

Philanthropy Forward: Leadership for Change Fellowship

Philanthropy Forward: Leadership for Change Cohort Biographies

Dimple Abichandani **General Service Foundation**

Dimple Abichandani is the Executive Director of the General Service Foundation (GSF), a private foundation that supports organizations advocating for racial and gender justice. Dimple joined General Service Foundation in 2015, bringing almost two decades of experience advancing social justice as a lawyer, funder and educator. Prior to joining GSF, Dimple was the Executive Director of the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice at UC Berkeley School of Law. At the Center, Dimple launched a social justice innovation lab aimed at generating new long-term approaches to persistent social justice challenges and providing law students opportunities to develop skills and mindsets including creativity, empathy, collaboration and social justice problem solving. As the founding program officer of the Security and Rights Collaborative (SRC) at the Proteus Fund, Dimple managed a donor collaborative aimed at challenging post-9/11 Islamophobia and discrimination and restoring civil rights and liberties. Earlier in her career, Dimple worked at Legal Services NYC, first as a staff attorney where she represented low wage workers and later as the Director of Program Development. Dimple currently serves on the board of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and has served on the boards of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, Forward Together and the Third Wave Foundation. Dimple earned a JD at Northeastern University School of Law in 2002, and a BA in English at the University of Texas at Austin. She lives in Oakland, CA with her daughter and partner.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might we deepen the alignment between our institutions? How might we in progressive philanthropy work like we are an eco-system?*

Sharon Alpert **Nathan Cummings Foundation**

Having joined Nathan Cummings Foundation (NCF) in November 2015, Sharon Alpert is the Foundation's fourth president and first female leader. A seasoned philanthropic leader, Sharon has more than 20 years of experience at the intersection of inequality and environmental issues. Previously, Sharon served as the Vice President of Programs and Strategic Initiatives at the Surdna Foundation. Joining Surdna in 2004, Sharon rose from program officer to director of Surdna's Sustainable Environments Program. Having spent more than a decade with the Surdna Foundation, Sharon brings with her



deep experience working with a multi-generational family dedicated to social justice. Her service at the Surdna Foundation was defined by her commitment to collaboration, innovation, and creating a culture of learning. Sharon began her career in philanthropy at the Ford Foundation, where she implemented a cross-portfolio initiative to address inequality in housing, employment and environmental opportunities in Camden, New Jersey. She also reshaped Ford's environmental justice portfolio to focus on next generation leadership from communities of color and the intersection of health and the environment. Previously, Sharon spent eight years in the nonprofit and private sectors. This work included securing millions of dollars of public and private investments for the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation to support affordable housing, energy efficiency and environmental health programs; working with leaders in the environmental justice movement at the Washington Office on Environmental Justice and Natural Resources Defense Council; and serving as a liaison to the Sustainable Communities Taskforce of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. She also worked on Wall Street as the director of marketing for a financial software firm that provided technology solutions to international banks and energy companies. Sharon holds both a master's in public administration and a bachelor's in agricultural, resource and managerial economics from Cornell University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her Canadian husband, Kevin, and their two children, Millie and Jesse.

Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship:

Elizabeth Barajas-Roman
Solidago Foundation

Elizabeth Barajas-Román is the CEO of the Solidago Foundation. For more than 20 years she has been a leader in progressive movements including advocating at the national level for the health and rights of immigrant women and their families. Most recently, she was the CEO of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts, a public foundation that fuels progress toward gender equity through collaborative, multi-year, grantmaking and leadership development. Under her leadership, the Women's Fund was part of several strategic initiatives that resulted in systems-level change impacting about 3 million women and their families. She was previously a manager at The Pew Charitable Trusts, and before that, the Director of Policy at National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health where she opened, and directed, the organization's Washington, D.C.-based office. Elizabeth's leadership has been recognized nationally with a Center for Progressive Leadership Executive Fellowship, an appointment to the American Public Health Association Committee on Women's Rights, and as a board member of the Women's Funding Network. She also serves on the board of directors for an international business startup accelerator, Valley Venture Mentors. She is on the board of trustees for WGBY Public Television, is a steering committee member for New England Women's Policy Initiative, and is a member of the External Advisory Board for the University of Massachusetts-Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy. The Massachusetts Treasurer appointed Elizabeth to serve on the state's Economic Empowerment Trust Fund Board, and the statewide Advisory Board on Wage Equality. She is a Massachusetts-based Business West 40 under 40 awardee, a certified Project Manager Professional (PMP), a graduate of Oberlin College, and received her master's degree in international policy from Harvard University.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might we break down barriers to framing gender within, and alongside, a racial analysis in our field?*

