

Stephanie Knight

Chief Officer of the Division of Small Business Opportunity



Stephanie Knight was the CEO of Colorado Inclusive Economy (CIE) and was at the helm of the organization since April 2023. As the CEO, in her short tenure she energized the nonprofit and created a robust roadmap and strategic plan for the growth and expansion of CIE and hosted two of the most impactful and well attended Annual Summit events (October 2023 and October 2024) engaging a global DEI expert, and key sector DEI panelists. She received an award in March of 2024 from Women Who Charge- Sisters in Energy a group that advocates, supports, and resources underrepresented woman in the energy sector. Additionally, Stephanie was named a 2024 CWCC Top 25 Women in Business and a 2024 DBJ Outstanding Woman in Business.

No stranger to Colorado community-based initiatives Stephanie has been a staunch advocate of positive and inclusive messaging for older adults and is one of the original twenty-one Change AGENTS in the Changing the Narrative movement, a Colorado led initiative that actively works to empower aging adults through advocacy, legislation, and workforce opportunities. She led this work, as well as six statewide aging services programs as the Executive Director of the Senior Hub. Additionally, she was named as an influencer of the year from the North Metro Chamber- 2019 and was recognized by the Denver Regional Office of Governors (DRCOG) and Adams County for her county wide efforts (in serving aging community) during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic ensuring aging communities of color got the direct services they needed. She is also a proud graduate of the Executive Leaders of Color (2020 – 2022), a program sponsored by the Denver Foundation.

More recently Stephanie was a Governors Fellow (2022-2023) and her team's final project, a statewide workforce development paper, served to inform many current state workforce development initiatives and workforce development programs. She currently sits on the Civico Board of Directors and has served on many nonprofit boards over the course of her career.

Stephanie is originally from Southern California, and attended Northwestern University, in Evanston, IL where she earned a degree in Sociology with additional coursework and in organizational management. Her career includes a true balance of nonprofit and private sector experience, having led many organizations to a place of growth, increased revenue, and regulatory compliance. As a Director for Sun Healthcare Group, she was instrumental in sustained subacute census growth, and met regional revenue goals, as well as developed new ancillary partners and contract providers within the Southern California region.

The next leg in her career afforded her the opportunity to relocate to Mobile, AL where she was the interim Executive Director for the South Alabama YWCA, there she made significant programming and community partnership inroads and equipped the agency with sustainable grant funding. She was also instrumental in organizational changes to drive more diversity and inclusion for small local businesses in Alabama and ensure a path of accreditation to small businesses as the CEO of the BBB of South Alabama. She was the first woman of color to lead this organization in the region. Stephanie drives to effect change in the spaces where she has lived and worked.