



Philanthropic Spend Down: A Retreat Sponsored by the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation

October 14-15

This intimate gathering is for board members and senior staff of foundations that are considering or have decided to spend down their assets. Come with concerns and engage with experts and peers to learn about successful approaches and troubleshoot key challenges. Time will be spent in peer learning focused on exits and impact, stakeholder communication, talent development, and family connections, as well as the legacy of learning.

October 14

9am- 9:45am PT/ Noon-12:45 pm ET Welcome & Introduction

Join us for a brief welcome and ground rules. We will have small group discussions to get to know other participants from registration data and by connecting with peers about your reasons for attending the retreat.

Facilitated by NCFP Staff; small group discussions led by all faculty

9:45–10:15 am PT/ 12:45–1:15 pm ET | Data Deep Dive: The Latest Research on Strategic Lifespan

Join experts from Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors to hear about their latest research on strategic time horizons in philanthropy, featuring trends, experiences and insights from and for funders at different points on their spend-down journey. Learn more about how foundations and families view and approach their philanthropic timelines, including key strategic and operational considerations, lessons learned and next generation engagement in this work. During this engaging and dynamic conversation, we will further explore the field and practice of time-limited philanthropy, as well the great diversity of spend-down foundations and approaches.

Facilitated by Olga Tarasov and Kalyah Ford

10:15 - 11:00 am PT/ 1:15pm - 2:00pm ET: A Conversation with Lauren B. Dachs of the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation

Join us for a conversation with Lauren Dachs, a family leader, foundation president, and board member of her family's foundation. The S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation will be closing this year. During this fireside chat with NCFP President & CEO Nick Tedesco, you will learn about her journey, experiences, and lessons learned.

11:00 - 11:15am PT/ 2:00-2:15pm ET Break

11:15 am - 12:15pm PT/ 2:15 -3:15pm ET Breakout Sessions

Option A: Talent Development and Retention

Growing and retaining staff and momentum while closing can be a challenge, even if it is years away. How do you keep staff engaged? How do you keep morale positive and staff members focused on the work while also supporting them in considering future career steps? Talk with senior leaders about lessons learned and share your own concerns and questions.

Facilitated by Barbara Kibbe and June Wilson

Option B: Family Connectedness: Enduring Relationships after the Spend Down

Every family foundation encounters unique relational dynamics, especially with multiple generations engaged. Family participation in the foundation may even provide a purpose and inspiration to regularly gather and engage together. Consider various perspectives and suggestions for navigating interpersonal relationships in the philanthropy without compromising family bonds.

Facilitated by Nick Tedesco and Katie Scott

12:15- 12:20pm PT/ 3:00-3:20pm ET Technology Break

12:20- 1:00pm PT/ 3:20-4:00pm ET Closing & What's on Your Mind

October 15

9am- 9:45am PT/ Noon- 12:45pm ET Roundtable Discussions

Join your peers for conversation. We will have small group discussion, without a formal program.

If you would like to suggest or host a specific topic for table discussion, please contact jason@ncfp.org.

9:45–10:45am PT/ 12:45-1:45pm ET Exits and Impact: Ensuring Resiliency and Capacity While Exiting a Field

Learn how to navigate this complex and challenging process to maximize impact while leaving grantees and fields strong. How do you support resiliency in your grantees? How do you build

the capacity of both the grantee and the field at large? How do you say goodbye when it isn't working?

Facilitated by June Wilson

10:45–11:00am PT/ 1:45-2:00pm ET Break

11:00 am–12:00pm PT/ 2:00-3:00pm ET Breakout Sessions

Option A: The Legacy of Learning: Building and Sharing Knowledge from Exits

While there are many other foundations that have closed, there is no set manual for doing so. What can you learn from the field? How can your foundation contribute to your sector or movement while also leaving behind lessons from your own knowledge? And how do you balance transparency and privacy in deciding what to share?

Facilitated by Barbara Kibbe

Option B: All-way Communication During the Spend Down Process

Grantees, foundation staff, funding partners, the media, the causes, and communities you serve—how will these colleagues react and how do you keep control of communication? Anticipate, prepare, and convey messages to preserve working relationships that survive uncertain changes.

Facilitated by Bob Tobin and June Wilson

12:00–12:05pm PT/ 3:00-3:05pm ET Technology Break

12:05–1:00pm PT/ 3:05-4:00pm ET Learn and Consult with your Peers & Closing

Meet for discussion with faculty about topics submitted by all of you. To share a topic of interest, email jason@ncfp.org. We will also source topics during the retreat.

Then, we will share next steps for your own work, review feedback on the retreat, and collectively plan for connecting more intentionally to this learning community.