Ned Calonge
The Colorado Trust

Ned Calonge, MD, MPH, is the President and CEO of The Colorado Trust, a private grant-making foundation dedicated to achieving health equity for all Coloradans.

He is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the Colorado School of Medicine, University of Colorado, Denver, and an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health. Nationally, he serves as Vice Chair of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Preventive Services Task Force. He chairs the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Health's Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice and serves on the National Academies' Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity. In 2016, he participated on two National Academies' committees, supporting the release of two major publications: "Communities in Action, Pathways to Health Equity and An Evidence Framework for Genetic Testing", and in 2017 he co-chaired the Academies' study committee on reproductive health services, releasing the report "The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States". Is currently chairing the Academies study committee on evidence-based public health preparedness. Dr. Calonge is past Chair of the United States Preventive Services Task Force, past Chair of CDC's Evaluating Genomic Applications in Practice and Prevention Working Group, past Co-chair of the National Academy of Medicines Genomics in Public Health Action Collaborative and ongoing consultant for and past member of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children. Dr. Calonge serves as a board member for Delta Dental of Colorado, as a board member for Grantmakers in Health, and as a board member and treasurer for the Colorado Association of Funders. Prior to coming to The Trust, Dr. Calonge was the Chief Medical Officer of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Dr. Calonge also served as Chief of the Department of Preventive Medicine for the Colorado Permanente Medical Group and where he also practiced as a family physician for 10 years. He is a past President of the Colorado Medical Board, the state physician regulation board. Dr. Calonge received his BA in Chemistry from The Colorado College, his MD from the University of Colorado and his MPH from the University of Washington. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2011.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How to best center the individuals in communities most affected by inequities in a process that is inclusive of more traditional power-holders.*

Irene Cooper-Basch
Victoria Foundation

Dr. Cooper-Basch joined Victoria Foundation in 2003, and has served as its director since 2006. Victoria Foundation was established in 1924, and for the past 50 years has focused its grantmaking in the city of Newark. With an endowment of \$275 million, the Foundation awards \$11 million in grants annually. Previously, she spent 6 years as the founding program officer for the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, with a grantmaking focus in Newark. Dr. Cooper-Basch holds numerous leadership roles in and around Newark, including as a trustee or advisory board member for the following organizations and collective impact efforts: Newark Trust for Education, Newark City of Learning Collaborative, Safer Newark Council, Newark 2020, Newark Education Funders



Affinity Group, NJPAC, and the Russ Berrie Unsung Hero Awards. Dr. Cooper-Basch is the past Chair of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, and served as the Fundraising Chair for Newark Celebration 350. She holds a bachelor's degree from New York University, a master's from Drew University, and a Ph.D. in Urban Systems from Rutgers University-Newark.

Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might Victoria Foundation best move its work to empower residents and to use a racial justice lens in making grant decisions?*

