

SAVE THE DATE:  
**May 6th - 8th, 2024**

Omni Richmond Hotel, Richmond VA

# Stronger Together CONFERENCE

Collective Action, Collective Impact.

## Monday, May 6, 2024

**12:00pm Registration Opens at Virginia Museum of History and Culture**

**2:00pm Learning Session | CEOs: What Should Your Legacy Be?**

CEOs provide a strategic vision that often leads to transformational change within an organization. For CEOs of philanthropic organizations, this vision includes one for the communities they serve, using philanthropy as a vehicle to expand opportunities so that all can thrive and reach their full potential.

This session will feature a panel of transformational leaders who are leaving and have left a legacy at their organization, in their communities, and for the entire philanthropic sector. Hear from recently retired, or soon departing, experts in the field on what they learned in their journey as a CEO. Gain insights you can use to develop a plan for delivering upon your vision and establishing a legacy of your own. Spend time with fellow CEOs to discuss the challenges you face and the opportunities you want to bring to further the impact of philanthropy in your community and throughout the Commonwealth.

**Location:** Virginia Museum of History and Culture | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Nicole Acosta, Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties
- Clark Casteel, Danville Regional Foundation
- Reggie Gordon, Richmond Memorial Health Foundation
- Amy Nisensen, The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation
- Dr. LaTonya Penny, Laughing Gull

**Panelists:**

- Dr. Mark Constantine, Dogwood Health Trust
- Patricia Mathews, Northern Virginia Health Foundation (*retired*)
- Teri McNally, The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region

**Sponsors:**



## 2:00pm Learning Session | Trustee Workshop

Join your fellow trustees for this afternoon workshop and interactive session to explore your unique role as fiduciaries, stewards, strategy leaders, and organizational champions. During this peer-to-peer gathering, we will talk about both the operational and generative/strategic roles of trustees. Trust-based philanthropy will be explored, as well as the fiduciary aspects of investments, finances, and legal duties. Participants will learn, share, and build connections in a trustee-only space.

**Location:** Virginia Museum of History and Culture | **Room TBD**

### Planning Team:

- Nadine Marsh Carter, The Cameron Foundation
- Elizabeth Cabell Jennings, ClearView Fiduciary Alliance
- Abraham Segres, Richmond Memorial Health Foundation (*trustee*)
- Erin Matthews Thomas, Potomac Health Foundation

### Speakers:

- Elizabeth (Liz) Bonner, Hill-Snowdon Foundation (*trustee*)
- Susie Lee, Northern Virginia Health Foundation (*trustee & moderator*)

### Sponsors:



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## 2:00pm Learning Session | Program Officers: The Start of Our Journey Together

Whether you're new in your role as a program officer or have been working in grantmaking for a while, we invite you to kick off this year's conference with other VFN members who share similar workday highs, lows, and everything in-between. For the first time, we're offering an extended learning session and networking opportunity for program officers or anyone (regardless of your official title) who manages grants, creates RFPs, builds relationships with grantees and communities, oversees initiatives and more. This session will be the kickoff to a new Program Officers networking group and will provide an opportunity to get to know your peers.

This session will include small group discussion to learn more about each other and foster connectivity, as well as begin to discuss some of the key challenges and opportunities you face in your work. Before we end, there will be ample "open mic" time for you to ask burning questions of seasoned professionals and your fellow session participants. VFN is facilitating this new group as a means to expand the circle of colleagues you can call on when you have a question, need support for a new initiative, or affirmation of a new idea.

