



**JOEL BURNS**  
Board of Directors  
Dallas Fort Worth International Airport

Joel Burns was born the year Fort Worth and Dallas agreed to build DFW International Airport and he grew up on a hilltop ranch south of Fort Worth. While riding his horse or playing in a pasture or creek, he would look up and see shiny, colorful jets making their southern ascent out of DFW. For westbound routes, their flight paths curved directly over him and the ranch, to unknown destinations he could only imagine and dream of as a child. Fueled in part by the 50-year economic engine that is DFW Airport, explosive growth propelled Fort Worth's limits to and beyond that hilltop, and the former ranch land is now cul-de-sacs, rooftops, and City of Fort Worth parks.

As an adult, Joel would later be elected in 2007 as one of Fort Worth's youngest City Council Members, and the county's first openly LGBT elected official. He served four terms before leaving office to accept a fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government where he earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker and Joel's former Council colleagues appointed him to represent the owner city on the DFW Board in August 2023.

Today he spends much of his time, as he did while serving on the Council, working to continue to grow the nation's twelfth-largest city and fourth-largest metropolitan area into the vibrant, world-class leaders Fort Worth and the North Texas region have become. Starting in 2016, he and his husband helped to start Fort Worth's first non-profit LGBT health clinic, which today has three locations, and Joel chairs its Community Advisory Committee. He co-founded and is the past chairman of Community Design Fort Worth. Additionally, he chairs the board of HousingChannel.org, North Texas's largest federal Community Housing Development Organization. Joel's decades of past leadership and board service include The Texas Lyceum, the LGBT Victory Fund's Campaign Board, Visit Fort Worth (Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau), Amphibian Stage, the UT-Arlington School of Social Work advisory board, and others.

He and his husband own a restored Recorded Texas Historic Landmark home in Fort Worth's Ryan Place neighborhood where over the years their family has included former foster and foreign exchange kids who remain in their lives as adults.

From their front porch, Joel can still look east and see DFW's southern departures, and dream about where those shiny jets might be headed.