijobraun

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Brandi embodies values-based and servant leadership through her living and leading. Known to ask her teams and colleagues, 'How can I be of service?' she demonstrates the values of authenticity, inclusion, openness, and courage. Her dedication and authenticity have positively impacted those with whom she works directly and the community at large, having a rippling effect.

— **KISHA SWIFT**, COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR, YMCA CENTRAL OHIO

## Q&A

### Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?

Yes, several. I am traveling to Sedona, Arizona, for the first time the first week of June to celebrate my birthday. I'm looking forward to being connected with such beauty, energy and amazing works of nature. I'm visiting a friend in Ft. Lauderdale in June and attending a Mary Magdalene Revealed Retreat in Rhinebeck, N.Y. in August. The retreat is at the Omega Institute, which is a beautiful place of learning and growth.

**THE COMEBACK:** I am an ordained officiant and have had the honor of solemnizing four weddings, including the weddings of my brother and sister. I love being part of such special days and using my creative skill in writing the ceremony based on the needs and desires of the couple. I'm excited to officiate a wedding soon.



# Congratulations, Forty Under 40 Honorees

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We're proud to celebrate the 2021 central Ohio leaders who champion people and their potential through partnerships — creating opportunities for communities and future leaders to thrive.

**Together we're moving Columbus forward.**



**Pamela Espinosa  
de los Monteros**

Assistant Professor and  
Latin American Studies Librarian



**Justin Fincher**

Vice President of Advancement  
Strategy and Administration



**Autumnn Glover**

Senior Director of Community  
and Civic Engagement; President  
of Partners Achieving Community  
Transformation (PACT)



**Asimina Kiourti**

Assistant Professor of Electrical  
and Computer Engineering



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# PETE CORATOLA

President and CEO | Ease Logistics

**Hometown:** Dublin

**Age:** 31

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** As a CEO, Peter leads from within. He consistently encourages and acknowledges the input and efforts of his team, which, in turn, makes the team more connected to one another and invested in the industry and community.

– **TOM AUGUSTINE**, CEO, MINDS ON

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** I plan to take my wife and boys on a much needed, long vacation somewhere with a lot of activities and relaxation.

**Tell us about someone who helped you early in your career.** My wife Elizabeth. She supported me while starting Ease and also growing our family at the same time. She is powerful, smart and always has my back.

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I like to have the interaction with our team and the socialization within the office. The dynamic of the people that work at Ease is that of a close family and friends nature. So, it's the office for me!

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Roosters!

## THE COMEBACK:

I look forward to attending live events.





# JUSTIN DAVIS

Vice president of the Housing  
Choice Voucher program  
| Columbus Metropolitan  
Housing Authority

**Twitter handle:** @TheJustinCDavis

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 37

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Justin

has proven time and time again that he can resolve organizational challenges through well thought out analysis, collaborations with internal and external stakeholders and clear verbal and non-verbal communications to get the desired outcome.

– **CHARLES HILLMAN**, CEO, CMHA

## Q&A

### Once things open back

#### up, would you rather

**work from home or the office?** The office! While I appreciate the convenience that remote work brings, my productivity is affected when I'm at home. I have a beautiful 2-year-old girl named Piper who just sees that Daddy's home and wants to take my mouse and run as I'm typing resulting in me getting up to chase after and catch her only to see her chuck the mouse across the room and laugh. Rinse. Repeat until nap time. It's just not the type of problem you run into at the office.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My father. Well, it had been. My father was ill for years prior to the pandemic, but Covid-19 made it impossible to see him in person or hug him. He passed away on 10/9/2020 in the hospital. I'm looking forward to that hug Dad!

## THE COMEBACK:

I know it is taboo to say right now, but I want to go on a cruise. A nice one. Have a suite with an ocean view. Eat great. Sunbathe.

Enjoy a libation or two.

Have good company and conversation. Dance.

Laugh and unwind. And most importantly, sleep in.





# PAMELA ESPINOSA DE LOS MONTEROS

Assistant professor, Latin  
American Studies librarian  
| Ohio State University

**Twitter handle:** @visceral\_blot

**Hometown:** San Diego

**Age:** 37

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Pamela is an outstanding librarian, community partner, and advocate for social justice at the libraries, the university, in Ohio, and at national and international levels. She works at the intersection of education, social justice, and community service, and leverages her knowledge and skills to support Latin American/Latino Studies research, education and outreach, as well as immigrant communities through both academic and public libraries.

— JENNIFER VINOPAL, ASSOCIATE  
DEAN, OSU LIBRARIES

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** A

trip to Poland, Mexico, and San Diego to visit family.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** The first

person I hugged outside my household was my dear friend Christine McAuliffe. I don't know how many friends would drive 10 hours to visit newborn parents in the middle of a pandemic. I am lucky to have such a friend!

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Diamonds Ice Cream. The guayaba paletas are the best.

## THE COMEBACK:

Sunday brunch at the LeVeque, watch a classic film shown by the CAPA summer movie series at the Ohio Theatre, go to a toddler story-time at the Columbus Metropolitan Library with my daughter, and enjoy a stroll through the Columbus Museum of Art.







# Congratulations HONOREES!

COLUMBIA  
BUSINESS FIRST  
**4040**  
UNDER 2021  
**AWARDS**  
*lets celebrate*  
**THE COMEBACK**



WE **APPLAUD YOUR PASSION TO ACHIEVE**, AND WE  
SUPPORT YOUR POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY.



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# COURTNEY FALATO

Vice president and program  
officer, global philanthropy  
| JPMorgan Chase

**Twitter handle:** @courtney\_falato  
**Hometown:** Blacksburg, Virginia  
**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Having spent a decade as an education researcher, Courtney was trained to observe, learn, synthesize, and communicate to help educate and move the needle in her own work and community. It's why she regularly engages with educators, connecting them to industry partners, community leaders, and sharing big ideas to inspire students' creativity and expose them to more than what they see every day.