**Location:** Virginia Museum of History and Culture | **Room TBD**

### Speakers & Planning Team:

- Fiona Charles, Obici Healthcare Foundation
- Susan Hallett, Bob and Anna Lou Schaberg Foundation
- Joshua Hearne, Danville Regional Foundation
- Rachel Lynch, Northern Virginia Health Foundation
- Jessica Mullen, Obici Healthcare Foundation

### Sponsors:



2:00pm

### Guided Bus Tour | Richmond Learning Tour

Description TBD

Registration Fee: \$25/person

Planning Team:

- Gwen Corley Creighton, Memorial Foundation for Children (*trustee*)
- Stephanie Glenn, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Ricshawn Roane, Weissberg Foundation
- Albert Walker, Richmond Memorial Health Foundation

Speakers:

- Dr. Luranett Lee, Richmond Hill
- Dr. Sessa Joi Moon, JXN Project

Sponsors:



3:30pm

### Guided Tour | Virginia Museum of History & Culture

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) is the oldest cultural organization in Virginia and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. The museum cares for a collection of more than nine million items representing the ever-evolving story of Virginia and is dedicated to serving the community with comprehensive storytelling through a robust portfolio of engaging public programs to serve Virginians today and to empower generations to come.

Enjoy a specially led “highlights” tour of VMHC’s exhibitions. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early and meet fellow colleagues at the guest services desk in the VMHC’s Commonwealth Hall.

In addition, VMHC is extending complimentary admission to VFN conference attendees who cannot attend the guided tour. To take advantage of this offer, please identify yourself as a VFN conference participant upon arrival at the museum and enjoy current exhibitions during the three-day conference.

Location: Virginia Museum of History and Culture | Commonwealth Hall

4:45pm

### Welcome Reception

Location: Virginia Museum of History and Culture | Lobby

Welcome: Carlos Brown, Dominion Energy

Sponsor:



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## 6:00pm **Movie & Dinner | *How the Monuments Came Down***

Join colleagues for dinner and a viewing of “*How the Monuments Came Down*.” The film, as described by PBS.org which originally aired in 2021, “is a timely and searing look at the history of white supremacy and Black resistance in Richmond. The feature-length film—brought to life by history-makers, descendants, scholars, and activists—reveals how monuments to Confederate leaders stood for more than a century, and why they fell.” Hannah Ayers and Lance Warren, who directed and produced the film, will give introductory remarks.

After the film and to give time for participants to reflect, Jonathan Zur, President & CEO of Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC), will facilitate a conversation on Tuesday from 1:45-2:45 pm during one of the conference’s dedicated Networking Breaks. The discussion will explore how a source of pain for so many, could be a symbol of pride for others and, how philanthropy and its leaders can bring communities together on polarizing issues.

**Registration Fee:** \$50/person

**Location:** Virginia Museum of History and Culture | Halsey

### Planning Team:

- George Leventhal, Kaiser Permanente
- Myra Goodwin Smith, Jenkins Foundation (*trustee*)
- Audrey Trussell, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

### Speakers:

- Hannah Ayres, Field Studio
- Lance Warren, Field Studio
- Jonathan Zur, VCIC

### Sponsor:



## Tuesday, May 7, 2024

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**7:30am Registration Opens at OMNI Richmond Hotel**

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**8:00am Breakfast**

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## **8:30am Opening Plenary | How Anchor Institutions and Philanthropy Drive Systems Change for Community Well Being**

Anchor Institutions bring economic, human, and intellectual capital to help create community-driven solutions to challenges under-resourced neighborhoods and neighbors face in the Commonwealth. How have Anchors successfully fostered trust-based partnerships to develop systems that address the social drivers of community health and well being? What role does philanthropy play in these partnerships?

Join us as Keynote speaker John Martin, Futurist, Author, and CEO & Managing Partner at SIR, opens the session followed by a panel discussion of Anchor Institution representatives sharing thoughts on their roles from a corporate, foundation, and university perspective.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River CD

**Planning Team:**

- Anna James, Sentara
- Sherry Norquist, Sentara
- Katina Williams, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

**Speakers & Panelists:**

- Mark Johnson, Truist (*moderator*)
- Valerie Liggins, The Cameron Foundation
- John Martin, SIR
- Sherry Norquist, Sentara
- Melissa Perry, College of Public Health, GMU

**Sponsors:**



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**10:30am Breakout Session | People-Centered Approaches to Meeting the Commonwealth's Workforce Needs**

