

## 2019 National Forum on Family Philanthropy Planning Committee Bios

### Committee Co-Chairs:



**Sparks** values and is deeply committed to promoting equity in the nonprofit and for-profit social impact sectors based on her experience as a queer, multi-racial, next generation, woman in the field of philanthropy. She is currently Executive Director of the Masto Foundation, a US-based family foundation rooted in the Japanese-American community. Prior to taking on the leadership of her family's foundation, Sparks worked in philanthropy for 12 years and founded Queer Leaders in Philanthropy, a national network of philanthropic professionals focused on changing the culture of philanthropy to be more empowering of LGBTQ communities. Sparks has a BA from Vassar College, an MSW from UC Berkeley and just completed her MBA at the University of Washington. She currently lives in San Francisco and travels up to Washington State regularly for work with the Foundation.



**Doug Bitonti Stewart** has dedicated his career to philanthropy serving organizations such as Michigan State University, Michigan Nonprofit Management Institute, the Arthritis Foundation, Children's Hospital of Michigan and as Director of Development for Children's and Women's Health at the University of Michigan Health System.

In early 2007, Doug became the first executive director of the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation. In his position Doug has the privilege of helping the Fisher family further their philanthropic legacy by working with partners making the most meaningful shared impact to strengthen and empower children and families in need.

While dedicating time to finding and instilling a new name for the sector and changemakers he's dedicated his career to, Doug is a member of a number of for-impact (one possible name for the sector to reflect its chief aim, as opposed to what it is not) boards including the International Jewish Funders Network; Grow Detroit's Youth Talent summer jobs initiative, is past chair of The League Michigan of the Michigan Nonprofit Association; Impact Squared Advisory Committee; and the 2014 - 2016 American Express NGen Leadership Award Selection Committees.

Doug further serves the for-impact sector on the advisory committee for the newly launched Israel Center for Family Philanthropy. Doug is grateful to also serve as a guest lecturer in the Org Studies program and the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and in the Principled Leadership Initiative at Ohio State University.

### Additional Committee Members:



**Julie Berrey** is Executive Director and board member of the John and Wauna Harman Foundation, a small, private family foundation focused on improving end-of-life care in the U.S. The Foundation was created in 1999 in honor of John “Jack” and Wauna Harman. Jack and Wauna started from humble beginnings and quietly amassed a sizeable estate in apple orchards, KFC franchises, and other business enterprises in Yakima, Washington. The Foundation trustees are committed to stewarding Jack and Wauna’s legacy in a way that honors their compassion and down-to-earth values.



**David Daniels** is Chief Operating Officer for the Bainum Family Foundation. Daniels has been with BFF for more than six years, serving as vice president of operations and organizational effectiveness for the past 18 months. He was first hired in 2012 as director of BFF’s boarding and day school program. Daniels served in this position for three years before moving up to the position of senior director of program operations. A little over a year later he became the foundation’s senior director of all operations. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2012, David was a school principal and administrator in Maryland and Ohio. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from Franklin University and a Bachelor’s degree in Counseling Psychology from Columbia Union College, and is pursuing a doctorate in Business Administration from Wilmington University.



**Reginald Jones**, President of the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation since 2011, joined the foundation in 2003 as Executive Director. Prior to joining JCNI, Jones served as President of Chicago-based Steans Family Foundation, a philanthropy committed to revitalizing North Lawndale, a disinvested community on Chicago's west side. Jones worked extensively with culturally diverse residents and partner organizations to undertake ambitious neighborhood revitalization efforts, including plans for a multi-million-dollar school and family services campus. As the leader of the Foundation, Reginald worked with community residents and organizations, political leaders, and private entities to foster understanding of the organization’s intent, seek input, and build collaboration for neighborhood improvement. He worked with land-use planners, housing and retail developers, human service agencies, and other entities to foster comprehensive community improvement activity. He guided the Board of Trustees in the development of plans that enabled the Foundation to understand the present and future needs of the community and to make prudent decisions in the use of the Foundation’s resources.



**Barbara D. Kibbe** joined the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation as director of the Effectiveness team in 2013. In this role, she is responsible for fostering a culture of continuous learning, improvement, innovation, and strategic risk-taking.

Barbara works with program staff to enhance grantmaking practices for impact and to develop grantee effectiveness and sustainability. She comes to the Foundation with 25 years of experience in philanthropy as an executive, a consultant, a grantmaker, and a foundation program director working with family, private, corporate, and community foundations. Barbara is co-author of *Succeeding with Consultants* and *Grantmaking Basics*. In 2010, she co-authored *What's Next for Philanthropy*. She is a founder of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO), an organization dedicated to building knowledge, promoting learning, and encouraging dialogue on nonprofit and grantmaker effectiveness. Barbara holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art from Wagner College and a Juris Doctor degree from Brooklyn Law School.



