

David Lee

Professional Biography

David Lee is the Chief Philanthropy Officer at The Ascension Wisconsin Foundation, where he leads the fundraising and philanthropic efforts for metro Milwaukee's safety net hospital system, which spans six hospitals and multiple community clinics and outreach programs.

David Lee is a charismatic, dynamic, entrepreneurial C-suite leader with proven results in government relations, advocacy, and launching and leading non-profit start-ups that quickly achieve value and deliver stakeholder ROI. David's optimism and values-based leadership inspires staff, stakeholders, and partners to connect with an organization's purpose and mission. He has been recognized by *The Milwaukee BizTimes* in their list of Notable Minority Executives and by *Madison 365* as one of the 35 Most Influential Asian American Leaders in Wisconsin.

Prior to his role at the Ascension Wisconsin Foundation, David was the inaugural Chief Executive Officer at Imagine MKE, where he led a team and network of arts champions to harness the power of Milwaukee's arts community and culture creators to advocate for a more thriving and vibrant region. From 2019 – 2021, the organization's budget grew 180%, generating an ROI of over 1,200% for arts and culture stakeholders in 2020.

Before Imagine MKE, David spent ten years as a professional hunger fighter. He led the creation of the anti-hunger initiative at The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles in 2008, led Government Relations and Advocacy at national office of Feeding America in 2010, and in 2014, he was appointed as the founding Executive Director of Feeding Wisconsin, the state association of food banks where he was the key driving force to grow the organization from a \$100,000 seed investment into a \$1.4 million organization in under four years.

David also brings a rich, professional performing arts background to his leadership. He studied drama and acting at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts and the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. After attaining an A.B. in Film and Drama at Vassar College, David worked in New York and Los Angeles writing, acting, and directing plays and films.

David is also alum of Georgetown University McDonough School of Business' Business for Impact New Strategies Program, the Aspen Institute Academy 2.0 for Non-Profit Leaders, and the American Express/Independent Sector NGen Fellows program. He serves on the Advisory Board for 89.7 WUWM Milwaukee's NPR.

In his spare time, David stresses over his dog Molly is living a rich and fulfilling inner life.