— **CARLENE LULE**, VP, MEDIA RELATIONS,  
JPMORGAN CHASE

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I'd like a hybrid. I miss being out of the house, and miss collaborating in person with colleagues and partners, but have also started to appreciate the work-life balance aspects of working remotely. Now, I walk my elementary kids to school every day, something I never did before the pandemic. I realize this isn't forever, but a better work/life blend I hope is here to stay.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Can we re-open Sycamore? I miss that place. Narrow, quaint, no way to really socially distance, and delicious food. I would order the shishito peppers, the burger with sweet potato fries and a glass of rose.

## THE COMEBACK:

I will travel anywhere.  
ANY. WHERE.







FROM THE SPONSOR:

## Ohio Dominican University applauds Columbus' rising stars

Ohio Dominican University is honored to sponsor Columbus Business First's Forty Under 40 Awards for the ninth consecutive year. It is our great pleasure to once again celebrate another outstanding and deserving class of honorees.

As Central Ohio's Catholic university, Ohio Dominican is committed to helping students connect their passion with a greater purpose. We take pride in preparing ethical, service-minded leaders who aspire to take an active role in improving the communities in which we live, learn and work. We are grateful to this year's class of honorees for the steps they have taken to positively affect the lives of others throughout our region. Their tireless dedication has never been

more important than it is right now due to the current global health crisis.

Ohio Dominican's faculty and staff are passionate about improving the lives of students: undergraduates studying in one of our 39 majors, graduate students pursuing one of our eight master's degrees, and working professionals who aspire to continue their education and complete their degree.

Like this year's honorees, Ohio Dominican is committed to improving our community while also preparing professionals for the region's rapidly growing list of job and career opportunities. ODU works closely with industry leaders to develop programs that fulfill the workforce

needs of Central Ohio's growing business sectors, including health care, logistics, insurance and risk management, and many others. We're also proud to partner with some of the region's largest corporations to offer professional development programs to their employees.

Ohio Dominican is honored to support this effort to recognize the young professionals who comprise this year's Forty Under 40 class. Because of their selfless efforts and important contributions, we will make it through this challenging time together and continue to work toward an even brighter future.

**Congratulations, Forty Under 40 honorees!**



**Robert Gervasi, Ph.D.**  
President



*Ohio Dominican University is a comprehensive, four-year, private, liberal arts and master's institution, founded in the Catholic and Dominican tradition by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Located just minutes from downtown Columbus, ODU offers undergraduate degrees in 39 majors and eight graduate programs. At ODU, students connect their passion with a purpose.*

# JUSTIN FINCHER

Vice president for advancement  
| Ohio State University

**Age:** 37

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Justin's focus is never on individual accomplishments, but rather on the overall success of his team and the organization. His passion and purpose are aligned when it comes to helping others, which ties his professional life to his personal pursuits. I am inspired by his commitment to his community and the work he does to give children across Columbus access to the quality educators, resources and experiences they deserve.

**- KRISTINA JOHNSON,**  
PRESIDENT, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** Our family loves to spend time on the beach in Siesta Key, Florida, and we will find any excuse to get down there and enjoy the sun. I am also excited about planning several trips to visit family and catch up with friends and their growing families. When international travel is safe again, we will dust off our passports and go explore some part of the world we have not seen yet.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** Anyone who wants one! The challenges over the past year have been considerably harder because we have not been able to give someone a hug when they need it.



**THE COMEBACK:** I am looking forward juggling my two sons' sports teams again. While we have enjoyed the relatively calm family calendar over the past year, I am excited to see Graham and Gibbs get back to playing with their friends and learning new skills.



# JOSH FITZWATER

Owner, chief visionary  
officer | Holden Ellis

**Instagram handle:** @joshfitzwater

**Hometown:** Zanesville

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** In an era where "Likes" carry a misguided sense of self-worth and the vast middle ground has narrowed to become more of a battleground, Josh has built a successful career on leading with empathy and infusing his passion for bold ideas and altruism into the community with his creative marketing agency Holden Ellis.

— **SONYA THESING**, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR, HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE

## Q&A

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?**

Anyone who knows me knows that I've done a superb job (maybe too much) supporting the local breweries that make a great hazy IPA. But when it comes to local restaurants, it's been such a long time since I've been able to experience cuisine that inspires me. There's a lot of parallels between the creative work we do and the art form of great food. It's an intentional experience. I'm looking forward to having a culinary celebration at Veritas and Jeff Ruby's – two of Columbus' best and adventurous restaurants.

**THE COMEBACK:** The power of music on one's soul is almost unquantifiable. Experiencing live music is something that has great meaning to me. The community and consciousness that forms at a concert for those 120 minutes is profound and transformative. It's a release for mind and body – and something that does the soul some good.

# JOANNA FRANKEL

Concert master | Columbus  
Symphony Orchestra

**Instagram handle:** @joannawalshaw

**Hometown:** Philadelphia

**Age:** 38

Despite her prestigious background, Joanna remains approachable and accessible. Unassuming and gracious, she wins the hearts of both audiences and fellow musicians of the orchestra.

– **DENISE REHG**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
COLUMBUS SYMPHONY

Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** I have spent a lot of my life traveling internationally for performances; I can't wait to take up exploring again with my husband and 3 year old – we hope to experience Spain, South Africa, Zanzibar or Japan when it's more safe to fly.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?**

G. Michael's in German Village! Exquisite food, cool upscale vibe, awesome people.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My brand new nephew Theo, who was born April 19! And of course my parents, sisters and extended family – missing everyone a ton.

**THE COMEBACK:** Although I have an incomparable love for the orchestral repertoire, chamber music offers a unique experience for performers and audiences alike. ... I'm so thrilled to resume getting out into the community and to present more chamber performances soon.





# Advisor, volunteer yoga lover.

- Nicole Davis, Trust and Investments  
Lancaster, OH

We're more than our job titles and you're more than an account number. The personal attention we provide comes from a promise to serve you with respect and compassion. By being responsive to your questions, and taking time to understand your business needs and goals, we give you more than just a place to bank. That's the more you can expect from Park National Bank.

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## Star power that illuminates our city.

*Congratulations, Joanna!*

The Columbus Symphony  
celebrates all of our  
community's rising stars in  
the Class of 2021 40 Under  
40 that make a difference in  
brightening and elevating  
the quality of life for all  
central Ohio residents.