What role does philanthropy play in creating people-centered models for building talent pipelines? This session will highlight coalition-based collaborations that are working to meet workforce demands in communities across the Commonwealth while providing people, particularly those who have been on the sidelines, with opportunities for good-paying jobs.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Scott Andrews-Weckerly, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Tom Cosgrove, Newport News Shipbuilding, a Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries
- Elizabeth Creamer, CCWA
- Erin Hogan, Bank of America
- Travis Staton, EO Regional Workforce and Child Development Hub
- Laura Ullrich, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

**Speakers:**

- Scott Andrews-Weckerly, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond (*moderator*)
- Tom Cosgrove, Newport News Shipbuilding
- Elizabeth Creamer, CCWA
- Sara Dunnigan, GO Virginia
- Travis Staton, EO Companies, Regional Workforce and Child Development Hub

**Sponsor:**



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**10:30am Breakout Session | Building a Healthy Community Investment Ecosystem**

Increasingly, foundations are being asked to work at the intersection of community and economic development. This means understanding a new set of partners, new language around capital and community investment, and tools in addition to grantmaking. This session will provide a framework to begin understanding the components of a healthy community ecosystem and the roles that foundations can play to create and sustain change in our communities.

We will bring this framework to life through the perspectives of a foundation CEO and Board member who is intentionally stepping into this role in their community. Attendees will reflect on their own capital ecosystem through guided table discussions with experienced colleagues.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- India Brown, The Harvest Foundation
- Chris Crothers, Jessie Ball duPont Fund
- Deb Markley, Locus
- Michelle Nelson, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Lisa O'Mara, Locus
- Stephanie Randolph, Cassiopeia Foundation

**Speakers:**

- Sydney England, Locus
- Kate Keller, The Harvest Foundation
- Bill Kirby, The Harvest Foundation (*trustee*)
- Michelle Nelson, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Lisa O'Mara, Locus

**Sponsors:**



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**10:30am Breakout Session | Modeling Success for Rural Communities**

Whether we are talking about economic development, health access, transportation, workforce needs, senior services, or education, rural communities in Virginia have assets and challenges that differ from our urban and suburban areas.

Through this session, learn how foundations are supporting collaborative models for partnering with schools, government, and other nonprofits in rural communities. You'll hear, then have time for a deeper dive, with three initiatives using collective impact and action to improve dental care for children, provide transportation supports, and collaborate with partners to develop an aging community action plan.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Lincoln Boykin, River Counties Community Foundation
- Mary Fant Donnan, The Alleghany Foundation
- Lynda Helton, Smyth County Community Foundation
- Andy Johnston, PATH Foundation
- Sean McMurray, Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Polly Raible, Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation
- Jason Smith, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

**Speakers:** **TBD**

- Ericca Facetti, Virginia Health Catalyst
- Sean McMurray, Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia (*moderator*)
- Kristin Lam Peraza, Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission
- Jessica Wirgau, The Community Foundation for the New River Valley

**Other Supporting Sponsors:** United Philanthropy Forum | Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia

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10:30am

## Breakout Session | Public Private Partnerships: Leveraging Resources via Collaboration and Creativity

Join fellow funders to talk about the power of cross-sectoral collaborations and how to leverage resources from public federal, state, and local sources. We will discuss case examples in health care, prevention, housing, and broadband. This will be an engaging session so bring your ideas and creativity and take away new funding ideas, practical tips, and inspiration for your work back home.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

### Speakers & Planning Team:

- Victor Branch, Bank of America
- Erik Johnston, Virginia Community Action Partnership
- Debbie Oswalt, Virginia Health Care Foundation
- Andy Sorrell, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

**Sponsor:** **TBD**

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12:00pm

## Lunch Plenary | Building a More Equitable Future: Philanthropy's Role in Health and Racial Equity

This plenary will highlight the journey toward health and racial equity with the focus on the goal that everyone who calls Virginia home has an opportunity to live our healthiest lives regardless of race or ethnicity. Achieving health equity means working together to dismantle structural and systematic racism and other barriers that affect access to care and health outcomes.

