

STRONGER TOGETHER

INSPIRING RESILIENCE, MOVING VIRGINIA FORWARD

Waterside Marriot | Norfolk, Virginia
May 4-6, 2026

VIRGINIA'S STATEWIDE CONFERENCE FOR PHILANTHROPY

PRESENTED BY



The Blocker Foundation

Monday, May 4

10:00am Registration Opens

11:30am Lunch

Location: Marriott Ballroom

12:00pm **Welcome Plenary | Stronger Together: Inspiring Resilience, Moving Virginia Forward**

The opening session of this year's conference will set the stage for our theme, *Stronger Together: Inspiring Resilience, Moving Virginia Forward*. Following an engaging keynote, from Dr. Edward Ayers, Professor of the Humanities and President Emeritus at the University of Richmond, a series of powerful mini-TED-style talks will spotlight the transformative impact of philanthropic engagement in strengthening communities across Virginia. Through compelling stories, bold ideas, and fresh perspectives, speakers will explore how collaboration, generosity, and innovation can fuel resilience and create lasting momentum for the Commonwealth's future.

Join us as we kick off the conference with inspiration, connection, and a shared commitment to moving Virginia forward—together.

Location: Marriott Ballroom

Planning Team:

- Dr. Deborah DiCroce | Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Sarah Taylor | The Blocker Foundation
- Kelly Thomasson | Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

Speaker:

- Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston | Norfolk State University
- Dr. Edward Ayers | University of Richmond
- Clark Casteel | Danville Regional Foundation
- Marjorie Mayfield Jackson | Elizabeth River Project

Lead Sponsor:

2:00pm Navigating Virginia's Economic Landscape

This session features insights from the Dragas Center's 2025 State of the Commonwealth Report, offering a comprehensive, data-driven overview of Virginia's economy. The presentation will explore key findings on statewide trends, regional performance, workforce issues, and fiscal policy.

Location: Marriott Ballroom

Speaker:

- Dr. Vinod Agarwal | Dragas Center for Economic Analysis & Policy

2:30pm Learning Session | CEO Roundtable: What's Keeping You Up at Night?

Philanthropic leaders are navigating a period of heightened uncertainty. Rising instances of fraud, potential cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, and a rapidly shifting policy environment are creating new pressures for both funders and the communities they support.

This **CEO-only** roundtable will open with a candid conversation: What's keeping you up at night? Together, participants will explore how leaders are addressing fraud risk while maintaining trust-based partnerships, preparing for the ripple effects of federal funding cuts on nonprofit partners and vulnerable communities, balancing urgent response with long-term strategy, and working effectively with boards and staff during times of uncertainty.

This confidential session offers space for peer exchange, shared insight, and strategic reflection at a pivotal moment for philanthropic leadership.

Location: Chesapeake 1

Planning Team:

- Sean McMurray | Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Amy Nisenson | The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation
- Leslie Smith | Charlottesville Area Community Foundation

Facilitator:

- Katherine Whitney | Warren Whitney

Lead Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:

The Mary Morton
Parsons Foundation



2:30pm Learning Session | PO Roundtable: What Works - Tools, Practices, and Partnerships for Smarter, Stronger Work

Time and competing responsibilities are a constant challenge, but peer connection remains one of the most powerful ways we learn and improve. What Works is an interactive, "Show & Tell"-style session designed to surface practical tools, proven

practices, and real-world insights that help professionals work more effectively and sustainably.

Participants will rotate through facilitated table discussions focused on key areas: practical tools and day-to-day practices; skill-building, learning frameworks, and professional development; ways to support partners beyond grantmaking; strategies for building and strengthening relationships; and go-to tools recommended by peers and collaborators. Attendees are asked to bring and share resources, templates, or approaches that have made a meaningful difference in their work. The more “tools” we have, the stronger the conversation.

Location: James 1-3

Planning Team & Speakers:

- Fiona Charles | Obici Healthcare Foundation
- Brandy Cramer | The Cameron Foundation
- Joshua Hearne | Danville Regional Foundation
- Rachel Ermann Lynch | Northern Virginia Health Foundation
- Jessica Mullen | Obici Healthcare Foundation

Supporting Sponsor:



2:30pm **Learning Session | Finance Roundtable: Finance with Purpose - Powering Philanthropic Impact**

In today's shifting economic landscape, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders must take a proactive approach to financial resilience. This session explores how organizations are leveraging banking relationships and services more strategically, improving internal processes, and navigating emerging financial risks.

