



Lauren Koelliker

Meet Lauren Koelliker. She is the Executive Director of the Valley Housing Fund. Colleagues and friends recognize her as a dedicated, engaged community member always up for a challenge, whether it's riding a difficult section of trail on a mountain bike or bringing together the public and private sectors to advance the development of workforce housing in the Gunnison Valley.

Growing up in Evergreen, CO, she graduated from CU-Boulder with the Great Recession looming. Unsure of job prospects, she secured a scholarship for another year at CU to earn a teaching license, hoping it would open doors to live internationally or in a ski town. Lauren's ability to adapt to a challenging situation and move forward strategically has driven many of her choices since.

Lauren taught high school History and English for 9 years, spending her final four years at Crested Butte Community School. Her love of the Gunnison Valley and her desire to shape decisions inspired her to pursue public office. She served on the Mt. Crested Butte Town Council from 2017-2022, advocating for affordable housing and sustainable tourism, among other local issues. Lauren moved into the nonprofit realm as the Development Director for the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association in 2019. In 2022, she was hired as the first full-time Executive Director at the Valley Housing Fund. In the first six months, she worked with her Board to restructure the nonprofit, start and finish a small community housing development, and launch fundraising initiatives, all while soaking up as much knowledge as she could get her hands on to become an active community leader.