Farhad A. Ebrahimi
The Chorus Foundation

Farhad Ebrahimi is the President of the Chorus Foundation, which works for a just transition to a regenerative economy in the United States. The Chorus Foundation supports communities on the front lines of the old, extractive economy to build new bases of political, economic, and cultural power for systemic change. Through his work with Chorus, Farhad is most interested in the question of how philanthropy might play a role in putting itself out of business. Which is to say, how can the redistribution of consolidated wealth support the transition to a world in which such wealth is no longer extracted and consolidated in the first place? It is in this context that Chorus will be spending down its entire endowment by 2023. Farhad's family history has been defined by multiple cultures, nationalities, political revolutions, and refugee experiences. To say that his parents talked politics at home when he was growing up would be an understatement, and the experience of being a first-generation Iranian American throughout the 1980s had a profound impact on Farhad in ways that he's still unpacking. These early experiences – combined with a lifelong love of punk and subversive art in general – have defined a political trajectory that's informed both his personal and professional outlook. Farhad serves on the boards of the Democracy Alliance and the Wildfire Project. He's also a musician, a lover of film and literature, and a bicycle snob. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics with Computer Science, and he currently lives in Brooklyn.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship:

- *If our aim is to support organizing efforts that are truly transformative, then how might we identify and pursue the necessary transformations within philanthropy itself.*
- *How might we develop a shared understanding of what "funder organizing" really means – not just fundraising, but the full ecosystem of interventions, including political education, relationship building, training, and leadership development for funders.*

Nicky Goren
Meyer Foundation

Nicky Goren is president and CEO of the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, which pursues and invests in solutions that build an equitable Greater Washington community in which economically disadvantaged people thrive. Founded in 1944, the Meyer Foundation is a leading supporter of local nonprofit organizations serving the DC region. Each year, the Foundation provides grants totaling more than \$7 million to more than 150 organizations working in the interconnected areas of affordable housing, education and workforce development, and financial security. In addition to funding, the Foundation works to build the



capacity of partner organizations, serves as a convener and advocate on critical issues, and promotes cross-sector collective action to advance solutions to community challenges. Before being selected to lead the Meyer Foundation in 2014, Nicky served for four years as president of Washington Area Women's Foundation, which focuses on increasing the economic security of women and girls in the DC region. Prior to joining Washington Area Women's Foundation, Nicky spent 12 years in senior positions at the Corporation for National and Community Service—the nation's largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering. She served as chief of staff from 2006 to 2008 and as acting CEO from 2008 to 2010, overseeing a federal government agency with a staff of 600 and a budget of \$1.1 billion. A graduate of Brandeis University and Cornell Law School, Nicky began her career as assistant general counsel in the Congressional Budget Office, and then served as counsel at the newly established Office of Compliance of the U.S. Congress. She currently serves on the Raise DC Leadership Council; on the boards of the Federal City Council, Trinity Washington University, University of Maryland's Do Good Institute, and Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers; and is a member of Leadership Greater Washington's Class of 2013. In 2016, Nicky was appointed to the DC Rising Leadership Committee by Mayor Muriel Bowser, which advised Mayor Bowser on the selection of a new DC Public Schools Chancellor. Nicky lives in the District with her husband and two sons.

Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might we develop a way to explain racial equity so as to make it an irrefutable imperative within our sector and without, and how might we develop language that speaks to many different audiences and keeps people in the conversation?*

Justin Maxson

Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation

Justin Maxson is the Executive Director of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, a 65-year old foundation that seeks to move people and places out of poverty in the South. The Foundation supports organizations and networks that work across race, ethnic, economic and political differences to make possible a brighter future for all. For 13 years, Justin was President of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, a 43-year-old multi-strategy community economic development organization serving Central Appalachia based in Berea, Kentucky. Before MACED, he was founding Executive Director of the Progressive Technology Project. He holds a Masters in Anthropology from Boston University and a BA from the University of Kentucky.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship:

- *How might we better understand the multiple facets of power building and how racial equity helps marginalized people experience better outcomes?*
- *How might we create a shared analysis, maybe platform, to help others in philanthropy understand the need for systems change work, what strategies work in communities to build power and what roles for philanthropy are most helpful.*
- *How might we better understand the leadership qualities needed to support systems change and racial equity work from a foundation platform?*
- *How might we better understand the role foundations could/should play to support these goals?*