Participants will also examine financial tools that preserve endowment or corpus, including impact investing and mission-aligned investing tools, etc. The session will close with a practical look at scenario planning—offering strategies for budgeting under uncertainty and preparing for potential downturns, with a focus on implications for grantmaking, operations, and overall financial health.

Following presentations, participants will break into table conversations with our speakers for a deeper dive into each topic. If you are a finance staff or board member, or interested in these topics, this session is for you!

Location: Chesapeake 2

Planning Team:

- Stephanie Collins | Keiter
- Kyle Ficker | Warren Whitney
- Rusty Little | Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Michelle Nelson | Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Grant Pearse | PATH Foundation

Speakers:

- Bill Greenleaf | Locus
- Jenna MacKay | Towne Trust
- Grant Pearse | PATH Foundation (*moderator*)
- Dawn Provost | TowneBank
- Scott Warren | Warren Whitney

Lead Sponsors:

4:30pm **Welcome Reception**

Get ready to kick off the conference in style at our Welcome Reception—the ultimate opening celebration! Come mix, mingle, and make new connections in a fun, relaxed atmosphere filled with great energy. Enjoy lively local entertainment, tasty light bites, and refreshing drinks as you ease into the conference experience. Whether you're catching up with familiar faces or meeting new ones, this is the perfect way to start things off on a high note. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Location: Virginia Arts Festival | Perry Pavilion

Planning Team:

- Lisa Baehre | Sandler Center Foundation
- Sherry Norquist | Sentara
- Michelle Washington | Hampton Roads Community Foundation

Remarks:

- Robert Cross | Virginia Arts Festival
- Courtney Doyle | Norfolk City Council
- Kate Keller | The Harvest Foundation

Lead Sponsor:



6:00pm **Dine Arounds**

Tuesday, May 5

7:30am **Registration Open**

8:00am **Breakfast**

Location: Marriott Ballroom

9:30am **Deep Dive | Bridging Across Sectors: How Civic Organizations, Higher Education & Philanthropy Are Rebuilding Social Infrastructure in Virginia**

As Virginia approaches the 250th anniversary of the United States, communities across the Commonwealth have an opportunity to reflect on shared history while strengthening relationships that will shape the future. The commemoration invites more than remembrance – it creates space for dialogue and collaboration across Virginia's diverse communities.

Across the state, grassroots leaders, higher education institutions, nonprofits, and philanthropy are cultivating new forms of civic connection. This session highlights four organizations working at different points in the civic ecosystem to foster dialogue,

strengthen relationships, and build the social infrastructure that helps communities thrive.

Participants will explore how bridging practices are advancing through community leadership, campus initiatives, and philanthropic partnership. Each demonstrates how pluralism and constructive engagement create intentional spaces for dialogue, deepening understanding and helping communities imagine a shared future.

Location: James 1-3

Planning Team:

- Vivian Oden | Hampton Roads Community Foundation
- Chris Peace | Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, Inc.
- Sarah Reardon | Jessie Ball duPont Fund
- Edgar Aranda Yanoc | The Meyer Foundation

Speakers:

- Vivian Oden | Hampton Roads Community Foundation (*moderator*)
- Chris Peace | Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, Inc.
- Sarah Reardon | Jessie Ball duPont Fund
- Monica Sarmiento | Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights
- Jonathan Zur | Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

Lead Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsor:



9:30am

Deep Dive | Access to Health Care Beyond Bricks & Mortar

Rising demand, staffing shortages, and financial strain are putting pressure on free and charitable clinics in Virginia and across the country, threatening access for Medicaid and uninsured patients. This session highlights cost effective innovations that extend care beyond traditional settings.

Speakers will share a scalable hybrid model that integrates in-person care with technology-enabled solutions such as telehealth, telemental health, and digital and virtual care that reach underserved rural and high-need communities. The session will also spotlight community-led efforts to improve Black maternal and child health outside the clinical setting.

Participants will learn how these models align with Medicaid and safety-net systems, and what it takes to support and scale them—from workforce and data to how they build relationships with communities, partnerships, and philanthropy.

