

The Business of Furniture | September 16, 2020

BOF



Dr. Shannon Bloch
The Heart & Soul
of INDEAL Cares

**Working in a
Changed World:**

**Understanding
Health and Well-being
in the Commercial
Furniture Industry**

CAREERS

Steelcase Foundation President to Retire in December

🕒 Julie Ridenour, president of the Steelcase Foundation since 2012, has announced she will retire Dec. 31.

In 2019, The Steelcase Foundation awarded more than \$4.7 million to programs designed to address societal iniquities and change lives. During her tenure, Ridenour has been a driving force in the collaboration between business, educators and philanthropy to elevate the need for improvement in early literacy and educational outcomes for Michigan's children.

"Julie has a unique skill for bringing people together to best address wicked problems and big issues," said Kate Pew Wolters, Steelcase Foundation chair. "She has demonstrated a relentless dedication to making West Michigan a place where all residents — and specifically all children — can thrive. And she also has helped bring together thought leaders and service providers to address the ongoing homelessness crisis in Grand Rapids. With more collaboration comes more ideas and more action."

Before coming to the Steelcase Foundation, Ridenour worked as a reporter at the Grand Rapids Press, served as vice president for advancement at Aquinas College, development director at the John Ball Zoo and in various roles in the banking and investment industry.

"It's been a lifelong dream fulfilled to have had the opportunity at the Steelcase Foundation, and the support of foundation trustees, to work to better the lives of children and their families, both in the classroom and out," she said. "I have been fortunate to be able to bring learnings from Steelcase Inc. to the non-profit world to help broaden understanding and widen opportunities for all."

The Steelcase Foundation has engaged Kittleman & Associates, a national executive recruiting firm, to conduct the search for its new president. Kittleman & Associates recruit leaders for the nonprofit sector, including foundations, education, human services and social justice and advocacy organizations.

Independent from Steelcase Inc., the Steelcase Foundation was established in 1951 by Steelcase founders and original trustees, Walter Idema and David Hunting Sr., to support charitable, scientific, literary and educational causes. It supports projects that drive systemic change in communities with a goal of directing 60% of its annual budget toward education.

CAREERS

NELSON Worldwide Announces New Senior Vice President and Managing Director

🕒 Award-winning architecture design and strategy firm NELSON Worldwide has named Haril A. Pandya as senior vice president and managing director of the Boston office.



Pandya

The news comes on the heels of the firm's strategic revitalization for its Landlord Services practice, which will be rebranded as Asset Strategy. Asset Strategy is a holistic analysis and solution-oriented practice focused on unique design solutions around building repositioning, portfolio opportunity analysis, rebranding of assets, authentic revitalization and the adaptive reuse of buildings around the country. In addition, this will comprise full building and portfolio support of BOMA, sustainability/LEED/

WELL solutions, tenant fit out strategies and solutions, amenities, and comprehensive value add opportunities. Pandya, as a National Practice Leader of Asset Strategy, will champion this relaunch, helping to further NELSON Worldwide's mission of transforming environments that drive social equity, interaction and engagement.

"Haril is a great fit for the Boston team — we're excited for what's to come under his leadership role and the firm's expanding presence within the Northeast region," said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NELSON Worldwide John "Ozzie" Nelson Jr. "Haril's sustainable design approach combined with his passion for adaptive reuse, repositioning and ground up value and projects that are thoughtfully designed will drive the firm's asset strategy portfolio."

This tactical move will create a foundation for continued and future growth for NELSON's Asset Strategy Practice within Boston and across the nation. Bringing more than 25 years of leadership, business development and award winning design excellence, Pandya will offer a fresh approach and perspective to building repositioning, client relationships and branded strategy. In his new role, Pandya will continue to strengthen relationships with building owners, developers, brokers and tenants to transform Boston's skyline and landscape through mixed-use, residential, workplace, retail, lab and hospitality projects.

"NELSON Worldwide has always appealed to me because of their holistic approach to design and architecture through the reuse of buildings," Pandya said. "This adds a layer of authenticity — and I am looking forward to working with NELSON at a national level, lifting and complementing the firm's strategy and design excellence in order to help inspire projects that are transformative for their local communities."

Pandya held the position of principal and director of asset strategy and repositioning for 16 years at CBT Architects, a leading design firm in Boston where he oversaw several significant ground-up, repositioning and adaptive reuse projects. He has led nearly 100 transformative projects nationally, and his client list has included Blackstone Group, Shorenstein, Rockpoint, The Davis Companies, Synergy Investments, Anchorline Properties, Heitman Group and Flatley Companies, among many others. Pandya applies a broad spectrum of industry experience to each project, leveraging innovative insights on the built practice area and design thinking to deliver enterprise value for clients. He is passionate about adaptive reuse and bettering the communities he serves. "NELSON Worldwide's greatest asset is their people, so I'm really looking forward to assisting in leading an outstanding group to success," Pandya said. "My goal is to partner with clients and provide them with insight, expertise and design excellence by collaborating with my fellow national leaders in their multiple practice areas, bringing our clients the best possible design solution on a local, regional and national scale."

Pandya was recently elevated to a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA), the highest recognition for an architect for progressing the field of architecture. He was one of eight recipients of the AIA Young Architects Awards and has been recognized by Building Design + Construction as a top 40 Under 40. Currently, Pandya is on the board of directors of the Boston Center for the Arts, The BSA Foundation Board, the AIA Government Affairs Committee and the NAIOP Gavel Board. He received his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a speaker, moderator, TEDx presenter, writer/columnist and blogger, not to mention a guitarist in a cover band and independent filmmaker in his spare time.