Joan Minieri**Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock**

Joan Minieri is the Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, a national funder of organizing and social justice organizations. She brings to her role in philanthropy, extensive experience in community organizing, popular education, program development, organizational leadership, writing and teaching. Joan came to Veatch in 2016 after serving as the National Program Director for the Community Learning Partnership, where she created degree programs, primarily in community colleges, to expand access to social change careers. She co-authored *Tools for Radical Democracy: How to Organize for Power in Your Community* (Jossey-Bass 2007), an award winning, widely used text in the field and in academic courses. Joan has been on the adjunct faculty at the Columbia University School of Social Work, the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University and a Senior Fellow at the Research Center for Leadership in Action at the Wagner School. Joan co-founded Community Voices Heard (CVH), a powerful Veatch grantee organization of low-income New Yorkers, for which she received a Leadership for a Changing World Award from the Ford Foundation. She began her career as a faith-based community organizer on Manhattan's Lower East Side and went on to coordinate the Catholic Bishops' Campaign for Human Development in the New York Archdiocese. She was founding co-director of Veatch grantee, the New York City Organizing Support Center; Interim Executive Director of the Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing; and Communications Director for the National Religious Partnership for the Environment. Joan holds a master's degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work and a bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College. She lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn with her family.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might we support and challenge one another to be at and bring our fullest capacity to our work, in the roles we play in our institutions?*

Maria Mottola**New York Foundation**

Maria Mottola has been the executive director of the New York Foundation since 2003. She served as a program officer from 1994 to 2002. Prior to joining the foundation, from 1989 to 1994 she was executive director of the City Wide Task Force on Housing Court, a housing advocacy organization that promotes the reform of New York City's Housing Court. As the Task Force's founding director, Ms. Mottola managed the group's transition from a volunteer activist campaign to a fully staffed and funded organization. From 1984 to 1989, Ms. Mottola was the director of neighborhood programs and a community organizer at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, a settlement house on the Eastside of Manhattan. From March 2010 through May 2011, Ms. Mottola acted as an executive-on-loan to Gladys Carrión, the commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Families, working closely with the commissioner and her senior staff on a variety of projects. Ms. Mottola has taught community organizing at New York University School of Social Work, and has been an adjunct instructor at Hunter College Graduate School of Urban Affairs and Planning since 1996. Ms. Mottola was co-chair of the Neighborhood Funders Group, a national affinity group from 2003 to 2006. She currently serves on the boards of the New American Leaders Project and Red Hook Initiative. Ms. Mottola is also a freelance illustrator, and



studies at the Art Students League. She received her undergraduate degree in liberal arts at the University of Toronto and a master's degree in social work from Fordham University.

Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might we inspire deeper engagement of our trustees particularly around shared values and consistency of practice in an unpredictable environment? How might we listen more effectively to groups on the frontlines to understand how philanthropic resources can be most strategically deployed? How might we carve out a role for philanthropic organizations to be more relevant and responsive in challenging times?*

Mike Pratt
Scherman Foundation

Mike Pratt is the President and Executive Director of the NYC-based Scherman Foundation, with annual grant making of over \$5 million. He has primary responsibility for the Foundation's Strengthening New York Communities and Environment programs, works with its arts grantees, and oversees the rest of the Foundation's giving in the areas of Reproductive Justice, Governmental Transparency and Human Rights. He is also the Foundation's Treasurer, overseeing the management of the Foundation's \$130 million endowment. Prior to his appointment as President in 2009, Mike served as the Foundation's program officer, beginning in 1996. Mike entered the world of philanthropy through a one-year fellowship at the Rockefeller Family Fund. Prior to that, he practiced law with the civil division of New York City's Legal Aid Society for ten years, developing expertise in equitable development, federal housing subsidies and landlord tenant law. Earlier, he worked for NYPIRG as a community organizer, later becoming Director of the Straphangers Campaign. He serves as Chair of Philanthropy New York's board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of Pratt Institute, as well as serving on the boards of the New York Foundation, CP & Co, and the Initiative for Neighborhood and City-wide Organizing. He is a past Chair of the Environmental Grantmakers Association. A native New Yorker, Mike lives on the Upper West Side with his wife Carol, a filmmaker and fashion designer, and their two boys, Sam and Julian.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might we connect broad structural change outcomes with a racial equity frame.*

