

Channing Lenert, MS, CFRE

Channing Lenert works as a Development Officer at Navy Pier. His responsibilities at the Pier include the qualification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of the new nonprofit's major institutional contributors. He additionally provides support with Navy Pier Board development, major capital gifts, special events, employee culture, and community outreach.

Before joining the Pier's staff, Channing worked on the program and development teams at Working in the Schools (WITS). WITS is a literacy-focused nonprofit that provides volunteer mentoring and teacher professional development for elementary students and teachers in Chicago Public Schools. Prior to WITS, Channing served in AmeriCorps with City Year Chicago. During his AmeriCorps service with City Year, Channing tutored and mentored middle school students at a school in Chicago's North Lawndale Community and mobilized large-scale volunteer service events as a member of the site's Civic Engagement Team.

Channing serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Chicago Chapter, where he is a past Fellow and Chamberlain Scholar. His Board service includes planning of the Annual Philanthropy Awards Luncheon, developing the directorship pipeline, and promoting equity throughout the sector. Channing also serves as Board Chair of the City Year Chicago Alumni Board, is a member of the WITS Associate Board, and volunteers with the Chicago Urban League's Center for Student Development. In addition to his AFP membership, Channing is a member of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy.

Channing received an MS in Nonprofit Management, concentrating in Fundraising Management, from Chicago's Spertus Institute and received a BA in Political Science from California State University Channel Islands. CFRE International designated Channing as a Certified Fund Raising Executive in 2018.

Channing lives in Chicago's Buena Park Community with his fiancée and their two cats.