



ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS ASSOCIATION

PROGRAM COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

Michelle DePass, President and CEO, Meyer Memorial Trust (Fall Retreat Co-Chair)



Michelle J. DePass is the president and chief executive officer of Meyer Memorial Trust. DePass began her career as a community organizer in New York and went onto leadership positions in philanthropy, government, academia and the nonprofit sector. Over three decades, she has distinguished herself as a thought leader at the intersections of social and economic justice, community organizing and political strategy, and progressive philanthropy and academia. She is known as a leader who brings people together, encourages problem solving and makes a meaningful difference for underserved communities and beyond. She is particularly passionate about social, economic and environmental justice for people of color, women, indigenous peoples and low-income communities. DePass holds a bachelor's degree from Tufts University, a Juris Doctor from Fordham Law School, an honorary doctorate from Fordham University and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College, where she was a National Urban Fellow.

Ed Miller, Director, Environment Program, Joyce Foundation (Fall Retreat Co-Chair)



Ed directs the Joyce Foundation's work to address long-term environmental challenges in the Great Lakes region. He manages the Foundation's grants to advance climate solutions in the region, prioritizing policies that simultaneously drive reductions in carbon pollution and create other economic and social benefits. He is a leader among environmental and energy funders in Chicago and across the Midwest. Ed also is co-chair of the board of the Climate and Energy Funders Group, tying Joyce's climate and clean energy work into national and international efforts. Ed has a master's degree in agricultural and natural resource economics and a bachelor's degree in philosophy, both from Stanford University.

Jessica Boehland, Senior Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation (Fall Retreat Board Liaison)



Jessica Boehland works as a Senior Program Officer with The Kresge Foundation's Environment Program, which helps cities build their resilience in the face of climate change. Her work focuses on climate change mitigation, preparedness for the effects of climate change, and social equity. Jessica leads the team's grantmaking and other activities related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy resilience. Prior to joining Kresge in 2008, Jessica served as Managing Editor of *Environmental Building News* and Editor of *GreenSource* magazine. Her writing has appeared in these and numerous other publications. In 2017, Jessica was named among Midwest Energy News' 40 Under 40, recognizing young leaders helping to drive America's transition to clean energy. A LEED-accredited professional, she serves on the boards of the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) and the Funders Network (TFN). Jessica holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Oberlin College and a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



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Kate Barnes, Senior Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation



Kate joined the foundation in 2007. Previously, she worked in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago supporting research on marine and aquatic ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest. Through a fellowship with the Department of Energy, Kate worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration evaluating and responding to threats to the US Great Lakes. As a graduate student, she worked with Oceana to develop and advocate science-based policies for reducing fisheries by-catch and protecting threatened marine species. Kate holds a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University, and a bachelor of arts in Biological Science from Smith College.

Michael Brown, Chief Architect of Civic Commons, Seattle Foundation



Michael Brown is the Chief Architect of Civic Commons, a new regional civic infrastructure of Seattle Foundation aimed at uniting more community voices in decision-making to advance racial and economic equity. Most recently, Michael served as the Foundation's Vice President of Community Programs, where he oversaw the Foundation's community impact efforts, strategic grantmaking initiatives, convening activities, and impact investing program. A native of New Orleans, Michael received his Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Loyola University (New Orleans). Michael received Grantmakers in Health's 2018 Terrance Keenan Leadership Award in Health Philanthropy, which recognizes outstanding health grantmakers whose work is distinguished by leadership, innovation, and outstanding achievement. He is a co-chair of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy's 2019 NCRP Impact Awards Selection Committee. Michael is also an American Marshall Memorial Fellow and a graduate of Leadership Tomorrow.