Join us as Sheryl Garland, Chief of Health Impact, VCU Health System, discusses the history of health and racial equity in Richmond's healthcare institutions and the work being done today to ensure better health outcomes for all. A panel of voices from around the Commonwealth will talk about their strategies and programs. We hope you will leave the session with some ideas and inspiration to take back home.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River CD

### Planning Team:

- Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, The Meyer Foundation
- Carolyn Champion, Dominion Energy
- Eric Clay, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Sheryl Garland, VCU Office of Health Equity
- Vivian Oden, Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Ricshawn Roane, Weissberg Foundation

### Speakers & Panelists:

- Sheryl Garland, VCU Health System
- Patricia Mathews, Northern Virginia Health Foundation (*retired*)

**Sponsor:**



**Other Supporting Sponsors:** The Meyer Foundation | Williamsburg Health Foundation

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1:45pm

## Networking Break | Mix & Mingle for Health Funders

Join fellow health funders for an unstructured and fun hour of getting to know each other, discussing health-related trends in Virginia's regions and communities, and how you are navigating barriers and opportunities. All seasoned, mid-career, and new professionals in the field of health philanthropy are welcome to join this session.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | Room TBD

Planning Team:

- Valerie Liggins, The Cameron Foundation
  - Debbie Oswalt, Virginia Health Care Foundation
  - Erin Matthews Thomas, Potomac Health Foundation (*timekeeper*)
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**1:45pm**      **Networking Break | Networking Break | How the Monuments Came Down: Movie Discussion**

Jonathan Zur, President & CEO of Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC), will facilitate a conversation reflecting on the viewing of “How the Monuments Came Down” on day 1 of the conference that will explore how a source of pain for so many, could be a symbol of pride for others and, how philanthropy and its leaders can bring communities together on polarizing issues.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | Room TBD

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**1:45pm**      **Networking Break | Philanthropy in Rural Virginia**

VFN is undertaking research to understand the opportunities and challenges faced by our members who operate in a rural part of the state. This special session will include a guided (moderated) discussion that explores how we prioritize, partner, and support our communities, with a focus on emerging best practices and scalable strategies.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | Room TBD

Discussion Leader:

Elizabeth Hughes, Independent Researcher & Consultant

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**3:00pm**      **Breakout Session | Talent Pipeline for Healthcare Workforce**

Description TBD

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | Room TBD

Planning Team:

- Susan Davis, Herndon Foundation
- Nicole Overley, Deputy Secretary of Labor for Workforce Development
- Kelvin Turner, Obici Healthcare Foundation
- William Hazel, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

Speakers:

- William Hazel, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
- Dr. Matthew Loos, Ballad Health
- Nicole Overley, Deputy Secretary of Labor for Workforce Development

Sponsor:



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**3:00pm**      **Breakout Session | Coming Together on Mental Health**



Like many states, Virginia is overwhelmed with mental health crises and day-to-day needs. Exacerbating positive forward movement is that every county in the Commonwealth is considered a mental health shortage area. What can funders do to help solve overarching problems and address specific areas of need?

This session will give a wide overview of mental health in Virginia and feature panelists experienced with specific initiatives in which philanthropy has helped organizations and communities to address two pivotal areas – 1) increasing numbers and engaging more effectively medical professionals in our communities, and 2) connecting marginalized communities with resources through grassroots efforts for hard-to-reach audiences.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Carolyn Champion, Dominion Energy
- Andy Johnston, PATH Foundation
- Dan Layman, Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
- Valerie Liggins, The Cameron Foundation
- Lucille Lindamood, Memorial Foundation for Children (*trustee*)
- Sherry Norquist, Sentara
- Constance Pechura, Jenkins Foundation (*trustee*)
- Rachel Rees, Virginia Health Care Foundation

