

## THE FOUNDERS

The Founders are connected by their children and by the call of the ocean—pulled by the Atlantic and Pacific, three friends were inspired by the sea, even in Kansas. All were successful professionals in a different life, all looking to dip their toe back into creative work. Combining a small investment and their talents of graphic design, product development, and sales, they soon began dedicating their time to creating a gift company based in inspiration.

They were inspired by travel to escape, travel to renew and travel to explore. Knowing their love of the beach, they set about to capture the essence of peace, tranquility, and happiness through scent, color and texture. They wanted to bottle a feeling and transport people with the product. They thought of the travelers, the dreamers, and the doers. They wanted to escape to younger days—when they were carefree at the beach—and bring that feeling back to the children that initially united them, share with their friends, and now, with the world. *Always by the sea.*

### Melanie Bolin

A passion for adventure, books and the ocean pulled Melanie away from her Dallas roots and into a world of West-Coast creativity. After studying in Rome and falling in love with the European aesthetic, she hit LA with a force and never looked back. She worked in advertising, product development, and marketing but always had a dream on the endless horizon for something more—a breath of fresh Pacific Ocean salt air, something she could never abandon.

Melanie believes traveling is a mind-set - and mental travel is sometimes the only way possible –tapping into those moments when one is most relaxed and happy - regardless of location.

*Always up for any travel with friends, Melanie lives in Kansas City with her husband, Pat, and her two teenagers.*

### Lina Dickinson

Born in San Louis Obispo, CA, and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Lina spent her summers on the beach, attending surf camp and eating Juanita's flautas. As was the thing to do, her main summer objective was the perfect tan.

Like other goals she has set for herself, this one, regrettably, was also frequently accomplished.

When it was time for college, Lina found herself captivated by southern accents, tulips and 200-year-old magnolia trees, and she set her sights on Vanderbilt University. After meeting her husband by winning a Nerf basketball challenge, they married and returned close to his Missouri roots. She finished her MBA, started a blog and has mastered the art of ordering packaging peanuts in her spare time.

*Always embracing the good luck they've had with Mer-Sea, Lina lives in Kansas City with her husband, Dan, and their four children.*

Stephanie Lawrence

Growing up in Bethesda, Maryland, Stephanie spent summers near the beach. After learning how to sail, she preferred just simply being at the beach--exploring tidal pools and relaxing in flip-flops with a sun-kissed nose and beach blown hair.

After working for both Conde Nast and Hearst as an Art Director for Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, Stephanie's husband dragged her away from the Atlantic Ocean, to Kansas City. Stephanie loves visiting Maine, Maryland, California and Europe. She has a passion for photography, aesthetics and all things design.

*Always in search of the perfectly-striped shirt to wear to the ocean, Stephanie lives in Kansas City with her husband, Jim, and their two daughters.*