

## **Leaning into Racial Justice with the Surdna Foundation and Andrus Family Fund NCFP Community Conversation April 22, 2021**

### **Description**

Amid a national reckoning with race and the pandemic, foundations are leaning into racial justice like never before. Yet many foundations are grappling with how to fund racial equity and the best way forward for their institution and grantees. In this Community Conversation, the Surdna Foundation and Andrus Family Fund will explore their decision to increase funding for racial justice, how they are approaching this work, and what comes next for the sector in this rapidly changing giving landscape.

### **Replay Link**

View the webinar [replay here](#).

### **Resources**

- [1619 Project](#)
- [Andrus Family Fund Social Justice Toolkit](#)
- [Andrus Family Philanthropy Program](#)
- [Bryan Stevenson on how America can heal](#), podcast interview with Ezra Klein
- Interview Questions for Anti-Racist Consultants (attached as resource to the event page)
- [NCFP Content Collection: Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)
- [Stepping Up for Racial Justice](#)
- [Surdna Announces Additional \\$36 Million for Racial Justice](#)
- [Surdna Foundation's Commitment to Social Justice](#)
- [Toward Racial Justice and a Third Reconstruction](#), Bob Wing
- [Trust-based Philanthropy Project](#)

### **Featured Speakers**



**Don Chen** is the President of the Surdna Foundation where he leads the 100-year old foundation's efforts to strengthen and further leverage its commitment to social justice.

Prior to his appointment, Don was the Director of the Cities & States program at the Ford Foundation, where his work supported urban development initiatives to make housing more affordable, promote more equitable land use practices, and empower communities to have a powerful decision-making voice in

American cities and in developing countries. He also led a multi-program team to support the strengthening of social justice organizations and networks in targeted U.S. states.

Previously, Don was the Founder and CEO of Smart Growth America, where he led efforts to create the National Vacant Properties Campaign (which later became the Center for Community Progress) and Transportation for America, and managed a merger with the Growth Management Leadership Alliance. He has authored many pieces on land use, transportation, social equity, and environmental policy.

Don has also served on the boards of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, West Harlem Environmental Action, the Environmental Leadership Program, and Grist magazine. He holds a master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a bachelor's degree in political science from Yale University.



**Carra Cote-Ackah**, a fifth generation Andrus family member, is Chairperson of the Surdna Board of Directors. She joined the board in 2011 and served as Vice Chairperson for four years. She also served on the Andrus Family Fund board for six years, the last two as board chair.

Presently Carra is the President of the Vanguard Group Foundation and Executive Director of Community Stewardship at Vanguard, where she leads the company's global philanthropic and volunteer programs. Previously she was a Director at the Center for High Impact Philanthropy; she has transitioned to a Senior Fellow role to provide ongoing help to donors and impact investors seeking to move from good intentions to high impact. She also is a member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), a global leadership network, and an Executive Forum member of the Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship.

Carra holds a Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, from Vanderbilt University, a M.A. from Duke University, and an M.B.A. from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, where she was also awarded the Morgenthau Public Administration Fellowship in support of excellence in public interest and public policy.

Carra and her husband live in Bryn Mawr, PA, with their three children. She is also active within her family's business, the Cote Family Companies, which has lodging, hospitality, and recreational holdings in Arizona and Minnesota.



**Kaitlin Miles** is the Vice Chair of the Andrus Family Fund, the next generation philanthropy of the Surdna Foundation. AFF seeks to foster just and sustainable change in the United States by supporting organizations that advance social justice and improve outcomes for youth. Based in Austin, Texas, Kaitlin is currently an Investment Manager at the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, helping provide pension benefits to over 1.6 million public school teachers and public education employees and retirees.



**Nicholas (Nick) Tedesco** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Center for Family Philanthropy (NCFP). NCFP serves as a hub of learning, connection, and collaboration designed to resource and activate a community of families to be intentional philanthropic stewards. Nick is a passionate advocate for philanthropy and brings over a decade of experience partnering with donors and their families to establish and meet their giving goals.

Prior to joining NCFP, Nick served as a Senior Advisor in the J.P. Morgan Philanthropy Centre where he provided clients with insights and services to help meet their philanthropic objectives through innovative advice, thought leadership and opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Previously, Nick served as a Relationship Manager at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he helped launch the Giving Pledge—an effort led by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett to encourage the world’s wealthiest individuals and families to commit the majority of their wealth to philanthropy. In this role, Nick managed relationships with current and prospective members of the pledge, as well as their staff and advisors. He helped to connect global philanthropists with one another in effort to exchange knowledge and encourage collaboration.

Nick began his career in the social sector as the Deputy Director of the Children’s Health Forum—a national nonprofit focused on the prevention and eradication of childhood diseases that disproportionately impact underserved communities.

Nick was named to the inaugural Chronicle of Philanthropy 40 Under 40 ranking in 2016. He has been quoted in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal MarketWatch, Time Magazine and other notable publications. He serves on the Regional Board for UNICEF USA and as a panelist for the Echoing Green Fellowship and MacArthur Foundation 100&Change Initiative.

Nick received a B.A. from Villanova University and resides in Washington, D.C.