PIFP Mentor Profile

Name: Paul Lhevine

How would you like to be contacted? PLhevine@aol.com  Cell: 303-725-8249

CC graduation year: 1990

Other education:
Juris Doctor, Vermont Law School, 1994
Masters in Environmental Policy, VLS, 1994
Leadership Denver 2010

Current employment position: Chief Executive Officer – Swallow Hill Music Association

Previous employment:
Aurora Public Schools Foundation – Executive Director
Aurora Public Schools – Director of External Affairs
Chief Operating Officer – Mile High United Way
Chief Operating Officer – Democratic National Convention Host Committee 2008

Experience/areas of interest: Paul is a dynamic fundraising, public relations and operations professional who has directed complex operations, managed large multifaceted budgets, and worked on successful outcomes based programs building consensus across the private, public, non-profit and philanthropic sectors.

Paul serves as chief executive officer of Swallow Hill Music Association, the 36-year-old Colorado home for roots, folk and acoustic music. Each year, Swallow Hill Music connects more than 138,000 people to diverse music traditions on stage and in the classroom. The organization brings people together through its school, outreach programming and concerts, and is a home for individuals and families who want to learn about, listen to and perform music.

As Executive Director of Aurora Public Schools Foundation Paul was responsible for developing partnerships and leveraging resources for projects and programs driving innovation and excellence throughout Aurora Public Schools. Paul was also responsible for overall management, fundraising, creation and implementation of projects and programs directly impacting the APS district.

Paul has served as chief operating officer for Mile High United Way, where was responsible for the organization’s donor relations, community investments and marketing departments. In this role he led senior staff to improve operational efficiencies, managed financial resources and operating expenses to ensure the organization’s overall success. In 2011 the Mile High United Way raised more than $33 million to fund community needs in the areas of School Readiness, Youth Success, and Adult Self Sufficiency.

Prior to joining the Mile High United Way, Paul served for two years as Chief Operating Officer for the Denver 2008 Democratic National Convention Host Committee where he was responsible
for contract negotiations relating to construction, production, transportation, volunteers and risk management in addition to day-to-day operations and a procurement process for the convention’s $55 million budget.

Paul brings with him more than a decade of managing political campaigns. He directed the Coalition for a Better Colorado, an organization focused on citizen education and voter turnout in the 2004 state legislative elections. In 2003, he managed John Hickenlooper’s 1st successful bid for Denver mayor, in 2002 he managed a successful re-election effort for Congresswoman Diana DeGette, and earlier served as her aide in Washington D.C. on issues related to transportation, environment and energy.

Paul is an alumnus of Leadership Denver and currently serves on the boards of PEBC and the Colorado College Public Interest Fellowship Program.

Why have you chosen to work in or support the nonprofit sector? Society works best when interaction, cooperation, and partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit and philanthropic sectors are maximized. My work as CEO of Swallow Hill Music Association has only strengthened my commitment to the nonprofit sector and the critical role the sector plays in ensuring quality education, healthy arts and culture programs, strong social service programs and driving systemic change to improve people’s overall quality of life in a myriad of ways.

Why do you want to be a mentor for PIFP? During my career I have been helped and guided along the way by a number of outstanding individuals. I hope that I can be helpful in the same way for those taking their next steps in their professional careers.

What’s your favorite book or movie?
Last best book (re-)read: Still Life With Woodpecker
Movie: Harold & Maude

What is something most people would be surprised to know about you? I’m a Dead Head (Although I’m pretty sure the cat is out of the bag on that one).