**Speakers:**

- Rachel Rees, Virginia Health Care Foundation

**Sponsors:**



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**3:00pm**

**Breakout Session | Emerging Models for Early Childhood Education Collaboratives**

What is the current state of early childhood education in the Commonwealth? This session will highlight collaborations that are working to address key challenges statewide and at a regional level to ensure quality early childhood education for all children in the Commonwealth.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Susanne Bell, Danville Regional Foundation
- Chris Chin, Robins Foundation
- Kathy Glazer, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
- Lindsey Gleason, Community Foundation for the New River Valley
- Sarah McLean, Aduvans Foundation
- Leanne Petroziello, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Meg Pienkowski, Robins Foundation
- Linda Rice, Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Shannon Rudisill, Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

**Speakers:**

- Susanne Bell, Danville Regional Foundation
- Chris Chin, Robins Foundation (*moderator*)
- Kathy Glazer, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
- Matthew Peterson, John & Janice Wyatt Foundation
- Linda Rice, Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Travis Staton, EO Companies, Regional Workforce and Child Development Hub

Sponsor:



Other Supporting Sponsors: Community Foundation for the New River Valley

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### 3:00pm **Breakout Session | Climate and Conservation: What's Happening in Virginia**

At last year's conference, VFN began its journey to recognize the intersections between our environment and many of our priority funding areas such as health, housing, economic development, and social justice. The environment can provide a lens for unity among seemingly disparate priorities and communities.

Join us as we launch another provocative conversation about why the environment should be top of mind with all your funding decisions. Hear from this expert panel focusing on ***Climate and Conservation: What's Happening in Virginia***, and if communities across the Commonwealth have the resilience needed to be ready. We'll also hear about innovative grassroots and cross-sector collaborative efforts from the mountains to the Bay then break into smaller groups for a deeper dive with all the panelists.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

#### **Planning Team:**

- Lincoln Boykin, River Counties Community Foundation
- Nathan Burrell, Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- Joseph Maroon, Virginia Environmental Endowment
- Janet Maughan, Passport Foundation
- Grey McLean, Aduivans Foundation
- Sari Raskin, Community Foundation of Northern Virginia

#### **Speakers:**

- Elizabeth Armistead Andrews, Environmental Institute University of Virginia
- Nathan Burrell, Virginia Outdoors Foundation (*moderator*)
- Chris Moore, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chief Anne Richardson, Rappahannock Tribe
- Mary-Carson Stiff, Wetlands Watch

**Sponsor:**



Other Supporting Sponsors: Virginia Environmental Endowment | Virginia Outdoors Foundation

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### 4:45pm **Cocktail Reception**

**Location:** Bank of America Lobby

**Welcome:**

- Victor Branch, Bank of America
- Mayor Levar Stoney, City of Richmond

**Sponsor:**

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**6:00 pm**     **Dinner Plenary | An Evening Exploring Arts & Culture**

During the evening session and dinner, we will be joined by local Richmond artist Hamilton Glass. He will be highlighting the importance of using your voice and art as a community building tool. Hamilton is a respected artist, speaker, community leader, and father living in the greater Richmond area. His collaborative public art initiative, **Mending Walls**, aims to advance social justice by connecting community members from different backgrounds in conversation to foster empathy, understanding, and healing through collaborative community-engaged art. **Mending Walls** is also the subject of an Emmy-winning PBS documentary. During dinner, Hamilton will prompt the audience to explore how arts, community engagement, and philanthropy can create impact and change in our communities.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River CD

**Planning Team:**

- Scott Blackwell, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Victor Branch, Bank of America
- Vanessa Diamond, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Scott Garka, CultureWorks
- Erin Hogan, Bank of America
- Michelle Nelson, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

**Keynote Speaker:**

- Hamilton Glass, Artist



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**7:45pm**     **After Party**

Join us in the Magnolia Room at the Omni hotel as we gather for informal networking and community building after the dinner plenary.

