



ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS ASSOCIATION

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

2019 Federal Policy Briefing

Helen Chin, *Surdna Foundation*



Helen Chin serves as the Program Director for Sustainable Environments at the Surdna Foundation. The Sustainable Environments Program focuses on “next generation infrastructure” to improve transit systems, advance energy systems, better manage our water systems and rebuild regional food systems. Focusing on urban areas and their surrounding suburbs, the program supports solutions that connect and improve these infrastructure systems in ways that maximize positive impacts and minimize negative environmental, economic and social consequences. She holds a Master of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University and received her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Marketing at Pace University. Helen serves on the board of the Environmental Grantmakers Association.

Jane Danowitz, *Pew Charitable Trusts*



Jane Danowitz is principal officer, board management, for the Pew Charitable Trusts where she oversees the drafting and production of strategy papers, policy initiatives, and research proposals for the institution’s program initiatives. She also has served as director of Pew’s U.S. public lands program, which seeks to preserve America’s wildlands through federal legislative and regulatory initiatives including directing an effort to revitalize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and serving as head of the Women’s Campaign Fund where she helped to increase significantly the number of women holding elective office. She also has been a senior aid in the District of Columbia government and a legislative assistant on Capitol Hill. Danowitz currently serves as secretary of the board of the Chesapeake Conservancy, an Annapolis-based non-profit organization that helped create the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the country’s first federally designated water-based trail. She holds a B.A. in American History from Cornell University, and a J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America.

Lexi Fisher, *The David Rockefeller Fund*



Lexi Fisher is Program Manager of the David Rockefeller Fund, a fifth-generation family foundation, and oversees grantmaking programs for climate, criminal justice reform, and the arts.

Lexi brings 10 years of nonprofit experience to the Fund. She previously managed a career mentoring program for unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers at StreetWise Partners, where she was responsible for strengthening the pipeline of program participants and referral partners. Prior to that, Lexi led program expansion and strategic growth at Dress for Success, an organization that helps women enter and reenter the workforce. She currently serves on the Steering Committee of

Philanthropy New York's Justice Reform Working Group. A West Virginia native, Lexi holds a B.S. in Journalism from Ohio University and a M.S. in Global Affairs from New York University. She spent two years in Honduras with the Peace Corps as a Youth Development volunteer. Other professional experience includes working with human trafficking survivors in Nepal.

Moira McDonald, *Walton Family Foundation*



Moira is a senior program officer for the Environment Program, leading the foundation's Mississippi River and coastal initiatives. Moira has more than 18 years' experience in wetlands and freshwater conservation and previously managed Mississippi River and Great Lakes programs at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Before joining Walton, she worked at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation where she was involved in a range of issues including the habitat work on the Mississippi River and water quality work in the Great Lakes. Moira received her undergraduate degree in environmental science and Russian studies from Brown University and has a master's and a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Minnesota.

Paul Wolfe, *Walton Family Foundation*

Paul is a program officer at the Walton Family Foundation for the Environment Program, where he works closely with the Mississippi River initiative on supply chain and Farm Bill policy. Before joining the foundation, Paul worked for the National Sustainable Agriculture Campaign focusing on crops insurance, agricultural conservation and climate change. He's also worked on sustainability and food issues in the U.S. Senate for Senators Maria Cantwell and Tim Johnson.



Paul holds a J.D. from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law and a B.A. in political science from Gonzaga University.

Michael Northrop, Rockefeller Brothers Fund



Michael Northrop is the program director for the Sustainable Development grantmaking program at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund where he focuses on climate change and energy. Northrop has been a lecturer at Yale University's Forestry and Environmental Studies School for the last 14 years, where he has taught a course on environmental policy campaigns. Previously he was executive director of Ashoka, an international development organization that supports "public sector entrepreneurs" and an analyst at First Boston, an investment bank in New York City. Northrop serves on New York City's Sustainability Advisory Board, on the city's Waterfront Advisory Board, and on the boards of the Rainforest Action Network, Inside Climate News, and Princeton-in-Asia. Northrop has a Master of Public Administration from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, where he was an English major as an undergraduate.

Trellis Stepter, Mertz Gilmore Foundation



Trellis Stepter serves as program officer for the Mertz Gilmore Foundation's Democratic Values and Climate Change Solutions programs. Trellis brings 15 years' experience working on racial, social, and economic justice policy in the public and philanthropic sectors. Trellis served as the program officer for Money in Politics at the Piper Fund, a funder collaborative and initiative of the Proteus Fund. In 2011, he was selected to participate in a yearlong distinguished fellowship program at the Proteus Fund to engage diverse and entrepreneurial leaders to enter the field of philanthropy. Previously, Trellis worked in public service in both the executive and legislative branch. He served as Director of Government Affairs for the Secretary of Transportation in the administration of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. He also served as chief of staff to the Assistant Majority Leader in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Originally from New Orleans, Trellis is a graduate of the Juilliard School Drama Division.

Darryl Young, Summit Foundation



Darryl Young is the Director of Sustainable Cities at the Summit Foundation, which supports projects that advance ecologically, socially and economically sustainable community and city design. Previously, Darryl served as the Director of the California Department of Conservation, a \$1.2 billion agency responsible for one of the nation's largest and most successful recycling programs. He has also been the President of the National Recycling coalition, Chief Consultant to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the National Media Director for the Sierra Club. He currently serves on the boards of the Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities as well as The Story of Stuff Project.