

Tami Willadsen had a huge impact on The Museum School of Avondale Estates, and her list of accomplishments is impressive. In her years as part of our Museum School community, Tami used her skills in philanthropic fundraising to develop the strategy and lead the execution of the “Exceeding Expectations” Capital Campaign. That campaign has raised over two million dollars, which has allowed our school to successfully renovate its current facility and create plans for long-term growth. She helped to establish The Museum School Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the school, both now and in the future, and she became the founding executive director of that organization. She taught us how to raise funds and “raise friends” and the difference and importance in both. She taught us how to ask people to give and helped us build relationships in the philanthropic community that continue to thrive, thanks to her careful planning.

Tami created a passion for the school within the local community and in the larger philanthropic community. She was the first to volunteer and the last one to leave. She wasn’t afraid to ask people to “give until it hurts, then give a little more.” She also made fundraising fun, creating an atmosphere of excitement, wearing construction hats, passing out ice cream and picking up a megaphone to give a shout out (or shout to) anyone she saw.

Her relationships here are deep, and her impact to the school is immeasurable. We will miss her enthusiasm, joy and passion for our school. We will miss that she worked full time, raised two beautiful children, had a partnership with her husband and still found time to dedicate so much time to our school. Mostly, we will miss our friend and her smile, but we are grateful for every moment we had with her and are thankful for her impact on us as individuals, as a board, and as a school community.

Aspen Kron
Chair
Museum School Board of Directors