

Laying the Foundation Part One: Defining Family and Its Role Resource List

Description

Join us as we explore fundamental questions in the context of family philanthropy: “Who is considered family?” and “What is the role of family in family philanthropy?”

As family philanthropies evolve, choosing how to define family—whether it includes lineal descendants or extends to spouses, chosen family, or others—is essential. Families must also decide how and when to include community voices. We will examine the role family members play in shaping philanthropic goals, decision-making processes, and the long-term impact of their giving, while navigating personal relationships and maintaining a commitment to learning.

This session will provide valuable insights for families looking to build, refine, or sustain their philanthropy with shared values and vision.

Replay Link

View the webinar replay [here](#).

Resources

- [A Guide to Meaningfully Engaging Next Generation Adults in your Philanthropy](#) (NCFP, 2024)
- [Families in Flux: Guidelines for Participation in your Family’s Philanthropy](#) (NCFP, 2004)
- [NCFP Content Collection: Board Composition and Recruitment](#)
- [NCFP Content Collection: Governance Essentials](#)
- [NCFP’s Family Giving Lifecycle: Governance](#)
- [NCFP’s Guide to Effective Family Philanthropy](#) (2023)
- [NCFP Policy Central: Board Meetings, Roles, and Expectations](#)
- [Philanthropy in Complex, Multigenerational Families](#) (NCFP, 2022)
- [Trends in Family Philanthropy 2025 Report](#) (NCFP, 2024)

Panelist Organizations

- [Carolyn W and Charles T Beaird Family Foundation](#)
- [Flora Family Foundation](#)
- [Self Family Foundation](#)
- [Siragusa Family Foundation](#)

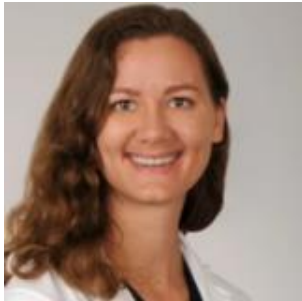
Upcoming Events

- [Community Foundations Network: Engaging Next Generation Adults and Structuring your Advising Services](#) (Feb 13)
- [BIPOC Leaders Peer Network: How Solidarity and Connection to Philanthropic Affinity Groups can Support your Work](#) (Feb 20)

- [Board Chair Peer Network: Building a Successful Board Chair – CEO Partnership](#) (March 4)
- [Strategic Lifespan Peer Network: Spend Down Journey of the Mighty Arrow Foundation](#) (March 4)
- [Non-Family Staff Peer Network: Approaches to Balancing Board and Staff Expectations](#) (March 6)
- [Fundamentals of Family Philanthropy Webinar: Laying the Foundation Part Two: Governance Structures and Considerations](#) (March 11)
- [Engaging Youth Peer Network: Orienting the Next Generation to your Philanthropic Purpose](#) (March 20)
- [Responding to the Opioid Crisis: What are the Opportunities for Funders to Make a Difference?](#) (April 1)
- [Fundamentals of Family Philanthropy Webinar: Laying the Foundation Part Three: Aligning your Vehicle\(s\) with your Values](#) (April 8)

Access more resources through NCFP's [Knowledge Center](#), and see upcoming [events and programs](#).

Featured Speakers



Dr. Jensie Burton, MD is a summa cum laude graduate of Kenyon College, earned a Master's of Science in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University, a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Virginia and completed an internal medicine residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. She is an Infectious Diseases Fellow at the Medical University of South Carolina. Jensie served from 1996-2011 as a member of the Foundation's Next Generation Adjunct Board and will serve her first term as a Foundation trustee. Dr. Burton lives in Charleston.



Chicago area.

John Hicks is the executive director of The Siragusa Family Foundation. He is a third generation family member and had served on the board of the foundation since 1992, including the last six years as chair. While born and raised in Chicago, he most recently has relocated from Tucson Arizona to take over the position of executive director. He has worked in real estate and investment management and is a longtime volunteer with several youth and community organizations. The Siragusa Family Foundation was created in 1950 and is governed today by 3rd and 4th generation family members. Annually, it grants approximately \$1.2 million to over 85 organizations in the



Nicole Elias Seawell is a communications strategist, leadership coach, and Enneagram expert who founded Sailor's Sweet Life, LLC, a consultancy which specializes in helping leaders and their teams' to improve interpersonal dynamics, decrease miscommunications, and optimize outcomes. Nicole believes everything is communication and that miscommunication, not poor intention, is behind most inefficiencies, hurt feelings, unnecessary conflict, and poor outcomes. She is an expert at helping teams to identify individual motivations and styles, and then navigate tricky situations and arm them with practical, tactical, positive and actionable paths forward.

Nicole also serves as the President and Chair of the Carolyn W. and Charles T. Beaird Family Foundation which is committed to assisting organizations to add opportunity, freedom of action and choice, self-betterment, and a climate for change to the lives of the people they serve. She is the first third generation President and Chair working with 45 family members spread across the United States.

Previously, Nicole was a corporate attorney and business development specialist in the Denver area. She facilitated parties to find effective solutions and focus on shared interests as opposed to individual priorities to optimize outcomes for all parties. Nicole is recognized as an action-based bridge builder – uniting leaders in meaningful dialogues that lead to greater collaboration, cooperation, and outcomes. She infuses psychological safety principles as she builds relationships rooted in transparency and mutual accountability. She has guided seemingly unrelated entities to join in collaborative efforts and helps them pilot positive impact programs.

Additionally, Nicole co-founded and led the social enterprise, Women in the Mix, dedicated to the proposition that women can have a rich and fulfilling professional life while actively parenting young children where she shared access to best practices, experts, and resources.

She is true to her Enneagram Type 3 self. She is motivated (not surprisingly) by the need to be productive, achieve success, and avoid failure which shows up as hardworking, goal-oriented, organized, and decisive. Skilled Threes are playful, pleasing, giving, and responsible. This self-awareness unlocks her ability to bring her best self to advise her clients. With an understanding and vocabulary around one's motivations and that of others, Nicole helps clients to understand themselves and their teams. With that identification, everyone now has an individualized roadmap for engaging with one another for skilled outcomes.

Nicole earned a BS in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and a JD from University of Pennsylvania School of Law. You can find Nicole hiking the mountains of Colorado with her golden retrievers, Scout and Ranger, or traveling to far flung places with her husband and three young adult sons.



Jeff Zeisler is a Bay Area technology executive and longtime community leader. Married with three school-aged children, he is deeply involved in local education. He currently chairs the Governance Committee at the Flora Family Foundation, which he joined in 2006. He also serves as President of the Los Altos Education Foundation and enjoys coaching youth sports.