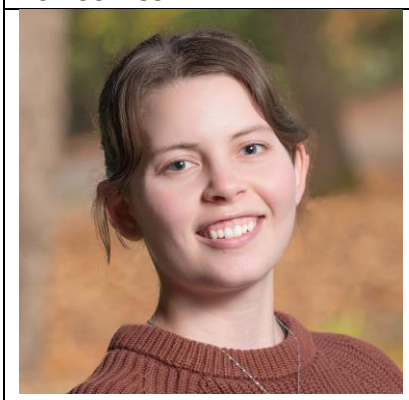
Sonoma Botanical Garden Staff

 **Bridget Beck** (she/her) **Gardener**	**Bridget Beck** is a Gardener with the horticulture team and has spent most of her career working directly with plants in the gardening and landscaping industry. She holds an associate's degree in horticulture and landscape design and a bachelor's degree in applied studies. Bridget's favorite garden tasks include small-project management, garden-overhaul, plant nurturing, and pruning. Her organizational skills help to support administration within the department as well. Bridget enjoys being surrounded by amazing plant life and is in awe of the unique specimens that grew from seeds in the retired rock quarry that comprises part of the Garden.
Valerie Brown (she/her) **Visitor Experience Associate**	
Guillermo Calderon (he/him) **Gardener**	
Salvador Calderon (he/him) **Director of Horticulture and Facilities** scalderon@sonomabg.org	
 **Julianne Culley** (she/her) **Membership and Visitor Services Manager** jculley@sonomabg.org 707-888-3316	**Julianne Culley**, a California native, works as the Membership and Visitor Experience Manager. Her position plays an essential role in creating a welcoming experience and helping to grow the Garden's community of members and supporters. She joined the team in March 2024, with a background focused on customer service and event coordination. Julianne was recognized as a "Rising Star" at Sonoma County Tourism's 2025 Stars of the Industry awards. With a degree in political science, Julianne is passionate about the ways botanical gardens and similar institutions advocate for social justice and environmental responsibility. Her favorite thing about working at the Garden is the dynamic people who work alongside her and visit each day!

 **André ten Dam** (he/him) **Director of Business Operations**	**André ten Dam** was born and raised in The Netherlands and after a career in corporate banking, he emigrated to the US in 2010 to marry the love of his life and follow his passion to do work that connects people with the natural world. In the Pacific Northwest, he discovered the wonderful world of public gardens and dedicated thirteen years to the Bloedel Reserve and surrounding community on Bainbridge Island. At Bloedel, he served in various positions, most recently as the Director of Operations. André loves to put his organizational and management skills to work to make gardens run smoothly, provide an accessible experience for all and bring smiles to all – employees, volunteers, and guests alike. He shares his life with his wife Jenny and their two horses and two-house bunnies, and he enjoys cooking, reading books, cycling and hiking.
 **Beth Ann Goodwill** (she/her) **Tour & Program Support Coordinator** bgoodwill@sonomabg.org 707-790-0141	As the Tour & Program Support Coordinator, **Beth Ann Goodwill** supports the logistics of tour calendars and public programming to ensure a seamless visitor experience. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and Public & Nonprofit Management and has over 15 years of experience in building community impact through volunteer leadership and program coordination. Previously, Beth Ann served in key roles within Sonoma County nonprofits, where she specialized in engaging volunteers and creating accessible educational programs for diverse audiences. She is passionate about the Garden's role as a space for connection and discovery, particularly in how it bridges environmental education with community outreach. Outside of the office, Beth Ann is an active member of the SoCo CERT team, and she enjoys cooking, reading, and exploring the local waterways by kayak.

