

# STRONGER TOGETHER

BUILDING BRIDGES,  
EMPOWERING CHANGE

Virginia Funders Network 4th Annual Conference

Presented by



**Monday, April 28, 2025**

**10:00 am Registration Opens**

**12:00 pm Welcome Plenary | Meeting the Moment: Philanthropy's Role in a Time of Change**

How should philanthropy lead in today's constantly changing environment to ensure Virginia communities are thriving? How do we use active listening in our work with grantees to demonstrate empathy and understanding when they face the pressures of uncertain funding and negative public perception? How do we stay true to our philanthropic missions? During this opening session for the 2025 Conference, we will learn about the state of nonprofits, hear how philanthropy is stepping up to lead, explore the changing demographics of Virginia and its economic impact on our communities, and celebrate examples of Virginia funders who are meeting the moment.

**Location:** Lansdowne Ballroom AB

**Planning Team:**

- Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, The Meyer Foundation
- Mary Fant Donnan, The Alleghany Foundation
- Jill McCormick, Jackson Foundation
- Heather Peeler, ACT for Alexandria

**Speakers:**

- Phil Buchanan, The Center for Effective Philanthropy
- Sean McMurray, Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Heather Peeler, ACT for Alexandria
- Ricshawn Adkins Roane, Weissberg Foundation
- Jacqueline Tucker, The Meyer Foundation

**Sponsor:**



**2:00 pm**      **Breakout Session | Identifying New Opportunities for Rural Community Growth**

Rural communities are central to Virginia's identity, economy, and future prosperity. Yet, they've long been held back by inadequate investments in areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education. This lack of opportunity has caused residents to leave, stifling growth and vitality. With the right resources and support, these regions have the potential to thrive. This session will highlight three programs and tools, all rooted in best practices, that communities can access to uplift rural voices, strengthen leadership, and create opportunities.

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Lincoln Boykin, River Counties Community Foundation
- Jarrod Elwell, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Bonita Robertson-Hardy, Aspen Institute
- Sarah Reardon, Jessie Ball duPont Fund
- Chandler Vaughan, Virginia Rural Center

**Speakers:**

- Jarrod Elwell, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Bonita Robertson-Hardy, Aspen Institute
- Chandler Vaughan, Virginia Rural Center

**Sponsor:**



**Supporting Sponsors:** Department of Housing and Community Development, River Counties Community Foundation

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**2:00 pm**      **Breakout Session | Policy & Advocacy**

At this time of change, philanthropy has a crucial opportunity to educate and influence members of the public and policymakers about the impact of our work with partners in communities. This breakout session will focus on the tools and rules of policy and advocacy, and highlight how we can work within our organization and with community partners to make a difference. Funders will talk about how they got started and the journey they are on in policy and advocacy, and can learn from other attendees in small group discussions.

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Kisha Bwenge, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- Julia McKay, Bainum Family Foundation
- Meg Pienkowski, Robins Foundation
- Brandi Yee, ACT for Alexandria

**Speakers:**

- Rebecca Chisek, Bainum Foundation
- Brian Johns, Virginia Organizing

- Abby Levine, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Brandi Yee, ACT for Alexandria

Sponsors:



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## 2:00 pm Breakout Session | Environment

*Session details are still unfolding...*

Location: TBD

Planning Team:

- Lincoln Boykin, River Counties Community Foundation
- Emily MacCartney, Virginia Natural Gas
- Joe Maroon, Virginia Environmental Endowment
- Megan McPherson, Chesapeake Bay Funders Network
- Sari Raskin, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

Speakers:

- Lincoln Boykin, River Counties Community Foundation
- Emily MacCartney, Virginia Natural Gas
- Joe Maroon, Virginia Environmental Endowment

Supporting Sponsor: Virginia Environmental Endowment, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

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## 2:00 pm Breakout Session | Community Collaborations Tools & Techniques

*Session details are still unfolding...*

Location: TBD

Planning Team:

- Jarrod Elwell, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Dan Layman, Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
- Lisa O'Mara, Locus
- Rebecca Rowe, Department of Housing and Community Development

Speakers:

- Dan Layman, Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

Sponsor:



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## 4:30 pm Welcome Reception

Join us for the official kick-off of VFN's 4th Annual Conference and help celebrate with friends, heavy appetizers, and drinks!