Deborah Burke, Program Officer, Rockefeller Brothers Fund



Deborah Burke is a program officer for the Fund's Sustainable Development program, focusing on advancing the clean energy economy and movement building. She has extensive legislative experience from three terms as the senior policy advisor to Oregon State Representative Jules Bailey. In this role, she made direct contributions to lasting clean energy and low-carbon state policies in Oregon. Prior to joining the RBF, Ms. Burke was part of the research team at New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. In 2012, Ms. Burke was honored to support West Lancashire Member of Parliament Rosie Cooper as a parliamentary researcher in the United Kingdom's House of Commons. She serves on the board of PACENation, a national organization leading the charge to make energy efficiency, renewable energy, and resiliency an option for all building owners. Ms. Burke holds a M.P.A. in nonprofit and public management and policy from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, and a B.A. in political science from Portland State University's School of Urban Affairs.



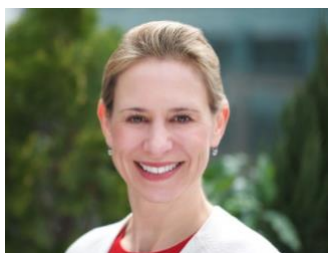
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Sarah Christiansen, Program Director, Solidago Foundation



Sarah leads the Environmental Justice and Inclusive Economy portfolios at the Solidago Foundation and its affiliated foundations focused on the nexus of climate, front-line impacted communities and politics. She has worked across different continents in community organizing, and is a policy driver committed to more socially just and environmentally sound solutions. A Fulbright scholar with an M.S. in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology, Sarah co-founded and currently serves as co-chair, of the Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund at the Democracy Alliance. She is a former board co-chair of Engaged Donors for Global Equity (EDGE), and a former Senior Program Officer at the World Wildlife Fund. An advocate of public education, she is an elected school official in the western hills of Massachusetts. Sarah is the parent of two fabulous kids, 11 chickens, 1 dog and a cabinet of preserves replenished annually.

Kate Sinding Daly, Executive Director, NorthLight Foundation



Kate Sinding Daly is the Executive Director of NorthLight Foundation. Prior to her current role, she was senior advisor to the president of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and, before that, a senior attorney and deputy director of NRDC's New York program. Before she joined NRDC in 2006, she was a partner in the specialty environmental law firm of Sive, Paget & Riesel, P.C. Kate has taught environmental law at Columbia University and Fordham University. She is a graduate of New York University School of Law, the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University, and Barnard College. Kate is an avid outdoorswoman and enjoys spending time with her family exploring new destinations.

Ogonnaya Dotson-Newman, Program Officer, The JPB Foundation



Ogonnaya Dotson Newman is a program officer in the Environment program at The JPB Foundation. JPB's mission is to advance opportunity in the US through transformational initiatives that empower those living in poverty, enrich and sustain our environment, and enable pioneering medical research. JPB's Environment program enables resilient communities to benefit the health and well-being of low-income and underserved communities. Ogonnaya manages the environmental health portfolio focused on detoxifying natural systems and the build environment by eliminating indoor and outdoor pollutants. Ogonnaya comes to JPB with years of experience in community-based participatory research, partnership and collaboration for organizing around complex environmental issues, and environmental justice. Most recently, Ogonnaya was the Assistant Director of Public Housing and Health based at the New York City Housing Authority and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Ogonnaya holds a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Environmental Health and a certificate in Health Geoinformatics.



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Shawn Escoffery, Executive Director, The Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation



Shawn Escoffery is the Executive Director of the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation – the foundation invests in innovative solutions and community leaders to build a more just, equitable and sustainable world in which all people thrive. Prior to joining RPDDF Shawn directed the Strong Local Economics program at the Surdna Foundation – a nationally focused family foundation with over \$1 billion dollars in assets. In this role, Shawn worked to support the development of robust and sustainable economies that include a wide range of businesses, equitable economic policy and access to quality jobs. As an urban planner with over 15+ years of experience, Shawn has worked on community economic development and affordable housing projects in Newark, Baltimore and New Orleans. Shawn holds a BA in Political Science and English from Rutgers and a Master's of City Planning from MIT. He also holds certificates in Communications and International Relations, Urban Redevelopment and Effective Leadership from Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pennsylvania and Duke University, respectively.