**Barrett Coker Krise** is Senior Philanthropic Officer for the Community Foundation Greater Atlanta. Barrett works with individuals and families to reach their philanthropic giving goals. Prior to joining the Foundation, Barrett worked with Fernbank Museum of Natural History and the Atlanta Opera. Barrett is a member of the Junior League of Atlanta, a member of the Association of

Fundraising Professionals and an alumna of the LEAD Class of 2008, a program of Leadership Atlanta. Barrett is a CAP® Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy. She received her B.A. from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. A fourth-generation native of Atlanta, Barrett lives in the historic neighborhood of Cabbagetown with her husband, Eddie and daughter Vivian.



**Gilbert Miller** serves as the Board Chair of the Bradley-Turner Foundation, a 5th generation foundation. He has been involved with the work of the Beloco Foundation for over a decade and a half, formally joining as a trustee in 2000. The grandson of its founder of Beloco, Gilbert has prioritized defining the foundation's mission and strengthening governance. He is also a trustee of W.C.

Bradley Company, Epworth-by-the-Sea, and Andrew College. Gilbert is also the board chair of the Southeastern Council of Foundations. While not in the boardroom, Gilbert manages Kimi Farms Christmas Trees and is working on a series of children's books based on his life in the South. A graduate of the University of Georgia, Gilbert continues to be involved at his alma mater, serving on the Dean's Council of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. He and his wife, Jamee, have two sons, William (5) and Benjamin (2).



**Mary Mountcastle** is a trustee of the Z. Smith Reynolds and Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundations, a board member of Demos, and has served on the boards of numerous state and national organizations. She is former board chair of the National Center for Family Philanthropy, and in 2018 was named as an NCFP Distinguished Fellow. Previously, Mary was a senior manager at Self-Help, the

nation's largest nonprofit community development lender, and served in senior positions at the

Center for Responsible Lending and MDC Inc, a nonprofit policy research center as well as other private and public sector organizations. Mary holds an MBA from the Yale School of Management and a BA from Williams College.



**Kelly Davenport Nowlin**, a fifth generation member of the Andrus family, was elected as a Surdna Foundation trustee in 2010. She chairs the committees of the Andrus Family Program (AFP) and Centennial Working Group. As chair of the AFP, Kelly is responsible for outreach to, and engagement of close to 500 living descendants of Surdna founding patriarch, John E. Andrus. Kelly also was responsible for guiding the development of activities marking Surdna's 100th

anniversary.

Prior to her board service at Surdna, Kelly was a founding board member of the Andrus Family Fund (AFF), an independent grantmaker launched by Surdna in 2000 as a grantmaking fund for fifth generation family members. She helped develop the fund, including program areas, governance and bylaws, mission and strategic vision, and committees of the board. Kelly served as Vice Chair, then Co-Chair for four years of her seven-year term. Kelly is a board member of the National Center for Family Philanthropy, and was appointed an NCFP Fellow in 2018.

Currently, Kelly is Principal of KDN Philanthropy Consulting, and advises family foundations and non-profit organizations on next generation engagement, governance, organizational culture and communications strategies. Kelly is an honors graduate of Boston College with a BA in Communications and currently lives in Hopkinton, Massachusetts with her husband and two teenage children.



**Jim Parsons** is the President of The Brinson Foundation, a private family foundation based in Chicago which supports education and scientific research programs. Jim is a past chair of the Board of Directors of Forefront (formerly Donors Forum), where he continues to serve on the Development, Membership & Communications and Policy Committees. Jim is a member the Board of the Directors of the National Center for Family Philanthropy and the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Architecture Foundation. He also chairs the Board of Advisors of the Morton Arboretum and serves on the Leadership Council of the Chicago Public Education Fund and the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council. He previously served on the Board of Trustees of Denison University and is a life trustee and former Board chair of The Community House, a social services agency located in west suburban Chicago. Prior to his career in philanthropy, Jim practiced law at the Chicago law firm of Gardner, Carton & Douglas (now Drinker, Biddle & Reath) where he also served as Managing Partner. Jim received his law degree from The University of Chicago and his undergraduate degree from Denison University.



