

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: The Work of a Foundation CEO – Building the Plane While Flying It

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 consider how CEOs navigate the myriad demands and roles of their jobs, adapt and learn in response to unanticipated opportunities and challenges, center their work on core values and commitments, and tend to their well being and self care.

Location: Virginia Museum of History and Culture | Byrd Meeting Room

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

Speakers:

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

Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsors: Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties | Northern Virginia Health Foundation

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 | Lacy Meeting Room

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

Sponsors:



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 | Cullen Meeting Room

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:



Bob and Anna Lou
Schaberg Foundation



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**

Join us for the official kick-off of VFN’s 3rd annual conference and help celebrate with friends, live music, appetizers, and drinks! Even if you’re unable to attend any afternoon activities, make plans to stop by the newly renovated Virginia Museum of History & Culture to pick up your registration packet and enjoy the early evening festivities.

Location: Virginia Museum of History and Culture | Halsey Family Hall

Featured Artist: [Tyler Meacham](#)

Remarks: Carlos Brown, Dominion Energy

Sponsor:



6:00pm **Learning Session | Sculpting History at the Valentine Studio: Art, Power, and the “Lost Cause” American Myth**

Join us for a tour of the newest exhibit at Richmond’s Valentine Museum. “Those who created the Lost Cause narrative used cultural and social centers of power to make it successful: education, media, politics, money, religion, and violence. *Sculpting History at the Valentine Studio: Art, Power, and the ‘Lost Cause’ American Myth* uses evidence to show how Edward Valentine, leaders in Richmond, and others around the country reframed the reality of the Civil War. It uncovers the stories behind the Lost Cause, its legacy, and those who resisted the myth.” - *Description from the Valentine Museum’s website*

Location: Valentine Museum

Planning Team:

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

Speakers:

- Dr. Laurant Lee, University of Richmond
- Bill Martin, Valentine Museum
- Christina Vida, Valentine Museum

Sponsors:



Tuesday, May 7, 2024

7:30am Registration Opens at OMNI Richmond Hotel

8:00am New Member Orientation

We welcome new VFN members and partners, as well as any prospective members, to join members of VFN's Advisory Board, Membership Committee, and staff for coffee, networking, and the opportunity to learn more about the history of VFN.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River A

8:00am Breakfast

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:

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

Sponsors:



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 | Potomac E

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 Companies
- Laura Ullrich, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Speakers:

- Scott Andrews-Weckerly, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond (*moderator*)
- Tom Cosgrove, Newport News Shipbuilding, a Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries
- Elizabeth Creamer, CCWA
- Sara Dunnigan, GO Virginia
- Abigail Hollingsworth, Bank of America
- Travis Staton, EO Companies

Sponsor:



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 are 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 | Potomac G

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:



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 critical early childhood care needs.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River A

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:

- 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

Supporting Sponsors: [Delta Dental of Virginia](#) | [Smyth County Community Foundation](#) | [Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia](#)

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 | James River B

Speakers & Planning Team:

- Victor Branch, Bank of America
- Jane Ferrara, LISC
- Erik Johnston, Virginia Community Action Partnership

- Debbie Oswalt, Virginia Health Care Foundation
- Andy Sorrell, Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

Supporting Sponsor: [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development](#)

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 **keynote speaker 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 moderated conversation with 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 Health System
- Vivian Oden, Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Ricshawn Roane, Weissberg Foundation

Speakers:

- Dr. Cecilia Barbosa, Jenkins Foundation (*trustee*)
- Sheryl Garland, VCU Health System
- Maggie Mackaman, The Health Collaborative – Danville
- Patricia Mathews, Northern Virginia Health Foundation (*retired*)
- Dr. Cynthia Romero, Eastern Virginia Medical School (*trustee*)
- Jonathan Zur, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (*moderator*)

Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: [The Meyer Foundation](#) | [Williamsburg Health Foundation](#)

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 | Potomac G

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 | 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 | Potomac E