Joanna Frankel,  
Concertmaster

# CONGRATULATIONS JOSH!



## COSI'S OWN JOSH SARVER IS A COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST 40 UNDER 40.

Sarver's passion for science inspiration and education is contagious. Working at COSI for two decades, Josh has played a significant role in many of the amazing COSI experiences our guests enjoy. From fan-favorite exhibits and programs, to our online digital portal COSI Connects and the COSI Science Festival, Josh's leadership has been a driving force behind much of the institution's strategic vision. We are grateful that Josh Sarver is being recognized with this hallowed honor. Well done and well deserved Josh!



333 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215 | [cosi.org](https://cosi.org)



# ALEX FROMMEYER

Co-founder and CEO | Beam Dental

**Twitter handle:** @AlexFrommeyer

**Hometown:** Cold Spring, Kentucky

**Age:** 33

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Fro continues to put Columbus innovation on the map and show that credit for the city's thriving tech ecosystem is long overdue.

— CLAY KUNTZ, DIRECTOR, PROPLL



**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I love the office. Our team

pre-pandemic overflowed one office (we hired 75 people in 9 months for an office that could only hold ~60 total!) and we were just starting to fill up our current office before we went work from home. It's tough to compete with the energy that's generated from incredibly smart people in a collaborative environment building a company from the ground up.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?**

I am a big fan of Rooh in the Short North ... sneakily some of the best cocktails in the city and excellent food!

**THE COMEBACK:** Crew games! I live downtown, so I am particularly excited to be able to walk or bike to the new stadium. I think this is an absolute game-changer for urban Columbus.





FROM THE SPONSOR:

## Brainstorm Media congratulates the 2021 class of 40 Under 40 honorees

**B**rainstorm Media is proud to sponsor *Columbus Business First's* 40 Under 40 Awards.

This year's honorees are leaders with a passion to achieve and we support their positive impact on our community. For 25 years, Brainstorm Media has helped companies of all sizes communicate internally and externally with creative media solutions. As we begin to see resurgence in the business world after a very challenging year, we see the high potential for this class of honorees. Now, as we all emerge into the new opportunities ahead of us, it's encouraging to know our future leaders will be taking them by storm.

Like this year's honorees, Brainstorm Media is proud to help both individuals and businesses come back



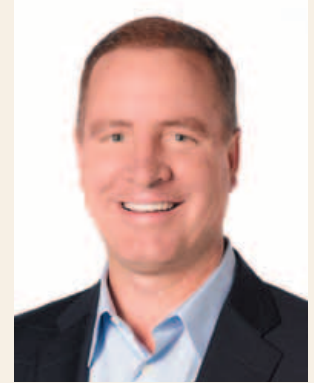
with creative solutions.

Brainstorm Media – over 25 years specializing in brand storytelling, video development, documentary style film, visual image asset collection, motion graphics, audio production, podcast hosting, in-house



studio shoots, advertising-ready spots and visual-driven social media content.

**Congratulations, 40 Under 40 honorees!**



**Ron Thielman**  
Founder and CEO



*Brainstorm Media creates video & audio content that moves you, your products and your audience. We are a full service production company with edit and graphics suites, a large sound stage, 2 state-of-the-art audio suites and a team of professionals experienced in production; from creative and script writing to final output and virtual events.*

*Visit us at [brainstormmediainc.com](http://brainstormmediainc.com), tour our facilities and see what moves YOU!*



FROM THE SPONSOR:

## You don't know what you don't know about finances.

**T**hink about how impressive your career journey has been since college.

You landed your first job, learned from mentors and coworkers, developed your skills, networked with other industry execs, received promotions and new job offers and are excited about where you are in your career.

**Now it is time to ask if your wealth has grown as your career has grown.**

Very few people receive strong financial guidance from family or the internet as they start excelling in the workplace. The result is that they are oftentimes figuring out a financial plan as they go and feel a bit behind. The greatest regret that we hear from wealth management clients is that they wish they had started planning and investing earlier.

We find that that many high-income earners early- to mid-career begin to seek answers to two primary questions:

**How do I allocate family income among lifestyle, accelerating debt repayment and savings?**

As your income grows, you'll be making major financial decisions such as buying a house, starting a family, paying down student loan debt and saving for retirement and children's educations. With varying interest rates and repayment options for different types of debt and numerous account types and tax incentives for retirement and education savings, experienced advisors can help guide you in accumulating and allocating your wealth.

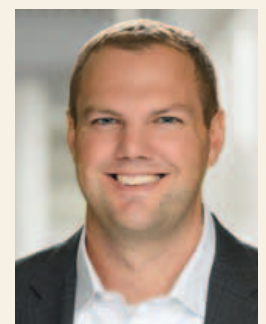
**How do I best decide on investments, employer benefits, insurance needs and estate documents?**

There is no single formula when it comes to financial planning and investing. Factors around your lifestyle, goals and risk tolerances will contribute to developing your financial strategy. The greater your

role at work and home, the greater the importance of determining a plan for maximizing your income and ensuring that your loved ones are cared for if anything happens to you.

Much like your career path requires a mentor for best-practice guidance, your financial future can benefit from the same type of direction. The catch is that the deeper you get in your role at work and expanding your family, the less time you have to manage your investment portfolio and research and stay on top of tax law and legislative changes that may impact you. At the end of the day, you don't know what you don't know when it comes to finances.

Align yourself with a financial planner or wealth manager earlier in your career and you'll have more peace watching your wealth grow as you grow both personally and professionally.



**Kevin Wuebker, CFP®**  
Senior Wealth Manager,  
Director of GROW with BRR



*Budros, Ruhlin & Roe was recently named #1 in the Central Ohio Top Fee-Only Financial Planners List.*

**THE COMEBACK:** I am looking forward to going to concerts! I love attending outdoor concerts and festivals! I am also looking forward to attending conferences. While I have enjoyed virtual events, I miss the opportunity catch up with friends across the country, meet new people and full immersion into learning that attending a conference gives me.



## AUTUMN GLOVER

President | Partners Achieving Community Transformation (PACT); Senior director, civic and community engagement, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

**Twitter handle:** @AutumnPlans

**Hometown:** Toledo

**Age:** 36

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Autumn says she knew as a child what she wanted to do when she grew up. She just didn't know what it was called. Today, the same awareness she had as a child of how the part of town you live in influences everything from population health, to housing, to economic opportunity has made her a catalyst for change in Columbus's Near East Side community.

