



Pluralism in Family Philanthropy: Navigating Tensions and Bridging Divides for Impact NCFP Community Conversation March 16, 2022

Description

In an increasingly divisive society, people are facing complex, challenging dialogues around politics, ethics, and social issues, struggling to manage perspectives across the political aisle and facilitate healthy discourse with multiple viewpoints. What is taking place on a macro scale is mirrored within individual families—difficult conversations, distinct political and cultural divides, and in many cases gridlock or an inability to make decisions productively. For families who give together, their relationships and family culture are at stake, as is their potential for effective family philanthropy and social impact. In this webinar, learn more about the concept of pluralism—people of varied backgrounds and beliefs building community, finding belonging, and drawing on their differences to solve shared problems—and explore the challenges and broader considerations of pluralism within a family philanthropy context.

The panelists will speak to their experience working with others who hold different perspectives, the opportunity for pluralism to advance a stronger social sector, and what it means to contribute to a healthy and productive philanthropic ecosystem. The panelists are learning how to support pluralism while practicing it, as donors part of [New Pluralists Collaborative](#).

Replay Link

View the webinar [replay here](#).

Resources

- [New Pluralists Collaborative](#)
 - Learn more about [new pluralism and the collaborative](#).
 - See the New Pluralists' approach and [five guiding principles](#).
- [National Center for Family Philanthropy](#)
 - Access family philanthropy resources through NCFP's [Knowledge Center](#).
 - See upcoming [events and programs](#).

Panelist Organizations

- [Charles Koch Foundation](#) and [Stand Together](#)
- [John Templeton Foundation](#)
- [Wildcard Giving](#) and its [sister entities](#)

Featured Speakers



Tegan Acton and Brian Acton are the founders and co-chairs of Wildcard Giving, a family of philanthropic entities created following the sale of WhatsApp to Facebook in 2014. Tegan serves as the principal at each of the sister entities, which work together to further civic values, collective responsibility, and our common humanity. Independent of Wildcard Giving, Brian serves as the Executive Chairman of the [Signal Technology Foundation](#), which strives to make private communication accessible and ubiquitous.

Prior to establishing Wildcard Giving, Tegan served as the Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives for the office of the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education at Stanford University. She additionally held positions at Yahoo! and the Sundance Institute, and graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a BA in English and Political Science. Tegan is the head of [Good Gravy Films](#), which provides grants and equity funding to independent films, and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.



Heather Templeton Dill is president of the John Templeton Foundation. Prior to assuming this role in 2015, she served as executive liaison to the president under her father, the late Dr. Jack Templeton. Dill is the granddaughter of the late Sir John Templeton.

In her tenure as president, Dill and the Foundation have awarded 1,150 grants totaling more than \$743 million. The John Templeton Foundation funds research and discovery across a range of subjects in the sciences, philosophy and theology from gratitude and hope to the psychology of purpose and positive neuroscience. Under her leadership, the Foundation plans to increase its grants and donations to approximately \$313 million total across 2021 and 2022.

One of the main programs of the Foundation is the Templeton Prize, valued at \$1.4 million. It is one of the world's largest annual individual awards to honor individuals whose exemplary achievements advance her grandfather's philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind's place and purpose within it. The 2021 Templeton Prize Laureate was Dr. Jane Goodall, the first female primatologist in the history of the Prize. Past laureates have included Mother Teresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and the Dalai Lama.

Dill has spoken at various venues on living in a pluralistic world, on the research-supported benefits of a life of purpose, as well as the importance of intellectual humility. In 2020, she received the Citizen Diplomat of the Year Award, from Citizen Diplomacy International Philadelphia, jointly with Jennifer Templeton Simpson, and she was selected by Main Line Today magazine for its 2019 Women on the Move issue. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dill taught high-school level history, government, and economics.

She served as a trustee of the John Templeton Foundation from 1997-2003 and 2009-2015 and has been a member of the Foundation's executive, finance, and strategic planning committees. Dill previously served on the Templeton Religion Trust steering committee and the Templeton World Charity Foundation board and is currently a member of the board of First Trust Bank Limited.

She holds a master's degree in American history from Villanova University and is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in history and a concentration in public policy.



Brian Hooks is chairman and CEO of Stand Together and president of the Charles Koch Foundation. Previously, he served as executive director and COO of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He is co-author with Charles Koch of *Believe in People: Bottom Up Solutions for a Top Down World*. Brian was named to the 2021 TIME100 Next list, featuring leaders who are shaping the future of their fields. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife and daughter.



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 as a director of the Wild Elements Foundation—a conscious catalyst for change that accelerates efforts to restore our global ecosystem.

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



Uma Viswanathan is Executive Director of New Pluralists Collaborative, a funder and field collaborative that is strengthening the growing field of funders, practitioners, storytellers, researchers, and innovators who are working together to satisfy our deep cultural hunger to heal our social divisions in ways that honor human dignity, repair harm, foster empathy, and widen our circle of human concern. She brings 15 years of experience leading, advising, and investing in people and projects dedicated to creating positive social change.

Prior to her current role, Uma was a Senior Program Officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focused on advancing collective forms of leadership that build greater equity, inclusion and belonging within formal systems and organizations and in social movements. She was a Program Officer of Racial Equity and Community Engagement at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, resourcing cross-racial movements to strengthen democracy and to build collective power towards racial equity and healing. Before entering philanthropy, Uma was Director of Leadership Development at Urban Habitat, developing cohorts of leaders from across the Bay Area region's racial justice organizing and advocacy networks to join strategic local and regional boards and commissions. She founded and directed Nouvelle Vie Haiti, a network of 300+ young Haitian leaders who empower their communities to manage their own trauma, establish greater food security, and develop healthier sexual relationships. Uma is a certified meditation and breathwork instructor with the Art of Living Foundation, and received a BA in psychology and an MA in the history of science from Harvard University.