Discussion Leader:

Elizabeth Hughes, Independent Researcher & Consultant

Supporting Sponsor: [United Philanthropy Forum](#)

3:00pm **Breakout Session | Moving the Talent Pipeline for Healthcare Workforce to New Heights**

This session will delve into the innovative strategies and collaborative efforts aimed at advancing Virginia's healthcare workforce. We will examine how the healthcare talent pipeline can be extended through strategic partnerships, education reform, and employer-led solutions. The conversation will pivot around aligning these initiatives with the principles of inclusivity, equity, and accessibility to ensure a diverse and well-equipped healthcare workforce.

Attendees will gain insights into how funders can play a pivotal role in these developments and the resources available to catalyze action. Our panel of experts from the public sector, healthcare industry, and philanthropy will share their experiences, the progress made within their respective domains, and how these endeavors fit into the broader workforce development goals for the Commonwealth.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | James River B

Planning Team:

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

Speakers:

- Shirley Bazdar, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
- Sarah Bedard Holland, Virginia Health Catalyst
- Dr. William Hazel, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
- Dr. Matthew Loos, Ballad Health
- Nicole Overlay, Deputy Secretary of Labor for Workforce Development

Sponsor:



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 at the state, regional, and local levels.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | Potomac G

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:

- Andy Johnston, PATH Foundation
- Dr. Rebecca King-Mallory, Community Health Center of NRV
- Trinette Randolph, Virginia Health Care Foundation
- Rachel Rees, Virginia Health Care Foundation
- Ally Singer Wright, Virginia Mental Health Access Program

Sponsors:



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 | Potomac E

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
- 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

Sponsor:



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 | James River A

Planning Team:

- Lincoln Boykin, River Counties Community Foundation
- Nathan Burrell, Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- Sarah Arenstein Levy, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- 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:



Supporting Sponsors: [Virginia Environmental Endowment](#) | [Virginia Outdoors Foundation](#)

4:45pm **Cocktail Reception**

Join us for pre-dinner cocktails, live music, and small bites as we celebrate a full day of networking and learning. Meet new friends and catch up with those you know before we are escorted by special guests back to the OMNI for our evening exploring Richmond's vibrant arts and culture scene.

Location: Bank of America Lobby

Remarks: Kristen Nye, Richmond City Council

Performance by: GreenSpring International Academy of Music

Special appearance by: Richmond Flying Squirrel's Nutzy & Natasha

Sponsor:

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

During the evening session and dinner, we will be joined by **keynote speaker, 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

Speaker:

- Hamilton Glass, Artist

Performance by: GreenSpring International Academy of Music

Sponsors:

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.

Location: OMNI Richmond Hotel | Magnolia

Sponsor:

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

7:30am **Registration Opens**

8:00am Breakfast

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?

Join us as **keynote speaker Judy Woodruff, Senior Correspondent and the former anchor and Managing Editor of the PBS NewsHour**, opens the session followed by a conversation about the national Press Forward movement and a statewide North Carolina effort to support organizations working toward a healthier local news and information ecosystem.

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:

- Lizzy Hazeltine, North Carolina Local News Lab Fund
- Duc Luu, The Knight Foundation
- Judy Woodruff, PBS (*moderator*)

Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: [American Press Institute](#) | [PATH Foundation](#) | [Virginia Humanities](#)

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 | Potomac E

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:



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 an 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 | Potomac G

Planning Team:

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

Speakers:

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

Sponsors:



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 | James River A

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
- Chandler Vaughan, Department of Housing and Community Development

Speakers:

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

Sponsor:



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 | Potomac F

Speakers & Planning Team:

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

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 | James River B

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:

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

Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: [American Press Institute](#) | [PATH Foundation](#) | [Virginia Humanities](#)

11:30am Closing 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:

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

Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsors: [Altria Group](#) | [Williamsburg Health Foundation](#)

1:15 pm **Adjourn**