Jocelyn Sargent
Hyams Foundation

Jocelyn Sargent became executive director of the Foundation on August 29, 2016. A co-founder of the Center for Social Inclusion, she has spent the bulk of her career devoted to social equity, leadership development, and advocacy. Her training as a social scientist combined with her impressive experience in philanthropy management and research coalesce perfectly with the Foundation's strategic mission of impacting the racial landscape in Massachusetts and beyond. She brings a professional background in grant making, research and assessment, public policy, and community development that has honed her skills as a philanthropist and social justice advocate. Her most notable work has been with the Open Society Institute in New York, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Michigan, and the Hogg Foundation in Texas.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship:

- *How might we develop collective racial justice strategies through which we align each of our foundation's activities to carry out in support of a larger social and political movement?*
- *How might we explore together what it means for philanthropy as a sector, as well as for our foundations, to support social justice movement building?*
- *How might we explore ways to address inherent contradictions between traditional philanthropic practices and the racial justice mission-based foundations' activities? (willing to unpack this question with the group)*

Pamela Shifman
NoVo Foundation

Pamela Shifman is a passionate and experienced advocate for girls and women's rights, social justice, and transformative philanthropy. She brings this deep commitment to her role as Executive Director of the NoVo Foundation, a private grantmaking foundation based in New York City. Pamela joined the NoVo Foundation in 2008 as the Director of Initiatives for Girls and Women and took on the role of Executive Director in 2014. Pamela came to NoVo Foundation from UNICEF headquarters where she led the organization's efforts to end gender-based violence in conflict-affected settings. Prior to joining the UN, Pamela worked to end violence and discrimination against girls and women in a variety of contexts, including as Co-Executive director of the international women's rights organization Equality Now, and as Legal Advisor to the ANC Parliamentary Women's Caucus in South Africa. A native of Michigan, Pamela holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. When Pamela is not working toward a world free from violence and injustice, she can often be found running around Brooklyn's Prospect Park with her dog Marzipan and drinking copious amounts of coffee with friends.



Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might trust, creativity, and alignment enable us to better resource movements for social change at this moment when the stakes are so high?*

Starksy D. Wilson
Deaconess Foundation

The Reverend Starsky D. Wilson is a pastor, philanthropist and activist pursuing God's vision of community marked by justice, peace and love. He is pastor of Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community), president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation and chair of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy. Deaconess is a faith-based grant making organization devoted to making child well-being a civic priority in the St. Louis region. Since 1998, Deaconess has invested nearly \$80 million to advance its mission. With Rev. Wilson's leadership, the Foundation is building a movement for child well-being through philanthropy, advocacy and organizing. In 2016, Deaconess broke ground on a 20,000 square foot Center for Child Well-being to serve as a collaborative hub for child advocates to open in December 2017. With the Children's Defense Fund, the Foundation opened three new Freedom Schools in the Summer of 2017 hosted by local United Church of Christ congregations. Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community) is an inter-racial, inner-city congregation in St. Louis, affiliated with the United Church of Christ.



Through Saint John's, Wilson has led activism on myriad issues, including youth violence prevention, Medicaid expansion, public school accreditation, voter mobilization, capping payday lending and raising the minimum wage, while more than quadrupling worship attendance and annual giving. He established The Beloved Community Conference to resource social justice ministries and Sojourner's Truth: Celebration of Preaching Women. In 2014, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed Rev. Wilson to lead the Ferguson Commission, a group of citizens empowered to study the underlying conditions and make public policy recommendations to help the region progress through issues exposed by the tragic death of Michael Brown, Jr. In 2015, they released the ground-breaking 'Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity' Report, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility. Wilson was elected chair of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy in 2017. He also serves boards for Chicago Theological Seminary, Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, Let America Vote, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference and the Chancellor's Council for the University of Missouri St. Louis, where he leads the Governance Committee. Under his leadership, the Urban League Young Professionals established St. Louis' annual Young Blacks Give Back community service blitz. Rev. Wilson earned a bachelor of arts in political science from Xavier University of Louisiana, master of divinity from Eden Theological Seminary and is currently completing his doctoral thesis, entitled The Truth of Reconciliation: Leadership for American Apartheid, at Duke Divinity School. For his public theology and ministry, Wilson was awarded doctor of public service and doctor of divinity degrees honoris causa by Saint Louis University and Eden Theological Seminary. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Starsky is married to Dr. LaToya Smith Wilson, a dentist at St. Louis Children's Hospital. They are raising four children in St. Louis.