**Sponsor:**



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**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

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**7:30am**     **Registration Opens**

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**8:00am**     **New Member Orientation**

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **TBD**

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8:00am

Breakfast

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8:30am

## Breakfast Plenary | Why Local Journalism Matters to Community Well Being

A reliable and vibrant local news ecosystem that amplifies stories *about* and *for* everyone contributes to community cohesion, civic participation, and government accountability. It also enlightens what we know about the challenges communities face with affordable housing, education, climate, poverty, health, and many other issues that philanthropy seeks to address. And yet, the loss of local news outlets and the loss of reporters to cover local news is well documented. How can VFN members deepen our understanding of emerging local news models and the role philanthropy is playing to ensure the future of local news is more relevant, community-centered, and delivered through a wider variety of mediums?

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River CD

### Planning Team:

- Matthew Gibson, Virginia Humanities
- Holly Hatcher, The Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation
- Kevin Locker, American Press Institute
- Amy Petty, PATH Foundation
- Tobi Printz-Platnick, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- Sari Raskin, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
- Jayme Swain, VPM
- Michelle Washington, Hampton Roads Community Foundation

**Speakers:** TBD

**Sponsor:**



Anne & Gene  
Worrell  
Foundation

**Other Supporting Sponsors:** American Press Institute | PATH Foundation | Virginia Humanities

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10:15am

## Deep Dive | Moving Forward with an Advocacy Strategy: A Discussion for Leaders

Join your peer funders for a discussion on how to move forward with your advocacy strategy. This session is designed for mid-to-senior level leaders who are interested in policy and advocacy and know why it is important to achieving mission but are unsure how to get started or advance a goal. Using a case study on guaranteed income as an example, the discussion will focus on how you can develop capacity and build alignment - both internally with Boards and staff - and externally with partners, coalitions, and grassroots organizations. Come and learn from other leaders about developing, planning, implementing, and measuring your success in policy and advocacy.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

### Planning Team:

- Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation
- Michelle Nelson, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Heather Peeler, ACT for Alexandria
- Matthew Peterson, John & Janice Wyatt Foundation

**Speakers:**

- Abby Levine, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- Brian Marroquin, Arlington Community Foundation
- Brandi Yee, ACT for Alexandria (*moderator*)

Sponsor:



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**10:15am**     **Deep Dive | The Virginia Community Engagement Index: A Tool for Building Civic Engagement**

Join fellow VFN members to learn how to build capacity for civic engagement in your community. This session will provide a summary of the results of the Virginia Community Engagement Index survey and an example of how a community is collaborating in the use of its data to make impact. Participants will engage in a discussion about the issues that matter most to Virginians, how Virginians see the role of philanthropy in addressing these issues, and opportunities to understand how trust can be built to make impactful change.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- India Brown, The Harvest Foundation
- Vanessa Diamond, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Kathy Spangler, Serve Virginia

**Speakers:**

- Carol Barbour, Truist Foundations and Endowments Specialty Practice
- Vanessa Diamond, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Kathy Spangler, Serve Virginia

**Sponsors:**



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**10:15am**     **Deep Dive | Getting Virginia Across the Broadband Finish Line With Affordability & Adoption**

The digital divide is not only comprised of a lack of access to broadband infrastructure, but also includes gaps in broadband affordability and adoption. As the Commonwealth continues to make strides in tackling access to broadband, addressing the areas of broadband affordability and adoption have an even higher importance in all corners of Virginia. Whether your interest is workforce development, health, children's education, or eliminating hunger, your work and those who benefit from your work are impacted by the digital age.