Location: TBD

Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsor: Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties

## Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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8:00 am Breakfast

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8:30 am **Breakfast Plenary | Workforce Collaboration Models for Economic Mobility**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

Location: Lansdowne Ballroom AB

Planning Team:

- Scott Andrews-Weckerly, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Abby Hollingsworth, Bank of America
- Stephanie Nerantzis, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation
- Polly Raible, Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation

Speakers:

- Dr. David Dore, Virginia Community College System
- Dr. Bill Hazel, Claude Moore Opportunities (*moderator*)
- Nicole Overlay, Virginia Works
- Bryan Slater, Secretary of Labor

Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: Altria

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10:30 am **Deep Dive Session | Disaster Preparedness**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

Location: TBD

Planning Team:

- Jarrod Elwell, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
  - Sandy Strayer, The Harvest Foundation
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10:30 am **Deep Dive Session | Local News**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

Location: TBD

Planning Team:

- Stefanie Abbott, The Karsh Institute of Democracy at UVA
- Michael Bolden, American Press Institute
- Matthew Gibson, Virginia Humanities

Supporting Sponsor: The Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation

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## 10:30 am Deep Dive Session | Value of Research to Funding Decisions

Session details are still unfolding...

Location: TBD

### Planning Team & Speakers:

- Isabel Eljaiek, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Mike Monteith, Peninsula Community Foundation of Virginia (*retired*)
- Sari Raskin, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia
- Courtney Rice, Northern Virginia Health Foundation
- Katina Williams, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

Sponsor:



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## 10:30 am Deep Dive Session | Impact Investing

Session details are still unfolding...

Location: TBD

### Planning Team:

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

Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsor: Virginia CDFI Coalition

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## 12:00 pm Lunch Plenary | Meeting the Moment: Innovations in Health Access for All

As philanthropy, we are called to meet the moment and ensure all who live in Virginia have access to quality, affordable care. This session describes how Virginia funders can respond to unmet need for health care in our communities and most vulnerable populations, and will highlight innovative programs serving specific populations. Hemi Tewarson, Executive Director of the National Association of State Health Policy (NASHP) will reflect on the current state of health access in the US and in states, including Virginia. This will be followed by several examples of philanthropic innovations in health access in

Virginia. This session is designed to inspire us to take action in policy, programming, and narrative change/storytelling strategies.

**Location:** Lansdowne Ballroom AB

**Planning Team:**

- Reggie Gordon, Richmond Memorial Health Foundation
- Krystal Moyers, Augusta Health
- Erin Matthew Thomas, Potomac Health Foundation
- Suzy Quinn, Inova Health Foundation

**Speakers:**

- Sage Bolte, Inova
- Reggie Gordon, Richmond Memorial Health Foundation
- Isaac Izzillo, Augusta Health
- Hemi Tewarson, National Association of State Health Policy

**Sponsors:**



**Supporting Sponsor:** Potomac Health Foundation

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**2:00 pm      Role Based Learning Session | Program Officers**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Brandy Cramer, The Cameron 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

**Sponsor:**



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**2:00 pm      Role Based Learning Session | Chief Executive Officers**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Nadine Marsh Carter, The Cameron Foundation
- Amy Nisenson, The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation
- Jennifer Owens, Arlington Community Foundation
- Jessica Wirgau, Community Foundation of the New River Valley

Sponsor:

The Mary Morton  
Parsons Foundation

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## 2:00 pm **Role Based Learning Session | Trustees**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

Location: TBD

Planning Team:

- David Nicosia, Truist Foundations and Endowments Specialty Practice
- Susie Lee, Northern Virginia Health Foundation (*Trustee*)
- Elizabeth Cabell Jennings, ClearView Fiduciary Alliance & Cabell Foundation (*Trustee*)

Sponsor:



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## 2:00 pm **Role Based Learning Session | Finance**

Join your colleagues for the first annual finance role-based learning session at the VFN conference and get to know others who share a similar role or similar professional interests in member organizations across the Commonwealth. This session will focus on networking and Hot Topics for Finance professionals. Examples of Hot Topics to be discussed are budgeting, investment management, and financial storytelling. If you are a finance staff or board member, or interested in finance, this session is for you!

Location: TBD

Planning Team:

- Linda Hall, Atlantic Union Bank
- Rusty Little, Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Michelle Nelson, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Grant Pearse, PATH Foundation

Supporting Sponsor: Atlantic Union Bank

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## 5:00 pm **VIP Reception**

VFN is founded and sustained by members who go above and beyond! We invite our Founding Members, current Board Members, Conference Planning Committee, and Sustainers Circle Members for a time of celebrating all that we have accomplished together.

