

## **Fernanda Valentino**

Fernanda is a mission-driven fundraiser and relationship builder with a passion for connecting people to purpose. She currently serves at Big Shoulders Fund, where she engages donors, partners, and volunteers in support of 92 schools and over 25,000 students in underserved communities across Chicago and Northwest Indiana. With a background spanning higher education, nonprofit, and tech, Fernanda brings a creative, strategic lens to volunteer management and donor engagement. Her previous roles include leading major gift efforts at UCLA, David Geffen School of Medicine, Neurology and Neurosciences.

After moving to Illinois, she served on several non-profit boards including the District 181 Foundation and Assistance League Chicagoland West and was a founding member of DuPage Children's Museum Next Gen Board. She also served as a Customer Success Manager at Gamerjibe/ Inverse, building global, interactive community events in the metaverse.

A lifelong learner fluent in French and Italian and proficient in Spanish, Fernanda is also a published children's poet and active volunteer. She believes in the power of authentic connection and storytelling to drive mission impact and is excited to share practical strategies for meaningful volunteer engagement.