Channing Lenert, MS, CFRE

Program Officer, Polk Bros. Foundation

Channing Lenert is a Program Officer at Polk Bros. Foundation. Within this role, he reviews organizations primarily within the Foundation's Strong Communities portfolio, which includes grantmaking related to the production and preservation of affordable housing, homelessness prevention and intervention, workforce development, community economic development, community safety and gun violence prevention, and legal aid services. Prior to the Foundation, Channing led grantseeking at Navy Pier and Working in the Schools (WITS). He began his career as an AmeriCorps and Senior AmeriCorps Member with City Year Chicago, where he is the Immediate Past Chair of its Alumni Board.

Channing currently serves on the local Board of Directors of LIFT, a national nonprofit that provides personalized financial coaching and other support for low-income parents and caregivers. He served on the AFP Chicago Board of Directors between 2018 and 2019 and currently serves as Co-Chair of AFP Chicago's *44th Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon* and on the Chapter's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Committee. He is a 2015 Fellow and 2016 Chamberlain Scholar of the Chapter. Channing is also a current member of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP), Chicago's 46th Ward Democratic Organization, and serves on the Steering Committee of the Chicago Chapter of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP).

Channing is a 2019 IMPACT Fellow of the Chicago Urban League and University of Chicago Booth School of Business. In 2019, he received AFP Global's *Outstanding Young Professional* award and was named one of Chicago Scholars' *35 Under 35 Young Leaders Making an Impact*. He received the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential in 2018.

Channing graduated from California State University Channel Islands, with a B.A. in Political Science, and from the Spertus Institute, with an M.S. in Nonprofit Management, concentrating in Fundraising Management.