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# YWCA Greater Cincinnati names 10 to Career Women of Achievement class of 2024



Image: YWCA Greater Cincinnati

YWCA Greater Cincinnati named 10 to its 2024 Career Women of Achievement.

YWCA GREATER CINCINNATI | MATT HAESLY/ACBJ



By [Andy Brownfield](#) – Managing editor, Cincinnati Business Courier  
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YWCA Greater Cincinnati has named 10 local businesswomen to its 45th Career Women of Achievement program, honoring those who have shown leadership, vision and professional success in the business community.

The 2024 class is larger than the typical eight named by the local nonprofit. Co-Chair Peg Moertl, principal at Grovedale Consulting, said in a news release the YWCA received such a significant group of qualified nominees this year it decided to increase the size of the cohort.

“The women recognized each year by YWCA have always been catalysts for change in their companies and in the community,” Regina Carswell Russo, fellow co-chair and founder/CEO of RRight Now Communications, said in the release. “Each of these accomplished women has done much toward fulfilling the YWCA’s mission and have embodied the motto of ‘lift as you climb.’”

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**The 2024 YWCA Career Women of Achievement are:**



Tracey Artis is CEO of I Hear Music.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

I Hear Music CEO Tracey Artis is the first woman to reach more than 40 No. 1 songs on the Billboard Gospel charts and the first African American vice president of gospel promotions at Sony Music from 1997-2013, before launching her own firm.

I Hear Music is a promotions and marketing firm that represents gospel artists and produces events like the annual I Hear Music in the Air Conference, now in its 16th year in Cincinnati.

Artis is a voting member of the Recording Academy and the National Association of Gospel Radio.



Image: YWCA Greater Cincinnati

Bridgit Chayt is the executive vice president and head of wholesale payment for Fifth Third Bank.

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Bridgit Chayt is the executive vice president and head of wholesale payment for Fifth Third Bank. She is one of four executive leaders in the commercial bank area, and the only female executive vice president in the commercial business line.

Chayt began working at banks in high school and college. She helped create and grow the Midwest Guaranty Bank in Troy, Mich., which was acquired in 1998 after a decade in business.

Chayt helped found Fifth Third's Women in Treasury Management forum, a space for officer-level women to network and share experiences leading to personal growth.



Chara Fisher Jackson is CEO of Cincinnati Preschool Promise.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

Cincinnati Preschool Promise CEO Chara Fisher Jackson learned of the power of education from her mother, a college professor. She carries on that legacy through Preschool Promise, which works to ensure equitable access to high-quality preschools for Cincinnati children.

Fisher Jackson has worked for the ACLU of Georgia and served as the first membership director of the American Institute for Managing Diversity. She was also the first-ever executive director of the Georgia Supreme Court Commission on Equality.

Locally, Fisher Jackson launched the Power in a Name Project, helping trans and non-binary individuals navigate the gender market change process. She also served as interim president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.



Christie Kuhns is president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

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Christie Kuhns is president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, where she works to challenge the impact of racism and sexism while fostering equality and peace for all.

She began her career as an attorney, working for law firm Ulmer & Berne and Fortune 500 company American Family Insurance before being elected to the Ohio House of Representatives.

At the Urban League, Kuhns oversees a \$13.5 million budget and staff of 80 to advocate, educate and encourage economic development in the community.



Kimm Lauterbach is president and CEO of REDI Cincinnati.

REDI CINCINNATI

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Kimm Lauterbach, as president and CEO of REDI Cincinnati, has had a hand in helping land 409 economic development projects that have resulted in 40,000 new jobs, \$2.2 billion in new payroll and \$4.8 billion in capital investment, all since 2018.

Lauterbach works in a traditionally male-dominated field. She said in a news release she consciously avoids the easy road: "I live by my favorite quote from former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, 'Women have to be active listeners and interrupters, but when you interrupt, you have to know what you're talking about.'"

Lauterbach has committed REDI to work with the Minority Business Accelerator to expand minority business enterprises in the region.



Jill Miller is president and CEO of Bethesda Inc./bi3.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

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Jill Miller is the inaugural leader of bi3, the grantmaking arm of health care giant Bethesda Inc. In that role, she gained notoriety for being the first funder in the region to practice trust-based philanthropy - which encourages multi-year unrestricted funding, streamlining reporting and transparent, responsive communication.

Miller said she has a passion for accelerating birth equality, improving youth mental health, fueling health equity and innovation at TriHealth and building partnerships to accelerate racial and health equity.

She said her drive and energy have come from the women who have supported and mentored her across her 20-year career.



Alicia Reece is president of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

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Alicia Reece is president of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, where she oversees a \$1.2 billion budget for the third-most-populous county in Ohio.

She had previously served as vice mayor on the Cincinnati City Council, and held a long tenure on the Ohio State House of Representatives, where she was elected president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus.

Reece has also served as deputy director of Ohio Tourism and hosts her national radio show and podcast, "Alicia Reece Soulfood."



Kristen Schlotman is executive director of Film Cincinnati.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

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As executive director of Film Cincinnati, Kristen Schlotman has worked to bring 25 large productions to the region between 2019-2022, resulting in \$258 million in economic impact and 1,873 jobs.

In her role, Schlotman reads scripts, scouts locations, identifies local talent, finds housing and acts as a liaison between film and television productions and the Cincinnati region.

Movies filmed in Cincinnati have starred actors such as Emilio Estevez, Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway, Austin Butler, Cate Blanchett and George Clooney, among others.



Alicia Townsend is vice president and regional community development manager for U.S. Bank's east region.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

Alicia Townsend is vice president and regional community development manager for U.S. Bank's east region, which encompasses 16 states. In her role, she drives strategy to mitigate reputation risk and manages \$5.3 million in philanthropic giving.

Townsend has held numerous roles, including administrative assistant, assistant vice president for Visa check cards, retail branch manager and administrator in personal and corporate trust.

Townsend has established local programs for entrepreneurs that have impacted Cincinnati's small businesses and the local economy.



Kelly Wittich is senior vice president of wealth management for UBS Financial Services.

TASHA PINELO PHOTOGRAPHY

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Kelly Wittich is senior vice president of wealth management for UBS Financial Services and works with the FTB Financial Services team, which is ranked by *Forbes* as one of the top 100 wealth advisers in the nation, with an estimated \$3.3 billion in assets under management.

Wittich graduated from Mount St. Joseph University, beginning her career as a paralegal before moving into the adviser training program at PaineWebber, which would become UBS Financial Services.

She became the first female financial adviser on the FTB Financial Services team, and now mentors other women in the industry.

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Career Women of Achievement is YWCA Greater Cincinnati's single-largest fundraiser, with proceeds supporting the nonprofit's programs in the areas of safety, racial justice and inclusion and empowerment and economic advancement.

This year's class will be honored at a luncheon May 8 at Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati.