



# LUNCH WITH THE CITY'S LEADERS

ACCESS AND INSIGHT INTO THE POWERS THAT SHAPE OUR CITY.




**Angela Val**  
Executive Director  
Ready.Set.Philly

**Michelle Hstand**  
Deputy Director  
Ready.Set.Philly!

**Ready.Set.Philly!**  
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## Angela Val

**Executive Director, Ready.Set.Philly! Chief Operations Officer, Tempest**

As a leader, connector, company culture builder and doer, Angela Val strives to lead by example with an approachable and earnest executive style. In her current role as chief operations officer (COO) at Tempest she is responsible for establishing policies that promote company culture and vision and implementing business strategies. In January 2021 Angela was appointed Executive Director of the Ready.Set.Philly!, a yearlong shared initiative between the City of Philadelphia, the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia, and the downtown business community. The program goals are to reopen and relaunch our city's economy and reinvigorate the day and nighttime activity.

Prior to joining Tempest Angela was the administration officer (CAO) at the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) she is responsible for government and external affairs and managing the day-to-day operations of the PHLCVB.

In 2016 Angela served as the deputy executive director of Philadelphia 2016 Host Committee for the 2016 Democratic National Convention (DNC). In that role she was tasked with mobilizing internal resources and community partners to successfully prepare for, implement and host the DNC.

Angela was also a member of the award-winning Visit Philadelphia team for 16 years. During her time there she worked her way up from executive assistant for the president and CEO, to vice president and chief external affairs officer (CEAO). As a member of the executive staff, Angela helped to establish the organization as a powerhouse that builds the region's economy and image through destination marketing and branding. In her role as CEO she served as liaison to the Visit Philadelphia Board, advocacy agencies, elected officials and other stakeholders. Angela also directed, supported and executed some of Visit Philadelphia's most successful campaigns and initiatives, including With Art Philadelphia, Philly 360, Philadelphia Neighborhoods, the Philly Overnight Hotel Package and the implementation of a hotel booking engine.

She is committed to building Philadelphia's business and cultural communities and currently serves on the board of Horizons Greater Philadelphia. A native of Maryland, Angela received a bachelor's degree from Drexel University. She began her career with Hospitality Partners as a Catering and Sales Manager.

## Michelle Hstand

**Deputy Director, Ready.Set.Philly! Innovation Director, Independence Blue Cross**

Michelle Hstand is a connector, a leader, a teacher, and a wearer of many hats because she believes life is short and there's a lot to fit in!

In her work as Innovation Director at Independence Blue Cross, Michelle built the innovation department to develop new programs, processes, and products for the business. The innovation team uses design thinking to help creatively solve challenging issues in health care and beyond. She is currently on loan as the Deputy Executive Director for Ready.Set.Philly! Ready.Set.Philly! is a yearlong collaborative initiative between the City of Philadelphia, The Chamber of Commerce, and the business community to reopen and relaunch the city's economy post-pandemic.

Michelle was also recently appointed as the Executive Director of the M. Night Shyamalan Foundation, which focuses on supporting leaders of emerging nonprofits who are removing barriers created by poverty and injustice. Michelle oversees all Foundation operations and finds and vets leaders who are changing the world.

In 2019 Michelle cofounded B. PHL Innovation Fest as a way to highlight innovation in the Philadelphia region and draw more attention to the city, and she currently serves as the festival's Executive Director, overseeing operations. In 2020 the festival drew over 6,500 attendees from around the world.

Michelle also loves being an adjunct professor at Temple University, where she teaches topics on innovation and entrepreneurship. She has her bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts and her master's in Writing Studies from St. Joseph's University. When she's not drawing flip charts and ideating, Michelle spends her time in South Philadelphia with her husband, three boys, and two cats, who do their best to exhaust her tireless energy.

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