Chung-Wha Hong, Executive Director, Grassroots International



Chung-Wha Hong is the Executive Director of Grassroots International. As a global justice advocacy and grantmaking organization, Grassroots International connects progressive donors in the US, to high-impact social movements in the Global South. For over 25 years, Chung-Wha has worked on a range of social justice issues locally and internationally, through organizing, policy advocacy, coalition building and philanthropy. Named by the New York Magazine as one of the most Influential People in Politics, Chung-Wha helped to build the political clout of New York State's immigrant communities through a comprehensive civic engagement program, and helped to win numerous legal, social and economic rights and benefits for those communities. Chung-Wha's past activism includes working on health care, worker rights and human rights issues at the New York Immigration Coalition, Campaign to Save Public Hospitals, National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance AFL-CIO and the Korea Information Project.

Deanna James, President, St. Croix Foundation



Deanna James was named President of the St. Croix Foundation for Community Development in February of 2019. She served as Executive Director since 2014. She has held a number of executive level positions at the Foundation during her 15 year tenure, overseeing general operations, grantmaking, and program development. Deanna works intimately with almost every local public sector agency, a cadre of private sector partners, and a host of civic organizations throughout the Territory. She also serves on a number of Governmental councils and advisory boards. Today, Deanna is leading the Foundation in fulfilling its core philanthropic mission, with an ambitious programmatic agenda focusing on the Territory's social transformation through strategic initiatives surrounding whole-system education reform, workforce development and civic capacity building. Deanna is a native of the Virgin Islands, is a certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR), and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Lehigh University as well as a Master of Arts degree in Public Communications from American University in Washington D.C. She has held a number of positions in Public Relations and Human Resources in the Virgin Islands and on the U.S. mainland.



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Gabriel Jones, Senior Associate, Arabella Advisors



Gabriel Jones is a Senior Associate at Arabella Advisors. Gabriel works with institutional foundations, families, and individuals to develop impact-driven strategies, implement effective grantmaking practices, and evaluate grantmaking outcomes. He supports Arabella's portfolio of conservation and climate-related projects, including managing the implementation of a \$4 million participatory grantmaking fund that supports grassroots organizations advancing environmental and climate justice across the US. Prior to joining Arabella, Gabriel was the Membership and Equitable Initiatives Coordinator for the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA). Before joining EGA, Gabriel was a member of the inaugural cohort in the Environmental Fellows Program in 2016. He was placed at the University of Michigan for his fellowship, where he worked with the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program to develop DEI curriculum for undergraduates and cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders. Gabriel is on the Steering Committee for the Chicago chapter of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, and he is a member of the Crossroads Fund 2020 Giving Project cohort.

Stephanie Goodrid Lawson, Executive Director, McKinney Family Foundation



Stephanie is the Executive Director of the McKinney Family, where she leads grant programs focused on sustainability, resilience, climate solutions, environmental justice, capacity building, environmental education and strengthening democracy. Through strategic partnerships MFF advocates for environmental justice, seeks to conserve natural resources and empower Indiana communities to live in a healthier, more prosperous and more sustainable manner. She has presented at the Climate Infrastructure Forum in Barcelona, Spain, the Bloomberg Philanthropies American Cities Climate Challenge Partners Meeting in New York and the Climate and Energy Funders Group annual meeting. She is a member of the adjunct faculty at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Stephanie's previous experience has been in public health, human rights and advancement. Stephanie holds an MPA in nonprofit management from the Indiana University O'Neil School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a BA in global public health, international affairs and political science from The George Washington University.

Stephen Love, Program Officer, Cleveland Foundation



Stephen Love joined the Foundation in 2014 as part of the community responsive grantmaking team. In this capacity, Stephen also managed the Foundation's Summer Internship Program and oversaw implementation of the Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellowship. In 2018, Stephen became the Foundation's Environment Program Officer, overseeing development of an Environmental Grantmaking strategy, including efforts to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the parks and greenspaces we enjoy by supporting policies and practices that link environmental protection, climate action, health, equity and economic prosperity. Prior to joining the foundation in 2014, Stephen worked for the Cuyahoga Land Bank, researching and compiling property data for vacant property reuse opportunities as part of the President's Special Projects team. Additionally, he served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. Stephen founded a volunteer beach cleanup and advocacy effort directed at improving Euclid Beach Park. Previously, he served on the board of directors of the Cleveland Lakefront Conservancy and the Northeast Shores Development Corporation.