Location: TBD

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## 5:30 pm **Dine Arounds**

We invite guests to join one of the dine arounds nearby to connect and share a meal with peers! Dine around groups include: Community Foundations, Corporate members, Trustees, CEOs, Program Officers, Finance members, Health Legacy, Family Foundations, or simply connect with others.

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**7:30 pm**      **Wine & Wishes for Virginia Philanthropy in 2025 and Beyond**

After a dinner with colleagues and friends, join us for a fun, interactive session to unwind with wine and share your wishes for funder practices in 2025 and beyond. What do you wish Virginia funders did more of? What do you wish Virginia funders did less of? We'll celebrate VFN's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with cake and wonderful Loudoun County wines (or the beverage of your choice). Our "birthday wishes" will be shared at the end of the conference.

**Location:** Lansdowne Ballroom AB

**Planning Team:**

- Lincoln Boykin, River Counties Community Foundation
- Fiona Charles, Obici Healthcare Foundation
- Kelly Thomasson, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

**Sponsor:**



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## **Wednesday, April 30, 2025**

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**7:30 am**      **Walk/Run**

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**8:00 am**      **Breakfast: A Healthy Start to Your Day!**

**Sponsor:**



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**8:45 am**      **Breakout Session | AI in Philanthropy's Work**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Andy Johnston, PATH Foundation
- Mike Monteith, Peninsula Community Foundation of Virginia (*retired*)
- Courtney Rice, Northern Virginia Health Foundation
- Albert Walker, Richmond Memorial Health Foundation

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**8:45 am**      **Breakout Session | Finding Your Lane: Housing Affordability Action Guide for Virginia Funders**

Attainable, affordable, accessible, and safe housing continues to be a number one concern for Virginia's residents and communities. There is a role for all sectors - government, business, and the social (nonprofit) sector - in providing affordable and workforce housing. Virginia funders are using a continuum of strategies to address community needs, from



thought partnership to building and preserving housing, from public education to providing wrap-around services or supports. Join this breakout session to learn more about what other funders are doing to ensure attainable and affordable housing in their communities. Join us to learn more about VFN's new publication, Finding your Lane: Housing Affordability Action Guide for Virginia Funders.

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Nicole Acosta, Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties
- Sean McMurray, Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Mayana Rice, Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners
- Chris Thompson, Virginia Housing

**Speakers:**

- Nicole Acosta, Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties
- Andy Davenport, Community Housing Partners
- Jill Norcross, Northern Virginia Housing Alliance
- Jake Powell, Community Housing Partners
- Scott Andrews-Weckerly, The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

**Sponsors:**



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**8:45 am Breakout Session | Capacity & Durability Building for the Nonprofit Sector**

The sustainability of the nonprofit sector is top-of-mind for funders, especially during times of disruption and sudden change. What is philanthropy's role in supporting nonprofits to create the infrastructure necessary for stability during this time of uncertainty? What strategies did funders use during the COVID-19 pandemic that can inform our work now? This session will explore grantmaking practices built on engagement with community partners and ways funders are working together to create resilience in the nonprofit sector. Attendees will leave this session with tips for immediate action and ideas for ways to build proactive solutions for the long-term.

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Nicole Acosta, Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties
- Fiona Charles, Obici Healthcare Foundation
- Joshua Hearne, Danville Regional Foundation
- Wendy McGrady, The Curtis Group

**Speakers:**

- Darius Graham, Greater Washington Community Foundation
- Joshua Hearne, Danville Regional Foundation

**Supporting Sponsor:** Northern Virginia Health Foundation

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**8:45am Breakout Session | Youth Mental Health**

*Session details are still unfolding...*

**Location:** TBD

**Planning Team:**

- Lisa Baehre, Sandler Center Foundation

- Analise Gammel, Serve Virginia
- Andy Johnston, PATH Foundation
- Damion Perkins, Kaiser Permanente
- Vineeta Shah, Jenkins Foundation

Supporting Sponsor: Fagus Foundation, Sandler Center Foundation

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## 10:00 am Closing Plenary | Caregiving & Wellbeing

*Session details are still unfolding...*

Location: TBD

### Planning Team:

- Erin Hogan, Bank of America
- David Shang, PATH Foundation

### Speakers:

- Tom Chiodo, WETA
- Jessica Guthrie
- Richard Lui, MSNBC/NBC News

Sponsors:

**BANK OF AMERICA** 



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## 12:15 pm Adjourn