



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

September 27, 2022

2022-2023 Board Members

President William Bradley

Pres Elect Edwin Peacock

Past Pres Carol Hardison

Secretary Kim Brattain

Treasurer Patrick Baker

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2021-2023

Ann Clark

Ellison Clary

Jesse Hite

Warren Kean

Vanessa Stolen

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt

Glenn Bouley

Margaret Donovan

Laura Little

Mark Norman

Diego Ramon

Robert Shaw

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



Cyndee Patterson: Businesswoman Extraordinaire

by **Suzanne Bledsoe**

Cyndee Patterson has certainly made her mark on Charlotte since her move here in 1979. Recently retired as President of The Lynnwood Foundation, which operates the Duke Mansion and The Lee Institute of Charlotte, Cyndee was recently honored by The Charlotte Business Journal with the 2022 Women in Business Lifetime Achievement Award. During her time in Charlotte, Cyndee has worked in the financial services sector, founded, owned and operated Patterson Blake, Inc., a corporate events firm, and served four terms on the Charlotte City Council, including one as mayor pro-tem. She was the first President of the Lynwood Foundation and oversaw its operating entities for over 20 years. And, most recently, she has taken on the role of President of Charlotte's Arts and Culture Board. No doubt, her various leadership roles have been integral to Charlotte's growth and reputation as a world-class city.

Cyndee is known for her many accomplishments, attributable to her excellent leadership skills. She believes that leaders are made, not born and shared with us a few "take-aways" that have served her well over the years.

- Never stop learning. Take time to listen, understand issues, and consider solutions. Figure out what you are good at and do what you enjoy.
- Show up, do your best and always tell the truth.
- Don't ask others to do something that you wouldn't do yourself. Recognize that every job, no matter how menial it may seem, is important and will impact outcomes.
- Take risks; be courageous. Be transparent.

- Take care of the things and people that matter most, both in your business and your personal life.
- Spend time with and learn from smart people.

When asked what she believes are the critical issues Charlotte faces, Cyndee cited the need for affordable housing and a solid public educational system. She noted that Charlotte is an attractive city for young people, with an abundance of opportunities, but growth will be difficult to sustain without a focus on finding solutions for these issues.

When asked what she would tell her younger self, based on what she knows now, she, without hesitation, said, "...be fearless, and have the courage to take risks."

Great advice!

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/754815794>
The speaker's introduction begins at 27:50 minutes.