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Ursula Miniszewski, Director of Gender and Equity, Global Greengrants Fund



Ursula brings experience working on human rights and environmental justice issues in Africa, and Latin America, and she has worked in several organizations as an advocate for gender equity in development projects. She is an adjunct professor in the Master of Development Practice program at Regis University, a contributing author of the award-winning publication "Climate Justice and Women's Rights", and a frequent speaker at conferences about equity in environmental and climate financing. Ursula holds a M.A. in International Studies and a B.A. in History.

John Mitterholzer, Senior Program Officer, George Gund Foundation



John Mitterholzer is the Foundation's senior program officer for the environment. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2008, he was a program officer at The Cleveland Foundation. John is the former chair of the Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, the current co-chair of the Climate and Energy Funders Group and an active member of the Environmental Grantmakers Association.

He holds a B.A. in history from Baldwin Wallace University and an M.A. in history from the University of Memphis.

Chad Poitra, Grants/Contracts/Charitable Giving Coordinator, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community



Chad Poitra is the Grants/Contracts/Charitable Giving Coordinator for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), a federally recognized, sovereign Native American tribe located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. In this role, Chad facilitates the tribe's donations and grants program, which has donated more than \$350 million to organizations and causes since the 1990s. Prior to joining the SMSC in 2018, Chad served as the Community & Business Diversity Specialist for the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. There he oversaw the development, implementation and evaluation of the Prosperity Initiative, a business development program serving diverse communities in 20 counties in southern Minnesota. An enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Chad has worked with tribes and Native-led organizations for decades,

serving as an American Indian Community Liaison for three Minnesota school districts, a realty specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and as a business development consultant working with tribal nations and Native-owned businesses.



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Neelima Shah, Program Officer, Bullitt Foundation



Neelima Shah is passionate about protecting the natural environment and reducing human impact on it. Prior to joining the Bullitt Foundation in 2010, Neelima managed the environment and civic charitable investments for The Boeing Company in the Northwest Region. During that time, she developed the company's local grantmaking strategies in these areas and worked to leverage dollars with the power of employee and volunteer efforts. Prior to Boeing, Neelima was the Program Officer at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation where she worked with U.S. organizations on International Affairs Education, Environment and Public Service as well as Russian human rights NGOs. Neelima is a 2005 American German Marshall Fund Fellow and a 2004 World Affairs Council Fellow. She earned her Master's of Public Administration at the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs in 2002 and taught a grant proposal writing class there in 2006. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, San Diego in Political Science with minors in Theater and Women's Studies. Neelima finds the most enjoyable aspects of this job include her ability to build relationships with grantees, local government, and other funders as well as the many learning opportunities.

Marilyn Waite, Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation



Marilyn Waite is a Program Officer in Environment at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Marilyn manages the foundation's grantmaking on climate and clean energy finance with the ambitious goal of addressing climate change by accelerating the transition to a climate-friendly economy. Marilyn has worked across four continents in venture investment, startups, and low-carbon energy. She previously led the clean energy practice at Village Capital, where she sourced and performed due diligence for early-stage startups solving energy challenges and built a network of 1,000-plus clean tech entrepreneurs, investors, corporations, and government stakeholders. As a senior research fellow at Project Drawdown, she modeled and forecasted energy solutions to climate change. Marilyn led several operational and research and development projects at AREVA in France, including performing technical and economic studies in the energy-water nexus and the nuclear energy cycle. Author of *Sustainability at Work*, Marilyn serves on the board of directors for the Biomimicry Institute and lectures on sustainable business at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. She is an E2 1 Hotels Fellow, and as such, her work and writing highlights opportunities in women-led, green economy startups throughout the country. She holds a bachelor's of science degree in civil and environmental engineering, magna cum laude, from Princeton University and a master's degree with distinction in engineering for sustainable development from the University of Cambridge.