— **JOSHUA JOSEPH**, DOCTOR, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY'S WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

### Q&A

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?**

I am fully vaccinated – thank you OSU Wex Med and science! Although we've been able to enjoy takeout at some of our favorites I do miss visiting in person. I look forward to returning to breakfast on Saturday mornings at Stav's Diner. We have gone almost every weekend since they opened. I can't wait to meet for lunch at Creole Kitchen, another of my favorite local restaurants. And meet friends for happy hour at Marcella's Short North and Club 185!



# JOSHUA HINDERLITER

Associate | Thompson Hine LLP

**Hometown:** Youngstown

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Besides developing professionally as an outstanding lawyer in his practice area, Joshua exemplifies the qualities that define a true leader. He never hesitates to take on responsibilities that benefit the community at large.

— **MICHAEL WIBLE**, COLUMBUS PARTNER IN CHARGE, THOMPSON HINE LLP

## Q&A

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Just the prospect of dining out is exciting after all this time. While Brenn and I have enjoyed a lot of home cooking over the last year, we've also had plenty of carryout from our favorite local restaurants. One of our carryout go-tos quickly became Service Bar. The menu is innovative and always delicious. We're really looking forward to visiting the restaurant once it opens again for full dine-in service. And in the meantime, we're enjoying rooting for Service Bar's Executive Chef Avishar Barua on *Top Chef*.

**THE COMEBACK:** Live music! Of all the things I miss, going to a concert with my wife, Brenn, and listening to live music is at the top of the list. I don't have any evidence to support this claim, but I'm certain that I listen to CD 92.9 (always CD 101 in my heart) more than anyone else. The radio station is my daily background sound while I work. And because of my near constant listenership, I've won more than my fair share of concern tickets during station call-in contests.

# JASON JENKINS

Director of community affairs | Office of the mayor, city of Columbus

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Jason works on behalf of our neighbors, responding to their needs, concerns and issues affecting or expressed by Columbus residents. Jason helps to convene and engage with residents in meaningful dialog where the focus is on the needs and wants of the community and solutions.

– **ANDREW GINTHER**, MAYOR OF COLUMBUS

## Q&A

**Tell us about someone who helped you early in your career.** Eddie Harrell (regional vice president at Radio One) played a key role in my development starting in middle school and moving into my current role with the city. Eddie continues to be an example for me and so many others as a leader, community servant and advocate for equality.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** What the Waffle for breakfast; Willowbeez SoulVeg for lunch; The Royce for dinner.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My mother and grandmother.

**THE COMEBACK:** What I want to do is look at not getting 'back to normal' but doing something different. We still need each other. We need to definitely Rise Together, but we can't go back to normal. Normal wasn't good enough.





# LC JOHNSON

Founder and CEO | Zora's House

**Twitter handle:** @no1doesitlikec;  
@zorashouse614

**Hometown:** Queens, New York

**Age:** 33

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** While LC is a talented intellectual with a stellar resume of achievements, it is her courageous empathy, bold authenticity and innate leadership qualities that make her so extraordinary.

– **KELLEY GRIESMER**, CEO, THE WOMEN'S FUND OF CENTRAL OHIO

## Q&A

**Can you tell us about someone who helped you early in your career?** This is cliché but my mom has definitely had a huge influence on my career. She is a writer, storyteller and preservationist who never took no for an answer. She was hugely creative and untraditional in her career path and I think it paved the way for me to imagine new paths into existence for myself – rather than settling for what already exists or what's right in front of me.

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** The beach. Don't care which one, I just need someone to hand me a margarita as soon as I step off the plane!

**THE COMEBACK:** Every year since 2017, Zora's House has hosted a Women of Color Owned Market. It's an annual event highlighting local women of color artisans and entrepreneurs.

We hosted two virtual markets last year, which was awesome because we had vendors participating from all across the county, but I can't wait until it's safe for us to host in person again!





# ALEXANDRIA JONES

Associate health commissioner;  
Director of prevention and wellness  
| Franklin County Public Health

**Hometown:** Reynoldsburg

**Age:** 35

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Alex's expertise and ability to easily adapt to constant change and uncertainty has served her well as she leads her 80+ team members within the branches of the Operations Section responsible for infectious disease emergency response, information and guidance, environmental health compliance, and mass vaccination.

**- SALLY MORGAN,** FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?**

While I do like working from home, there's something about being in a common space, bouncing ideas off of each other and stopping into each other's offices for impromptu conversations. The face to face, in person interaction wasn't something I realized how much I missed until we started our Covid-19 vaccination clinics in December 2020. It was like a mini reunion since many of us had not seen each other since March!

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?**

I'm a lover of all food so this is hard! ... Winking Lizard-Polaris, Greek Express, Saigon Asian Bistro and The Cheesecake Factory are some of my favorite go to restaurants!

## THE COMEBACK:

Traveling!! My husband Eric and I are mountain lovers – can't wait to hop on a plane to visit our beloved Colorado. Other travel plans include hiking our national parks, cruising to Alaska and a European vacation!





# Life decisions create ripples on your lifestyle and financial future.

## So who is helping you navigate each situation?

Retirement. Business transition and exit strategies. Kids going to college. Transferring wealth to family. Health crises. Supporting your important causes.

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# MAC JOSEPH

Senior vice president |  
Paul Werth Associates

**Twitter handle:** @BMacJ

**Hometown:** San Diego

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Mac thrives when projects serve the public good – and has been a staunch advocate for our clients in public health, mobility, workforce and education.

– **SANDY HARBRECHT,**  
CEO, PAUL WERTH ASSOCIATES

**THE COMEBACK:** My family loves to travel and experience new sites, cultures, food and art – always a lot of art. Last year we cancelled a number of planned trips so there is certainly some pent-up demand in our household. In June we are taking a road trip through U.S. history, beginning with Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg. We will then end up in Washington, D.C. to check out the endless monuments and museums.