 **Dina Howard** (she/her) **Associate Director of People Operations** dhoward@sonomabg.org	**Dina Howard** loves all things art and nature. After a BA in English (UCLA) she spent a decade as an actor in L.A. She loved acting but realized that she was more fulfilled by her concurrent non-profit work.She went back to school for an MBA in non-profit management and has run or worked for non-profits in theatre, fine arts, mediation, literacy, and mentoring. Dina is energized and passionate about organizational missions that use the arts or nature to reach diverse audiences and create connection and joy. Dina is also a writer and the creator/producer of an award-winning NPR documentary. She relocated here to be with her wonderful Michael and to work for Transcendence Theatre Company. She is inspired by the area's natural beauty and the wonderful community she has found; both exemplified by the Garden. Dina is honored to work with the amazing SBG staff. She keeps tennis shoes in her office to make sure to stroll through the Garden as often as possible.
 **Kristina Lindh** (she/her) **Coordinator of Marketing & Communications** klindh@sonomabg.org 707-991-8921	As the Coordinator of Marketing & Communications, **Kristina Lindh** plans and executes content for social media, newsletters, and the Garden website, and helps to organize the various vendors that support communications. Kristina joined the Garden in 2024 after working as the Digital Marketing Coordinator at the Bay Area Discovery Museum, which ignited her passion for museums and the opportunities to build community through marketing. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Digital Studies from St. Mary's College of California. Kristina's favorite part of working at the Garden is witnessing the change through the seasons.
 **Aleta Lyman-Hendershot** (she/her) **Visitor Experience Associate**	

 **Robert Mahar** (he/him) Public Programs Manager rmahar@sonomabg.org 707-494-6028	With over two decades of experience designing and leading hands-on educational programs, **Robert Mahar** works as the Garden's Coordinator of Learning & Engagement. A seasoned educator and artist, he has developed and facilitated dynamic workshops for cultural institutions, public gardens, and lifelong learning programs, including the San Francisco Botanical Garden, the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, and Oakmont Lifelong Learning. His background also includes producing creative online content and television programming in alignment with his passion for fostering creativity and community engagement. He currently lives in Sonoma with his husband, George, and their German wire-haired pointer, Bunny. Robert brings enthusiasm for environmental education, a creative approach to learning, and a deep commitment to building meaningful connections within the Garden community.
 **Jadyn Pando** (she/her) **Operations & Development Specialist** jpando@sonomabg.org	**Jadyn Pando** works as the Garden's Coordinator of Administration & Donor Relations. She is a Napa native, and passionate about preserving public spaces and fostering connections with the outdoors. Jadyn holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Sociology from Oregon State University and has experience working in libraries, national parks, and law firms. Out of the office, she enjoys cooking new recipes, hiking, and playing tabletop games. Jadyn is excited to apply her diverse administrative and client relations skills to support the Garden's mission.
 **Jeannie Perales** (she/her) **Executive Director** jperales@sonomabg.org 707-494-7585	Since August 2023, **Jeannie Perales** has served as Executive Director, leading a talented team of staff, volunteers, and board members in shaping the Garden's future. She holds a Master of Arts in Educational Psychology, a K-6 Teaching Certificate, and a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology and Communications. Jeannie's passion lies in collaborating with content experts to create engaging educational programs and exhibitions, particularly in museums and gardens. She shares her life with Daniel, her husband of 22 years, her children, Kique & Luci, a sweet old hound, and a silly quarter horse. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, cooking, reading, and good wine. Jeannie loves working in public gardens, especially because of the inspiring people they attract. What excites her most about the Garden is its

	potential for growth and opportunity for community connection.
 **Michael Wenzel** (he/him) **Curator of Living Collections** mwenzel@sonomabg.org	As the Curator of Living Collections, **Michael Wenzel** manages and documents the composition, both in quality and quantity, of the living plants on the grounds. Michael has been with the Garden since December 2020 and has almost three decades of botany experience. He holds a Master of Science in Biological Sciences with a concentration in plant systematics, and has had many unique highlights in his career, including leading a propagation workshop for a rare conifer in Fiji and delivering presentations at the Smithsonian and the Guilin Botanical Garden. His favorite part of working at the Garden is experiencing the entire cycle of a botanical garden from his unique position caring for the plant collection. From his perspective, it begins with the collection itself, continues with collaborating with great people who share a mutual appreciation for plants, and ends with sharing the fascinating world of plants with visitors and researchers.