This session will explore all aspects of the digital divide, including how funders, broadband providers, government, non-profits, and other stakeholders can understand and begin to tackle the challenges of affordability and adoption. Specific topics discussed will include: Virginia's recently released Digital Opportunity Plan, digital navigator pilot programs, grant-based program models for increasing broadband affordability, and the role of Community Action Agencies in establishing local digital opportunity plans.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Kristen Dahlman, Virginia Community Action Partnership
- DeWitt House, The Harvest Foundation

- Jerry Kuthy, The Cameron Foundation
- Cameron Lewis, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Veronica Santos-Mazzuchi, Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation
- Chandler Vaughan, Department of Housing and Community Development

**Speakers:**

- Misty Allen, Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation
- Kristen Dahlman, Virginia Community Action Partnership
- Jason Inofuentes, Albemarle County Broadband Accessibility & Affordability
- Jerry Kuthy, The Cameron Foundation (*moderator*)
- Cameron Lewis, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Chandler Vaughan, Department of Housing and Community Development

**Sponsor:**



**Other Supporting Sponsors:** Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

**10:15am Deep Dive | Arts & Culture: A Case for Funder Support**

If you don't think the arts are important to your funding strategy, then ask yourself these questions...

- What would happen to communities if \$1 billion disappeared from the Virginia economy?
- How would you have gotten through the initial months of the COVID-19 lockdown without Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, etc?
- What if you finally found that creative way to reach remote and disadvantaged populations and *make a meaningful impact* regardless of socio-economic demographics or race and ethnicity status?
- Have you ever listened to music or watched a performance that improved your mood and mental health?

Arts and culture have impacts in every aspect of Virginia from the macro-economic level on down to the micro-community and individual level. Learn more about how you can enhance or start your arts and culture funding strategy.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Lisa Baehre, Sandler Center Foundation
- Carolyn Champion, Dominion Energy
- Kevin Foster, John Randolph Foundation
- Scott Garka, CultureWorks

**Speakers:**

- Lisa Baehre, Sandler Center Foundation
- Kevin Foster, John Randolph Foundation
- Scott Garka, CultureWorks

**Other Supporting Sponsors:** John Randolph Foundation | Sandler Center Foundation

**10:15am Deep Dive | An Action Plan to Support Local News**

Join fellow VFN members in a facilitated discussion to explore ways to incorporate funding local media into grantmaking. What information is needed to broaden

understanding of the urgency to do so? What opportunities currently exist to engage with other funders to support local news regionally and across Virginia? How can members come together to create new collaborations?

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | **Room TBD**

**Planning Team:**

- Matthew Gibson, Virginia Humanities
- Holly Hatcher, The Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation
- Kevin Locker, American Press Institute
- Amy Petty, PATH Foundation
- Tobi Printz-Platnick, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- Jayme Swain, VPM
- Michelle Washington, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

**Speakers:**

- Dale Anglin, Press Forward
- Michael Bolden, American Press Institute (*facilitator*)

**Sponsor:**



**Other Supporting Sponsors:** American Press Institute | PATH Foundation | Virginia Humanities

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## **11:30am Closing Lunch Plenary | Partnerships for Affordable Housing: A Seat at the Table for Philanthropy**

Access to affordable housing is a critical economic, social, and health issue in our communities, regions, state, and nation. Funders can play a critical role in partnering with nonprofits, government, and the private sector to address barriers and work towards solutions.

Join us as Keynote speaker Tammy Neal, new CEO at Virginia Housing, opens the session highlighting different perspectives on housing affordability. We'll then hear from voices representing non-profits, for-profit developers, advocates, and government on how affordable housing is essential to ensure that all Virginia communities are valued and thriving. Take home ideas and inspiration for how funders can be a part of a solution for collective action and impact.

**Location:** OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River CD

**Planning Team:**

- Jane Ferrara, LISC Virginia
- Lindsey Gleason, Community Foundation of the New River Valley
- Dan Layman, Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
- Shelley Miller, ACT for Alexandria
- Evette Roots, Wells Fargo
- Sarah Taylor, The Blocker Foundation
- Chris Thompson, Virginia Housing

**Speakers & Panelists:**

- Javon Burton, Partnership for Housing Affordability (*moderator*)
- Jarrod Ellwell, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Brian Koziol, Virginia Housing Alliance
- Steve Lawson, The Lawson Companies
- Tammy Neal, Virginia Housing

**Sponsors:**



Other Supporting Sponsors: Altria Group | Williamsburg Health Foundation

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1:00 pm

Adjourn