

# Tara McLain Manthey

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Experienced nonprofit leader and consultant with a demonstrated success in public policy and direct services sectors. Expert communicator, adept facilitator, and passionate advocate for children and families.

## EXPERIENCE

**Feb. 2022  
to present**      **Returning Light Consulting, LLC**  
*Owner and Principal*

I offer strategic leadership, communications, development and facilitation support so organizations can move missions forward. I center consensus-based decision making to build support and enthusiasm for shared efforts and outcomes.

**Sept. 2020  
to Jan. 2022**      **Denver Indian Family Resource Center**  
*Executive Director*

I led a Denver Metro area non-profit providing culturally responsive services to American Indian families with the most barriers to well-being. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I led a significant expansion of emergency rent, food and utility services. At the same time, I grew the staffing and budget by cultivating strong foundation and donor relationships to support the expansion of prevention programming and COVID-19 community response.

**2019 to present**      **Osage News (Pawhuska, Okla.)**  
*Vice Chair, Editorial Board*

I serve as vice chair of the editorial board of the Osage News, an independent news source for citizens of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma. Previously served on founding board from 2007 to 2010.

**2012 to 2020**      **Colorado Children's Campaign**  
*Senior V.P. of Advocacy, Communications and Development (Jan. 2020 to Aug. 2020)*  
*Vice President of Advocacy and Communications (2018 to 2019)*  
*Communications and Outreach Director (2015 to 2017)*  
*Communications Director (2012 to 2015)*

I led strategic advocacy, communications and development initiatives for Colorado's leading voice for kids. I supervised outreach and communications team members who managed statewide network, digital advocacy, supporter engagement activities, fundraising, strategic events, and design and printing. I developed research-based framing and messaging in core issue areas and special projects. I cultivated key news media relationships, including broadcast, online and print media contacts. I co-founded and chaired internal Equity Team and served on or led several communications committees of our networks, coalitions and issue campaigns.

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## EXPERIENCE

- 2012**     **The Kempe Foundation for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect (Aurora, Colo.)**  
*Communications and Marketing Manager*
- 2008 to 2011**     **Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families (Little Rock, Ark.)**  
*Communications Director*
- 2007 to 2008**     **Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, Ark.)**  
*Education Reporter: K-12 and Higher Education*
- 2005 to 2006**     **The News Tribune (Tacoma, Wash.)**  
*Education Reporter*
- 2000 to 2005**     **Statesman Journal (Salem, Ore.)**  
*Education Reporter, City Hall Reporter, Legislative Reporter*

## VOLUNTEERING

- 2020**     **Denver Indian Family Resource Center**  
*Fundraising Chair, Board of Directors*
- 2019 to present**     **Colorado Osage Association:** Co-founder and co-chair of a fellowship organization for citizens of the Osage Nation living in Colorado.
- 2015 to 2019**     **Annie E. Casey Foundation (Baltimore, Md.)**  
*Chair, KIDS COUNT Steering Committee*  
  
I served as chair of the 12-member steering committee of the national KIDS COUNT Network, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. I led and coordinated quarterly meetings of the committee, which is charged with advancing the field of child advocates nationally. I recruited, onboarded and supported new members.
- 2015 to 2020**     **Downtown Denver Expeditionary School**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*  
  
I served as chair of the board of a Denver Public Schools charter school serving racially and economically diverse students in K-5. Previously founded and chaired parent organization and launched primary annual fundraising event.

# Tara McLain Manthey

**EDUCATION**      **University of Oklahoma College of Law**  
Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law

**University of Colorado at Boulder**  
Bachelor of Science in Journalism with Distinction  
Bachelor of Arts in Music with Honors

## **EXPERTISE & TRAINING**

- **Facilitation:** Skillful and inclusive guidance for teams, boards, committees and workgroups centered in consensus-based decision making. Common Higher Ground Workshop, Keystone Policy Center.
- **Coaching:** Mentor and train staff and advocates nationwide in strategic communications, and racial and ethnic equity and inclusion practices.
- **Leadership:** Impact Denver Class of 2015, Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation.
- **Equity, diversity and inclusion training and experience:** Center for Social Inclusion/Race Forward, Undoing Racism, Annie E. Casey Foundation Bending the Arc Institute. Several years of leading organizational change focused on equity, diversity and inclusion.
- **Software expertise:** Adobe InDesign, WordPress, Salsa Engage, Microsoft Office Suite, Constant Contact, most website and social media content management systems.
- **Strategic messaging:** Racial and Ethnic Equity from Center for Social Inclusion/Race Forward; child advocacy training from Annie E. Casey Foundation; tax and budget messaging from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; early childhood education policy and messaging training from Pre-K Now and Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media, education policy training by Education Writers Association.
- **Reporting and writing skills:** National Institute for Computer Assisted Reporting Boot Camp, Investigative Reporters and Editors Better Watchdog Workshop, Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism, Poynter Institute writers' workshops, Chips Quinn Scholars Program.

**PERSONAL**      Enrolled citizen of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma, third-generation Coloradan raised on the Western Slope.