Possible breakthrough(s) you have interest in exploring with others in the fellowship: *How might we build power to grow and imbed racial justice commitment in the field of philanthropy?*

Philanthropy Forward Team

Sheri Brady is the Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships at Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, whose mission is to support community collaboration that enables communities to effectively address their most pressing challenges. She leads work on field building around collective impact, place based investment, community engagement and equity. Her strong commitment to social and economic justice is reflected in her work. The major theme of her career has been advocating for policies that increase opportunities for communities, children, and families to thrive while securing the existing safety net. This has taken many forms including managing campaigns with child advocates to increase investments in vital programs; helping state legislators develop effective anti-poverty policies; and building the capacity of the nonprofits to engage in advocacy. She currently serves on the boards of the Diverse City Fund, a grantmaking organization that provides grants to local social justice projects; the Paul J. Aicher Foundation/Everyday Democracy, which works to advance deliberative democracy and improve the quality of public life in the United States; and Women's Equity Center and Action Network with the mission to provide women of color with tools and resources to facilitate their engagement in the policymaking that affects their daily lives.



Viveka Chen is an organizational development and transformation consultant, leadership coach, facilitator and trainer. For over 25 years she has worked for social, racial, economic, environmental and gender justice across a spectrum of cultures, communities, movements and sectors. She has designed and facilitated a number of foundation programs bringing together groups of grantees and foundation staff and board working on common issues. Recently, she was the project consultant for the Neighborhood Funders Group Project Phoenix Connecting Democracy, Economy, and Sustainability, a year-long cohort collective learning program for funders. Viveka also specializes in vision and strategy, transformational race equity initiatives, team and peer coaching, leading through change and complexity, leadership transition, and alliance building. In recent years she has been offering innovation practices to her client partners. Viveka brings a strengths-based and cultural humility approach and a deep grounding in emotional and mindfulness practices as a Buddhist teacher. She is affiliated with Management Assistance Group, RoadMap Consulting, CompassPoint, Coaching for Transformation, and is a Ford BUILD program consultant, a Plan and Organizational Consultant with the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Flexible Leadership Award Program and an Organizational Development coach for NoVo Foundation's Move to End Violence Initiative. The proud child of Chinese immigrants, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

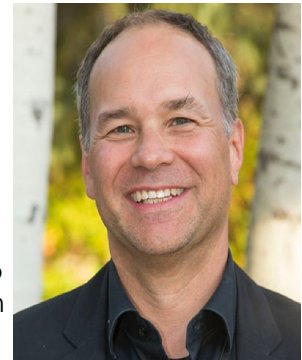


Michelle Gislason MA, is a Leadership and Organizational Development Coach and Consultant living in Seattle, Washington. She is also a network partner with CompassPoint Nonprofit Services and developed several of CompassPoint's leadership programs, including the Coaching and Philanthropy Initiative, the Blue Shield of California Foundation Strong Field Project Leadership Development Program, Network Weaver Learning Lab (NWLL), and the Thriving as an Executive Director series. She is an Organizational Development (OD) coach for the NoVo Foundation's Move to End Violence Initiative and co-author of the award-winning book "Coaching Skills for Nonprofits Managers and Leaders (Jossey-Bass). In addition to being a trainer, consultant, and certified organizational coach, Michelle is a trained facilitator in the Authenticity Circles® peer coaching model and an instructor and teaching associate at University of



Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs. She graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts degree and completed her Master's degree in Organizational Psychology in 2007.