## Q&A

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** For me, there is just one choice for that very first outing – Comune, on Parsons Avenue in the South Side. The food is so incredibly creative and the cocktails are amazing. The atmosphere and staff make me feel cool by association – even if only for an evening!

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** My preference overall is to be back in the office, in the heart of the city with my colleagues. After a year working remotely, the transition will certainly be an adjustment (and hopefully my bus routes are back in time!). But overall, being in the office helps me to feel a closer connection with my work and the Columbus community. Now with all that said, a little flexibility to work from home as needed will be nice as well.



# ASIMINA KIOURTI

Assistant professor | Ohio  
State University

**Hometown:** Patras, Greece

**Age:** 35

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Her outreach efforts are making a major impact. She has made presentations at numerous informal learning events ... and has organized multiple workshops that have had a huge impact in encouraging female STEM participation.

**- DOROTA GREJNER-BRZEZINSKA,**  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH,  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** I plan to visit my family in Greece along with my husband and our 11-month old baby girl. Due to the pandemic, my family has not been able to meet our daughter in person, and I am eagerly looking forward to that moment.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** I have missed going to Cafe Istanbul in Dublin. I enjoy the tasty Mediterranean food and beautiful view of the Scioto river.

## THE COMEBACK:

I am looking forward to seeing all members of my research team in person. ... Some of them have never met each other in person, and even myself have not met a few of them in person. We are meeting regularly through Zoom calls, but I am looking forward to the day when all of us can be in the same (physical) room.



# CHRIS KNOPPE

Partner and co-founder  
| New City Homes

**Instagram handle:** @chris.knoppe

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Chris is an innovator in the real estate market who is making a real difference in our local communities. Not only is he successful building and renovating housing, but he does so in tandem with supporting urban communities that have suffered from years of disinvestment.

**- SAMIR DAHMAN,**  
PARTNER IN  
CHARGE, COLUMBUS,  
KOHMAN JACKSON &  
KRANTZ

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** My wife and I have family in the Western U.S. which led us to doing some travel during the pandemic. That was a little nerve racking at first but provided some nice relief to the constraints of the pandemic. I'm looking forward to increasing the frequency of our travel as the concerns continue to ease.

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I've been very lucky to have been able to continue working in our office throughout the pandemic and I absolutely prefer it that way. ... It's been very helpful to work in a collaborative environment that is conducive to open and constant communication.

**THE COMEBACK:** No more Zoom calls (or at least a lot less!), and more in-person meetings.





# JILL LONDINO

Director of operations and  
strategic projects | Pelotonia

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh

**Age:** 29

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Jill is one of the most promising young leaders in our community and has made a significant impact on Columbus through her professional, philanthropic and civic engagement..

- **DOUG ULMAN**, PRESIDENT & CEO,  
PELOTONIA

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** I love to travel and can't wait to get back to it. Especially after spending countless hours watching Rick Steves and other travel shows throughout the last year. I'm spending some time in Puerto Rico this summer and really looking forward to exploring some areas of the island I haven't seen before. The people (and food!) there are wonderful.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My parents. One of my happiest moments of this last year was the day they were both fully vaccinated. Science rules!

## THE COMEBACK:

I'm really looking forward to our team at Pelotonia hosting our annual ride weekend this August. We are so thrilled to be back.



# JESSE LONGORIA

Vice president, strategy | OhioHealth

**Twitter handle:** @JesseLongoria

**Hometown:** Memphis, Tennessee

**Age:** 37

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** For the past decade, Jesse has played a crucial role in moving forward our not-for-profit organization's most groundbreaking initiatives that improve the health and livelihood of more Ohioans, particularly underserved ones. As one of his most notable contributions to Central Ohio, Jesse served on a task force to revolutionize the way we care for our most vulnerable: the elderly and poor.

– **KAREN MORRISON**, PRESIDENT, OHIOHEALTH FOUNDATION; SVP, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OHIOHEALTH

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?**

As an extrovert, I like to connect with my colleagues and see them face to face. I've enjoyed my time at home and getting to see my family sooner without the commute, but there's something about collaboration that just can't be replicated over the computer.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Well, we're lucky enough that my wife and I are both fully vaccinated. We enjoyed a night out when it was finally safe at a brand new restaurant in Columbus – one that opened during the pandemic – Chapman's Eat Market. It's such a great addition to the city! It was more than food; it was an experience!

**THE COMEBACK:** I, like most of us, have had to cancel multiple vacations and have plenty of travel credits itching to be spent!





## Congratulations Justin C. Davis!

We celebrate this 40 Under 40 honor with you and thank you for your valuable contributions to affordable housing in central Ohio.

**Justin C. Davis**

*Vice President of The Housing Choice Voucher Program*



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY  
COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.



# EASE ALWAYS STRIVING



## **PETER CORATOLA, JR.**

**Founder and CEO of EASE Logistics**

A 2021 Columbus Business First  
40 Under 40 Recipient

Under the leadership of Peter Coratola, Jr., EASE Logistics is equipped to meet extraordinary challenges. Together, we continually strive to provide the most exceptional and reliable logistics solutions.

**Congratulations, Peter, on your well-deserved recognition!**



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easelogistics.com

# ALISON MARKER

President | Marker Inc.

**Instagram handle:** @al\_marker

**Hometown:** Bellefontaine

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** It's Alison's background that is most telling of the type of transformational leader she is. Her professional career began as a clinical social worker and then later a psychotherapist, where she helped people overcome personal trauma, with a specific focus on homelessness and victims of sexual assault. This experience forged deep empathy for the human condition, which is the cultural basis at Marker.

— **WILL ZELL**, FOUNDER, NIKOLA LABS

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from**

**home or the office?** I have continued working at my office throughout the pandemic, and I wouldn't want it any other way.

Getting things done efficiently at home without a space for a home office, and with three kids, two dogs, and a cat – I can't imagine doing that long-term! I love being productive and having my quiet space to work.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** My husband and I went out for the first time in mid-April for a friend's birthday and we went to Hen Quarter in Dublin, which was amazing!

**THE COMEBACK:** The one thing that I have truly missed over the past year is live music! ... I'm looking forward to the WonderBus festival and any other live outdoor concerts this summer and beyond!



