

Joni Olivia Thompson, M.Ed., CPA, Joni graduated from Rice University with a degree in multidisciplinary studies with concentrations in Psychology, Kinesiology & Motor Development, and Music. She received an M.Ed. in Special Education from the University of Texas-Tyler. Her first job was Executive Director at a private, non-profit school for students with special learning needs. Realizing her main interest was in the budget and financial process, she began coursework required for the CPA certificate.

Before moving to Albuquerque, Joni held positions in Texas and California at a regional public accounting firm, a manufacturing company, federal government agency (Resolution Trust Corporation), and a defense contracting company. She served as CFO/COO for the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau before joining a local advertising agency as their operations/finance manager. Most recently she has worked for Keshet Dance and Center for the Arts and 516 ARTS as finance director.

Throughout her career, Joni volunteered on various nonprofit boards of directors, usually in the role of Treasurer. While at Keshet, she developed workshops for the Makers Space program, providing insights and direction on the budgeting process for members of the creative economy. She believes deeply in the role of arts in society and is passionate about providing a foundation in financial management, linking mission to money.

Pre-COVID hobbies included singing in the UNM Chorus (including performing in NYC at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall).