As part of Gulf Coast Community Foundation’s management team, Veronica Thames is a critical partner to the President | CEO in translating Gulf Coast’s goals into its overall operational plan, including department objectives, staff leadership, and performance measures. Veronica also plays a key role on the Community Investment team, creating, planning, and executing bold and proactive initiatives that transform our region. She joined the foundation in 2018.

Veronica is an influential and collaborative leader with proven ability to manage multiple functional areas within a dynamic organization. Prior to Gulf Coast, Veronica served as Vice President of Human Resources at Blake Medical Center, part of Healthcare Corporation of America, for which she had worked since 2006. At Blake she was responsible for key operations and personnel management of a 1,300-employee organization. Her many accomplishments included operating the top-ranked childcare facility in Manatee County and the largest community health and wellness program within HCA nationwide.

Veronica also brings extensive community involvement to her new role in philanthropy. She was a longtime member and former chair of the Sarasota Manatee Healthcare Collaborative, a consortium of employers and educators dedicated to improving workforce development and competitiveness in the region’s healthcare sector. She also served as a board member and volunteer for numerous nonprofit organizations, and she is a 2009 graduate of Leadership Manatee.

Outside of work, Veronica loves spending time with her family, as well as home remodeling, kayaking, and big gatherings (where she doesn’t have to cook!). Fluent in Spanish, she was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and lived and worked across the United States, from Boca Raton to Los Angeles, before planting roots on the Gulf Coast.