

OUR DIRECTORS

The qualifications, experience and special responsibilities of current Somos21 Board directors are provided here below:



Jasmine Sliger (Chair)

Jasmine is a cross cultural organisational and counselling psychologist, and leverages this skill as a facilitator, accredited mediator, and executive coach. As a multilingual intercultural specialist, Jasmine's goal is to increase the understanding in intercultural interactions individually and across teams in organisations and industries worldwide. She is passionate about bringing fresh ideas to complex organisational issues and harnessing the human capital in a business. Jasmine is currently Chair of Somos21, a post she has held nominally since April 2017.



Andres Arroyo (Secretary)

Andres is a Uruguayan and Australian citizen, and a proud husband, father and soccer passionate. He has contributed strong leadership skills and expertise in international relationships to Somos21 since before its incorporation in 2016. Prior to Somos21, and his settling down in Brisbane, Andres spent more than 10 years working in various commercial roles across Latin America and South-East Asia. Andres is also Honorary Consul of Uruguay in Brisbane and member of the Consular Corps in Queensland. He holds an MBA and Masters in Industrial Engineering.



Juan Manuel Suarez (Treasurer)

Juan is a Colombian finance executive looking to expand the professional networks between Latin America and Australia. He has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering, a Graduate Diploma in Logistics Management, certification as a Project Management professional and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Queensland. Juan's 12 years' experience in financial services, specifically banking and insurance, will help Somos21 to reinforce its foundations and maintain a solid growth trajectory.



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Kate Bennett

Kate is a multi-lingual sustainability professional committed to enhancing the private sector's social and environmental performance. As Co-Founder and Director of Somos21 and as Director of the Australia Latin America Business Council (ALABC), Kate is passionate about promoting greater connection and collaboration between Australia and Latin America. Her qualifications include Bachelor of International Studies (Languages), Master of International Affairs (Sustainable Development), and a Master of Business Administration.



Monica Arce Garcia

Monica is an experienced communications professional specialising in brand and communications strategy, copywriting and content creation. With a Bachelor in Arts, a Bachelor in Business Management (Marketing), and a Master of International Business, she has worked in Australia, Europe and Asia with fintech start-ups, luxury brands, FMCGs and international organisations. Monica has recently launched her own social enterprise in the fashion industry, empowering remote Australian indigenous communities through capacity building and providing long term economic opportunities.



Antonio Castillo

Chilean-Australian biotechnology engineer and founder and director of BiotechBridge. Antonio has 15+ years of experience in research and technology innovation and has worked in industry and academia in Chile, Germany, Israel, USA, and Australia. In Australia, he has collaborated as an expert advisor in innovation with the Victorian Government, the Consul General of Chile, and medtech companies. Antonio has a PhD (molecular genetics) degree from the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, an MSc (biotechnology) from Ben-Gurion University, Israel, and a BEng (aquaculture) from Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile.



Shannon Semenikow

Shannon - a registered migration agent and qualified education counsellor — is the Founder and CEO of Education and Migration Services Australia and of Hospitality Staff Solutions, a new start-up recruiting chefs to work in Australia. Shannon is also a Strategic Alliance board member of the Entrepreneur's Organisation (Brisbane Chapter) and is keen to promote stronger ties between entrepreneurs in Australia and Latin America. Shannon has a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Graduate Certificate in Migration Law.