# AARON MCDANIEL

Principal | Blueprint Investments LLC

**Instagram handle:** @blueprint\_investments

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 37

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Aaron holds an essential role in our community as a young African American developer who is committed to improving the economic and social landscape.

– **ANASTASIA GORDEEVA**, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, BLUEPRINT INVESTMENTS LLC

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?**  
Home, no doubt.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Hen Quarter.

**Can you tell us about someone who helped you early in your career?** My father has been the biggest professional influence in my career. My mother has been the biggest influence on who I have become personally.

## THE COMEBACK:

My family, my wife Marshela and two children, plan to travel to Aruba or anywhere where there's heat and water.



# JOYCE MCKINNISS

Partner | Jones Day

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 37

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Joyce is an accomplished litigator who developed exceptional courtroom skills at a young age. She serves formally and informally as a friend and mentor to countless associates. She also serves on the board for Freedom a la Cart, a local nonprofit. Joyce has two young daughters, an active legal practice, and takes great pride in her community involvement and mentorship activities.

– **ELISE MILLER**, RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS COORDINATOR, JONES DAY

## Q&A

**Can you tell us about someone who helped you early in your career?** Every step of my educational and professional life, my mom has been my first call for advice. She was an accountant and business woman for years, breaking glass ceilings starting in the 1970s. My Mom gives practical, thoughtful advice, but she is also my best cheerleader.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Giuseppe's Ritrovo in Bexley is our favorite Columbus restaurant, but we have not been in a long time. I look forward to enjoying their patio this summer. We have always loved Land-Grant Brewing, and their outdoor beer garden is great right now – lots of well-spaced tables, excellent beer and delicious Ray Ray's BBQ.

**THE COMEBACK:** We are planning to travel to the Tetons in Wyoming in late July. My husband, Sean, and I have been a few times before. ... We are excited to return with both of our daughters and share with them our love for the mountains in the summer.







**Congratulations to Battelle’s Mary Sheehan** and the other 39 honorees for their commitment to professional excellence and dedication to improving our community through service.



# PROUD TODAY. INSPIRED. EVERY DAY.

Porter Wright is proud to congratulate Leigh Anne Williams, for being named a 2021 “40 Under 40” honoree by *Columbus Business First*.  
Through her unyielding dedication to client service and support of local organizations, Leigh Anne inspires excellence and purpose in the Central Ohio community.



Chicago  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Dayton  
Naples  
Pittsburgh  
Washington, D.C.



# SARAH PARISER

Director of grants & programs | The Women's Fund of Central Ohio

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 35

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** As a behind-the-scenes community influencer for social change, Sarah is a young professional contributing profoundly to the Central Ohio community. ... It is with her belief in an ethical process and ability to create space for diversity, equity and inclusion in all efforts whether in her role at The Women's Fund, as a community volunteer, offering her consultation for leadership development pro bono, or as a mentor in the yoga community.

– **NICHOLE DUNN**, PRESIDENT & CEO, FLYING HORSE FARMS

## Q&A

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** The first time I hugged a friend (masked and vaccinated) we looked at each other and said – is this OK?! Afterward, I felt like I was on cloud nine. This past year was unprecedented and challenging for everyone and devastating for many. As we transition back to 'normal' I am reminding myself to take it slow and give myself and everyone grace.

**THE COMEBACK:** I'm looking forward to the moments of community and connection on a large scale – standing shoulder to shoulder with tens of thousands of people for the Arts Festival, and watching a game at a packed Crew stadium.



## Our **energy clients** are the **real headline.**



They're the ones in the midst of a sea change. In an industry as vital to our lives as to our economy. Charged with meeting our country's needs today, while preparing to be ready for what's next. We represent utilities that generate and distribute energy, and companies that rely on it. Advising on regulatory, legal, and commercial matters. Helping them pursue their business goals and devising strategies to meet them. It's a complex and challenging field. With a language and issues all its own. Always in the public eye, and the public interest. We couldn't find it more fascinating, or more fulfilling. But it's not about us. It's about our clients and helping them succeed. For all of us.

### MY BENESCH MY TEAM

TREVOR ALEXANDER, Partner, Energy Practice Group  
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## Congratulations, 40 Under 40!

Thank you, Joanna,  
for sharing your gifts.  
We are *all* so  
proud of you.

Love,  
Your Family

Nationwide Children's Hospital  
proudly celebrates

## Katie Thomas, APR, and congratulates all 2021 40 Under 40 honorees.



Katie, thank you for your leadership and vision in helping deliver best outcomes to the children and families we serve.



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*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.*

# LAUREN PARKER

President + CEO | FrazierHeiby

**Twitter handle:** @ImLaurenParker

**Instagram handle:** @ParkerLaur

**Hometown:** Dayton

**Age:** 35

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Lauren is a dedicated leader, acting as a mentor and cheerleader to ensure we deliver top-notch work. ... She puts her heart in the game, too, helping create a culture of kindness, empathy and continued learning. Our culture isn't an accident. It's one that recognizes each unique individual and point of view – encouraging every team member to pursue their passions with community service hours, professional development and philanthropy.

**- WHITNEY SOMERVILLE, SENIOR PARTNER, CLIENT EXPERIENCE, FRAZIERHEIBY**

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I plan to take a hybrid approach. I'm excited to work alongside my team again, but also appreciate the balance and flexibility of working from home (especially as my twins head into kindergarten this fall).

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** We have family on the East Coast and I lived in NYC for a decade. We plan to spend a week at the beach and a day or so in the Big Apple later this summer.

**THE COMEBACK:** I can't wait to make reservations at my favorite restaurants like Harvest, The Crest, Wolf's Ridge and Rockmill Brewery.







# LINDSEY PAVLIK

Vice president of human resources | Casto

**Instagram handle:** @linds437

**Hometown:** Canal Winchester

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Lindsey has been instrumental in the operation and advancement of Casto from creating Casto's mission and vision to advocating for employees through the creation of an internal professional development program. Lindsey quickly became a key leader within Casto through her thoughtful approach and ability to show respect for her colleagues..

– **LINDA SWEARINGEN**, PARTNER AND EVP, ASSET MANAGEMENT, CASTO

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** Absolutely! My husband and I have a long list of places to visit.