**Sharmila Rao Thakkar**, MPH, MPA, is a philanthropy and nonprofit consultant at SRT Advising & Consulting in New York City. Utilizing expertise in leadership development, program implementation, resource development and communications, she advises clients on operations, strategy, board governance and development, multigenerational engagement, grantmaking and community

outreach activities. She is also an affiliate consultant with the Support Center, an adjunct associate instructor in the nonprofit management master's program in the School of Professional Studies at Columbia University in New York, a 21/64 certified trainer in multigenerational philanthropy, Exponent Philanthropy peer coach, and mentor for philanthropy/nonprofit leadership development programs. Prior, Sharmila was appointed the first non-family executive director of The Siragusa Family Foundation in Chicago, where she directed the operational, programmatic and administrative functions of the organization, participating in all roles key to running a charitable endeavor. She guided board funding decisions and evaluated programs in health, social services, education and the arts for youth/families, provided capacity building and technical assistance to 100+ nonprofit grantee partners, built the board's professionalism including recruitment and assessment, engaged the next generations in their leadership development, and provided strategic direction on grantmaking and grantee outreach and community partnership initiatives.



**Patrick Troska** has been with The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota since October 2000, and was named Executive Director in January 2011. In 2018, he was promoted to President. In addition to providing leadership for the Foundation's overall strategy, he also has primary responsibility for grantmaking and initiatives for the Foundation's *Small Business and*

*Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in North Minneapolis* focus area. During his tenure with the Foundation, he first served as a Program Officer, before being promoted to Senior Program Officer with responsibilities to oversee all aspects of the Foundation's annual grantmaking program. In the late 1990's, he was a Fund Distribution and Community Initiatives Manager for the United Way of the Saint Paul Area. Patrick began his career in youth services where he held several positions with the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and Minnesota Children's Museum. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in theology and social work from St. John's University in Collegeville MN, and holds a Master of Arts in Leadership from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. In June 2009 he completed a fellowship in public policy at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. He chaired the board of directors of the Minnesota AIDS Project from 2010-12, and chaired the Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative from 2015-2017. He currently sits on the board of directors of the Association for Black Economic Power, which is charged with opening Village Financial Cooperative, the only Black-led credit union in Minnesota. Patrick currently resides in Minneapolis, MN.



**Urvashi Vaid** is an attorney and organizer whose leadership in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and social justice movements spans legal, advocacy, philanthropic, and grassroots organizations. Vaid is CEO of The Vaid Group LLC, a social innovation firm that works with global and domestic organizations to advance equity, justice and inclusion. From 2011-2015, Vaid was

Senior Fellow and Director of the Engaging Tradition Project at Columbia Law School's Center for Gender and Sexuality Law. Prior to joining Columbia, Vaid was Senior Fellow at the City University of New York Graduate Center. From 2005-2010, Vaid was Executive Director of the Arcus Foundation, a global funder of LGBT human rights and great ape conservation. She served as Deputy Director of the Governance and Civil Society Unit of the Ford Foundation from 2001-2005. Over a ten year period, Vaid worked at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (now the

LGBTQ Task Force), serving as its Executive Director and Director of its think tank, the Policy Institute. As staff attorney at the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Vaid initiated the group's work on HIV/AIDS in prisons.

Vaid is the author of *Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics* (2012); and *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Lesbian and Gay Liberation* (1996). She co-edited, with John D'Emilio and William Turner, an anthology titled *Creating Change: Public Policy, Sexuality and Civil Rights* (2000). She is co-author, with Catherine Hanssens, Aisha-Moodie Mills, Andrea Ritchie, Dean Spade, of *A Roadmap for Change: Federal Policy Recommendations Addressing the Criminalization of LGBT people and People living with HIV* (Columbia Law School, 2014). She is founder and Board member of LPAC, the lesbian SuperPAC; a co-founder of the Creating Change Conference; Board member of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund and a former Board member of the Gill Foundation, a leading funder of LGBT rights in the US. Vaid is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and Vassar College.



**June Wilson**, executive director emeritus and board member of the Quixote Foundation, combines her talent as a dancer and choreographer with the operational expertise of a COO and strategic acumen of a CEO. She understands people's physical and emotional interactions within a literal, conceptual or practical space and can quickly translate what she sees into strategic systems. Her unique approach has strengthened nonprofits like the Minnesota Dance Alliance in Minneapolis and the National Performance Network in New Orleans. At Quixote she artfully guided the design and implementation of their "Spend Up" approach to operating within a strategic lifespan and transformed the foundation's commitment to racial equity. She looks forward to her next stage, where she'll continue to translate movement into meaningful patterns for those working for social change. June was appointed as a Fellow of the National Center for Family Philanthropy in 2018.



**Ellie Frey Zagel** is 3rd Generation, Vice Chair and Trustee of her family's foundation the Frey Foundation based in Grand Rapids, MI. For nearly a decade she has been deeply involved in working with the next generation of family business, family philanthropy, and family wealth, first as Director of the Family Business Alliance and now as President of Successful Generations, a company she recently founded. Ellie also serves as chair of the advisory committee for NCFP's 2020 Trends in Family Philanthropy Study.