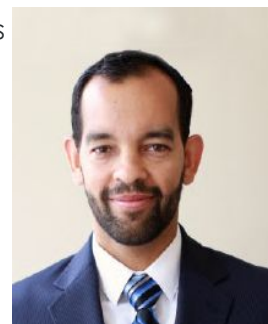
Steve Patrick became the Vice President and Executive Director of the Forum for Community Solutions in November 2012. Prior to joining the Forum for Community Solutions, Steve served as a Senior Program Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. His work at Gates included managing a portfolio of grants focused on supporting opportunity youth on pathways to and through postsecondary education, along with work focused on adult education populations and education for justice involved individuals. Steve also served as a Vice President at the Daniels Fund and as Director of Youth and Emerging Initiatives at the New Mexico Community Foundation. Steve is the Co-founder of Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and spent several years leading youth programs for the San Juan Pueblo Tribe.



Adriana Rocha joined NFG as Vice President of Programs in May 2017. She has worked in social justice for more than 20 years, bringing deep expertise in grantmaking, organizational and network capacity building and non-profit management. Before becoming an independent consultant, Adriana served as a senior manager and practice director for CompassPoint, a national leader in providing capacity building support to social justice leaders and community-based organizations. During her six years at CompassPoint, she led the organization in creating and implementing its theory of change and aligning the organization's systems and culture to achieve its goals. Adriana honed her skills in social justice philanthropy and capacity building while serving as a program officer at the New York Foundation and Director of Grants & Capacity Building at the Just Beginnings Collaborative. She also worked at Community Resource Exchange in New York City where she provided planning, fundraising and board development consulting to community organizing, immigrant, youth and HIV/AIDS organizations. Adriana has served on the boards of the Latino Commission on AIDS, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, and the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training (GIFT). She earned a Bachelor's degree in Politics from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a Master's degree from Columbia University, Social Organizational Psychology Program. Adriana is from Toluca, Mexico.



Dennis Quirin is the President of Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG). NFG is a national membership association of grantmaking institutions who are committed to improving the economic and social conditions of communities of color and low income communities across the US. As President of NFG since July 2013, Dennis has lead an extensive organizational change process that has resulted in doubling the programming and membership of NFG. Dennis comes to this position with two decades of experience as an activist, organizer, fundraiser, and grantmaker working for social change. He has extensive experience working in a variety of roles with nonprofits, designing and implementing strategic programs, and working effectively with diverse stakeholders. Prior to his work at NFG, Dennis designed and led the Race & Equity Collaborative at the Proteus Fund, a multi-city funding strategy supporting the growth of city-level alliances working at the intersection of racial justice and voter engagement. As a bridge builder between sectors and strategies, Dennis has worked with some of the most respected social change organizations and leaders in the county, including the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, SCOPE/AGENDA, Californians for Justice, and California Forward. Dennis began his philanthropic experience working at The San Francisco



Foundation funding hundreds of social justice organizations in the Bay Area. Dennis has served on the boards of Intersection for the Arts, Californians for Justice, Northern California Grantmakers Emergency Loan Fund, Civic Engagement Fund for AMEMSA Communities, and Bay Area Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy. He currently serves as a trustee of the Common Counsel Foundation and as an Advisor to the Bay Area Justice Funders Network.

Kita Urias joined NFG in April 2016 and is the Executive Assistant to the President. She provides administrative assistance to the President and helps to manage the workflow of the Senior Management Team. Kita has supported the launch of several programs at NFG including: Project Phoenix, Amplify Fund, and Philanthropy Forward. She has a background in education and a passion for youth development and social justice. Prior to working at NFG, she taught Pre-Kindergarten and has since welcomed a daughter of her own. Having also worked in property management and marketing, Kita brings over seven years of administrative experience and strong communication, organizational, and troubleshooting skills to NFG. Kita earned a BA in English with a concentration in Education from the University of Texas - San Antonio.