For our first trip, we are renting a beach house in Nags Head with my brother and eight of our friends. My brother and I are close in age and went to the same college, so we ended up with an amazing group of mutual friends who have stayed close over the years. Our group has six boys all under the age of 10 so there will likely be no dull moments. We haven't all been together since before the pandemic, so this is going to be a great reunion.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** The Avenue in Grandview. My husband and I love walking there for date nights and sitting on the patio.

**THE COMEBACK:** I'm looking forward to traveling without all the burdens created by the pandemic. I never thought I'd say it, but I'll be happy to get on a full flight, wait in line at an amusement park and go sight-seeing in a crowded area.

# SACHIYO PETERSON

Partner | Vorys Sater  
Seymour & Pease

**Hometown:** Worthington

**Age:** 35

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Sachiyo has earned a stellar reputation among colleagues because of her technical legal expertise and her approachable, friendly demeanor.

– **DAVID COOK**, PARTNER,  
VORYS SATER SEYMOUR & PEASE

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?**

I would love to do a mix of both. I have not missed fighting traffic and the rushed routine to make dinner and feed the kids immediately after I get home. However, I do miss seeing people at the office and the ease of collaboration when we are physically together. Immigration is a paper-based practice due to our inability to electronically file petitions, so working from the office cannot be avoided. Ideally, I will adopt a new routine that allows me to keep some positive aspects that came out of the pandemic.

**What restaurant are you looking forward to most when the shutdown ends?** The first restaurant we visited was Kyoto Steakhouse on Sawmill Road. It was also the last restaurant that we visited before everything shut down, so it seemed fitting for it to be the first place we visited. My husband and I are also looking forward to going back to Lindsey's when we have the opportunity to go somewhere without the kids.

## THE COMEBACK:

This summer, we are going to Utah to visit my in-laws who we have not seen for 18 months.







Congratulations to Mac Joseph from the Werth team on being named one of *Columbus Business First's 40 Under 40* for 2021. Your creativity and insight make you a joy to work with. Your dedication and drive inspire all of us and help ensure success for us and our clients. Thank you for leading by example with integrity and kindness.

**All of us at Werth are proud to be your colleagues.  
Nice job, Mac!**



Mac Joseph  
Senior Vice President, Marketing  
Paul Werth Associates  
werthpr.com

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the 2021 40 Under 40 honorees, including our own Courtney Falato. Thank you for your drive, dedication and commitment to the Central Ohio community.

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# SAM PORTER

Senior counsel | Ice Miller

**Hometown:** Columbus

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** When we hired Sam at Ice Miller, we sought an experienced lawyer who could work collegially with leaders in the Ohio General Assembly and executive officials at state agencies. What we found in Sam were all those qualities plus the raw creativity to solve problems, the unflappable ability to reassure clients and colleagues, and wisdom that frankly we see in more senior attorneys.

– **MICHAEL JORDAN,**  
MANAGING PARTNER, ICE MILLER

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** Working from home or remotely is never something I imagined would be a part of my routine in the legal profession. Reporting to the law firm is the way business is traditionally done for this profession. While we still maintain long hours, working from home has given me tremendous flexibility to be with my family, take a break in the day if needed, and to reload. And most importantly, I haven't missed a family dinner!

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My grandmother Lucy Porter. She allegedly turns 93 this year. I say allegedly because this is a family best guess – being the lady who she is, she won't reveal her true age!

## THE COMEBACK:

My wife and I, along with countless volunteers and the Upper Arlington Civic Association, plan, organize and execute all festivities for the Upper Arlington 4th of July.



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# JOSH SARVER

Vice president of experiences and operations | COSI

**Hometown:** Logan, Ohio

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Mr. Sarver led COSI's great transformation (and continues to lead) to new heights that not only allowed us to navigate our closure, but also be active during the pandemic..

— **FREDERIC BERTLEY**, CEO, COSI

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** I am an active backcountry backpacker and thrive on the outdoors. As an Eagle Scout and history enthusiast, I look forward to opportunities to travel, explore and visit historic places. As a child, I had the opportunity to visit many places with my family during the summer months. From trips to Gettysburg to camping in the forests of Yellowstone, we always found places to see and learn something new. And now as a father, I look forward to sharing similar experiences with my family and providing them the same enriching opportunities that I was given. I hope to find time, when safe to do so, to travel across the country, visit places like Yosemite, camp under the stars and eventually push myself to travel abroad.

**What restaurant will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated??** I am ready to get back to The Barn and getting myself a flight of Old Fashions. Enough said. ;)

## THE COMEBACK:

Being a little biased, if I may, I am looking forward to reopening COSI's doors and welcoming guests back to our institution of learning.







# NIKKI SCARPITTI

Director, strategic initiatives  
and advocacy | Columbus  
Metropolitan Library

**Twitter handle:** @NikScarp

**Hometown:** Sebring, Ohio

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Through her ability to lead, collaborate, build relationships and take on a variety of initiatives, Nikki's work has been critical in protecting the Public Library Fund in the state budget; advancing CML's aspirational building program to renovate or rebuild its libraries; spearheading a construction diversity and inclusion program; and leading a fundraising campaign when the library was short-staffed.

– **DONNA ZUIDERWEG**, COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER, COLUMBUS  
METROPOLITAN LIBRARY

## THE COMEBACK:

I'm looking forward to traveling, attending concerts, eating inside restaurants, competing in triathlons and running races, and enjoying the company of family and friends.

## Q&A

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?**

La Tavola in Grandview will be the first restaurant I visit for my return to indoor dining. I got plenty of take-out there during the pandemic, but I'm looking forward to sitting inside the quaint restaurant again. It has a relaxed atmosphere, delicious food and a window peeking into the kitchen, so it's a fun place for a night out.



**THE COMEBACK:** Definitely live music and preferably the outdoor music festival kind of setting. I miss everything from going to bars and hearing local bands or getting excited for a big name coming to a fun venue.

