



KATE BENSEN

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Kate is an adept CEO well-versed in finance and manufacturing, corporate governance/business concerns. She has significant Board interaction/experience in Leadership Succession, Finance, Nominating/Governance committees and excels at strategically enhancing:

Governance | Human Capital Management | Community/Stakeholder Relations | Diversity & Inclusion | ERM Reputation | Digital Transformation Culture | Succession Planning | Digital & Print Marketing Positioning

Her most recent Board interactions were as the **President and CEO, THE CHICAGO NETWORK (TCN)** where she led over 120 employees, contractors and volunteers with full P&L responsibility for this premier group of Chicago's highest level women business leaders. Kate began/enhanced relations with major Chicago-headquartered manufacturing/service corporations' CEOs and boards, plus:

- Built topline revenues 80%, grew operating reserves from 0 to 15 months by elevating Women in the Forefront outreach.
- Launched two rebranding campaigns and introduced professional grade social media and web content marketing.
- Pioneered Virtual Mentoring App to develop TCN network among next generation women leaders.
- Honored with first *2020 Women on Boards* "Champion of Women Award" for active role in TCN leaders gaining board seats.

Kate's network of C-Suite corporate executives and Board experience is extensive, with Kate being instrumental in their business growth, transformation, and—most importantly, leadership governance—for:

- **MICROMETL CORPORATION** (2022 – present) – *leading US manufacturer of HVAC parts and equipment.* **Board Director**
- **NEW MUSIC USA** (2022 – present) – *an impactful funder and resource for US music creators.* **Board Director**
- **ADMIRAL AT THE LAKE** (2022 – present) – *a premier senior living and retirement community.* **Governance Committee**
- **THE CHICAGO CLUB** (2015 – present) — *founded in 1869, a private social club for and of prominent business and civic members:* **Board Member** (2016 - present); **Nominating Committee** (2016 – 2022); **Facilities Committee Chair** (2022 – present).
- **THE ARTS CLUB OF CHICAGO** (2008 – present) — *a preeminent exhibitor of international art and forum for new and known artists.* **Board Member** (2013 – present); **Audit Chair and Finance Committee** (2019 – present).
- **EIGHTH BLACKBIRD P.A.A.** (2013 – 2019) — *a National Grammy Award winning classical musical ensemble.* **Board Member: Board Chair** (2018 – 2019); **Governance Chair** (2013 – 2017); **Executive Committee Chair** (2018 – 2019)
 - Instituted the first governance structure (committee creation/charters, bylaws revamp); and led the organization through a major leadership restructuring, keeping major funding from MacArthur and other foundations intact throughout process.
- **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WOMEN'S BOARD** (2004 – 2007) — *leaders advancing the University of Chicago's mission.* **Chair:** energized this 46-year-old organization by transforming its existing effective core via fresh initiatives around visibility, communications, and branding, building a solid institutional infrastructure for growth and cultivating a powerful financial engine.
 - Built a marketing/branding foundation by introducing first ever cohesive brand standards/internet presence that achieved 28% gains in overall project giving, 175% grant requests growth, and generated a cornerstone donation for a six-figure scholarship.
- **ALL CHICAGO (f/k/a EMERGENCY FUND)** (2001 – 2004) — *a nonprofit focused on "making homelessness history."* **Board Director: Chair, Governance Committee** (2002 – 2004): led the Governance Committee during a potential merger with possible capacity to better serve the 5,000+ homeless Chicagoans.
 - Cleared a path for the successful completion of that merger by transforming All Chicago from a founder model to a governing board model and implementing Board best practices, enabling scaling of services and integration of its governance practices.
- **CHICAGO FINANCE EXCHANGE** (1998 – present)— *invitation-only organization of the top 200+ leading Chicago women in finance.* **President** (2004 – 2005) and **Board Director** (1999 – 2005).
- **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ALUMNI BOARD OF GOVERNORS** (1995 – 2002) — *a 24-member Board that develops and launches strategic plans supporting the University's continuing global leadership where Kate as Board Member: Nominating and Governance Chair* (2002 - 2004); **President/Chair** (2000 – 2002) developed/led first strategic plan based on values, strengthening engagement, promoting alumni career growth, acquired/established the University's Alumni House, now an iconic campus presence.

Prior to TCN, Kate was the **Head of the Strategy Practice** for **CONLON PUBLIC STRATEGIES** where she led strategy, leadership succession plans, board development, and growth capabilities enrichment for local and national organizations. Kate began her career at **SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP**, where she was the highest-ranking female Partner in national public finance—leading teams handling complex infrastructure and housing financings (up to \$1B); she also represented institutional investors in private placement and structured finance transactions across a broad range of industries. Kate earned a JD at Loyola University and an AB at The University of Chicago.