# MARY SHEEHAN

Senior research scientist | Battelle

**Instagram handle:** @mare029

**Hometown:** Johnstown, Pennsylvania

**Age:** 35

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Mary's daily job at Battelle involves improving healthcare quality and outcomes at a national scale and in communities facing healthcare challenges. She does this in addition to committing to helping lift the next generation of women through her work with Women for Economic and Leadership Development, in addition to supporting the next generation of Ohio State University athletes building on her collegiate rowing career..

— **KATY DELANEY**, MEDIA RELATIONS DIRECTOR, BATTELLE

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** I was supposed to do a two-week trip through Ireland and Northern Ireland in May 2020 to celebrate my 35th birthday, but that was put on hold. I'm planning to resurrect that itinerary and make that trip happen here in the next year. I also have a purely 'off-the-grid' kind of relaxation trip planned to an island in the Caribbean. One of the things that the pandemic made me start to consider is some closer-to-home getaways. So, I'm also looking forward to doing a few weekend getaways maybe up on Lake Michigan or up to Cuyahoga National Park.



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# JOHN SNOBLE

Partner | KPMG LLP

**Hometown:** Upper Arlington

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** John leads by following the simple concept of investing in people. Whether taking on additional work so team members can attend a diversity and inclusion seminar or making the key decision to allow an associate to do an international rotation, he's steadfast in his belief that investments in people will pay dividends for him and the firm.

– **KIM ZAVISLAK**, OFFICE MANAGING PARTNER, KPMG

## Q&A

**What is an activity or event you're looking forward to once it's safe?** I

can't wait to take my son to an Ohio State football game, and to have a nice father/daughter outing!

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Winward Passage on Henderson Road is a place I grew up going to with my parents and I can't wait to get back there once vaccinated.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My dad. It'll feel pretty special.

**THE COMEBACK:** We are renting a beach house in Isle of Palms outside of Charleston, South Carolina. ... It will be the first time my extended family has all been together since the pandemic started.





# KATIE THOMAS

Manager, population health marketing | Nationwide Children's Hospital

**Twitter handle:** @Ktthomas

**Instagram handle:** @katese10

**Hometown:** Wellston, Ohio

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Mental and physical health are Katie's passions. She shows this through her work, whether leading the communication strategy for the Behavioral Health Pavilion, the largest pediatric mental health facility in the country, spearheading education for the On Our Sleeves children's mental health movement or teaching multiple spinning classes each week.

— **ALICIA SHOEMAKER**, SENIOR DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED MARKETING, NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

## Q&A

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** I am ready to hug my mom! I haven't

hugged her since early March 2020 when my parents visited Columbus to see the opening of the Big Lots Behavioral Health Pavilion. My mom is a cancer survivor and we have taken every single precaution to keep her safe and healthy.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Villa Nova in Worthington! I need my chicken parmesan and breadsticks and I miss the ambience.

**THE COMEBACK:** The theater is calling me! ... I miss the feeling of hearing the opening overture from the orchestra and getting lost in the story for a few hours.

# MATT WELCH

Senior vice president | Rockbridge

**Instagra handle:** @MWELCH44

**Hometown:** Worthington

**Age:** 37

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Matt is a leader, collaborator, volunteer, donor, fundraiser, husband, father, coach and truly good person with the largest of hearts. It is because he strengthens every teammate with his presence that we nominate him for this award.

**- JIM MERKEL,**  
FOUNDER AND CEO, ROCKBRIDGE

## Q&A

**Do you have any post-pandemic travel plans?** I am going on a road bike trip traveling from Santa Fe to Taos, New Mexico.

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** Would much rather work from the office to engage and collaborate with the team, though I think a hybrid approach is the best of both worlds. Maybe four days in and one day out?

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Third and Hollywood is my favorite restaurant in Columbus and I can't wait to go there again soon!

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My Mom! They live in Iowa and we finally got to see them in April 2021. It was great!



**THE COMEBACK:** Going to concerts again! Sporting events, too, but I really miss outdoor concerts. Express Live is an awesome place to watch a show.



# KIMMI WERNLI

President and owner | Crazy  
Richard's Peanut Butter Co.

**Twitter handle:** @crazyrichardspb

**Hometown:** Plain City

**Age:** 38

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Kimmi thrives by holding herself and her employees accountable to the Crazy Richard's core values and not giving up when facing adversity. Whether it is fighting to be one of few sustainable Certified B Corporations in Central Ohio; being the first small business to partner with Feeding America and Walmart's largest national Fight Hunger campaign; or pivoting the launch of a new frozen peanut butter snack innovation and managing consumer peanut butter demand skyrocketing during a global pandemic.

– **LORI KAISER**, CEO, KAISER CONSULTING

## Q&A

### Can you tell us about someone who helped you early in your career?

There is an entire army of women both nationally and in the Columbus chapter of NAWBO who have and continue to help me in my career. Columbus has the largest chapter of women business owners in the entire country! I have been inspired by many of them and have learned and been guided by their wisdom and experience before me.

**THE COMEBACK:** I have always loved attending national and regional food shows and I can't wait until those are back. The natural food world is something I am personally and professionally invested in and I love attending these conferences.



# LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Partner | Porter Wright  
Morris & Arthur LLP

**Hometown:** Pleasant City, Ohio

**Age:** 39

**NOMINATOR'S COMMENTS:** Leigh Anne provides essential guidance on best practices for employers ... and serves as a key contact for the firm's new Covid-19 Practice Group. ... She is dedicated to help young attorneys succeed as a mentor at the firm and her involvement with the firm's Women's Leadership Initiative.

– **DEB BOIARSKY**, CHIEF OPERATING PARTNER,  
PORTER WRIGHT MORRIS & ARTHUR LLP

## Q&A

**Once things open back up, would you rather work from home or the office?** I've found I prefer to be in the

office most days, but will appreciate the flexibility that the pandemic has created for situations that make working from home on some days, which is critical support needed for parents of young children and other caregivers.

**Who is the first person you hugged/plan to hug once it's safe?** My grandmother. She lost her husband (my grandfather) and her brother, both to Covid-19, and survived it herself. She deserves hugs from everyone when it's safe.

**What restaurant was/will be the first you return to once you're vaccinated?** Barcelona!

**THE COMEBACK:** I get a (Columbus Clippers) mini season ticket package every year, so I go to at least 10 games. The minor league season was canceled last year, and that was a bummer.