Location: Chesapeake 1

Planning Team:

- Zoila Cortes Arellano | PATH Foundation
- Jamaal Ellison | The Cameron Foundation
- Andy Johnston | PATH Foundation

- Johana Orellana | Potomac Health Foundation

Speakers:

- Zoila Cortes Arellano | PATH Foundation (*moderator*)
- Dr. Jill Cattel | Lackey Clinic
- Amy Paulson | CINCH: Black Maternal Health Equity Action Alliance
- Larry Trumbore | Lackey Clinic

Lead Sponsors:



Supporting Sponsor:



9:30am

Deep Dive | Strengthening Funder Relationships with Elected Officials & Advocacy Organizations

Strengthening relationships between funders, elected officials, and advocacy groups is an essential element for policy and advocacy planning, implementation, and outcomes. Join us for this Deep Dive to hear about best tips for funders on how to build positive relationships with key stakeholders in Virginia. The session will also cover a summary of the just completed General Assembly session, as well as how to engage decisionmakers and advocates in your region and at the state level.

Location: Chesapeake 2

Planning Team:

- Scott Andrews-Weckerly | Williamsburg Community Foundation
- Vannice Evans | ACT for Alexandria
- Sarah Bedard Holland | The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Natisha Knight | Richmond Memorial Health Foundation

Speakers:

- Allison Gilbreath | Voices for Virginia's Children
- Natisha Knight | Richmond Memorial Health Foundation (*moderator*)
- Jennie O'Holleran | Broad Street Group

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11:00am

Breakout Session | Housing & Impact Investing in Virginia: Current Trends, Challenges & Opportunities for Engagement

Staying up to date with the changing federal and state environment for attainable housing in Virginia can be challenging. This breakout session will feature representatives from key state agencies and organizations that focus on housing and impact investing and will provide a current update on the opportunities and challenges of our current time.

Location: Chesapeake 1

Planning Team:

- DeWitt House | The Harvest Foundation
- Lisa O'Mara | Locus
- Evette Roots | Wells Fargo

Speakers:

- Brian Koziol | Virginia Housing Alliance
- Sherry Norquist | Sentara (*moderator*)
- Pravina Raghavan | Locus
- Cassidy Rasnik | Department of Housing and Community Development
- Chris Thompson | Virginia Housing

Lead Sponsors:



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11:00am

Breakout Session | Investing in Generational Drivers of Economic Development

Housing is foundational, but lasting economic mobility requires sustained, multi-generational investment. Philanthropy plays a key role in strengthening the long-term drivers of economic opportunity—from early childhood education to workforce pathways and regional economic diversification.

This session will highlight strategies that build opportunity across the lifespan, including an economically diverse early childhood education model that supports kindergarten readiness and working families; investments in college and career pathways that expand awareness of postsecondary options and paid internships; and a rural regional collaborative in Virginia working to diversify local economies and create pathways to good-paying jobs.

Panelists will also discuss a critical leadership challenge: how to build and sustain support for investments whose returns may take years—or even a generation—to realize. Join us for a conversation on advancing inclusive economic development through long-term partnerships and strategies.

Location: James 1-3

Planning Team:

- Susan Abel | Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Nathalia Artus | Atlantic Union Bank

- Tom Cosgrove | Newport News Shipbuilding
- Jessica Wirgau | Community Foundation of the New River Valley

Speakers:

- Susan Abel | Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia
- Dr. Adam Hutchison | Virginia Highlands Community College
- Linda Hall | Atlantic Union Bank
- Rupa Murthy | YWCA
- Audrey Trussell | Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Jessica Wirgau | Community Foundation of the New River Valley

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FOUNDATION**
of the New River Valley

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COMMUNITY
CABINET**

11:00am Breakout Session | Unlocking Impact: Philanthropy and Virginia's Rural Transformation Funds

This session explores the transformative potential of the Rural Health Transformation Program and its impact on Virginia's communities. Participants will begin with an overview of how federal legislation from the last 18 months is reshaping rural healthcare delivery, followed by Virginia's state perspective on implementation of potential new funding from the RHTP. Philanthropy has an opportunity to play a key role in helping build a strong, and timely, foundation that sets their regions up to successfully apply for available funds.

In an interactive table exercise, attendees will work with other leaders in their region to identify keep opportunities, such as working with policy advocates in your region to understand implications, ideas for convening grantees and working collaboratively, and identifying ways to best use the funds in your region. The session concludes with a report-out, highlighting innovative ideas and regional strategies that can advance rural health outcomes across the Commonwealth.

Location: Chesapeake 2

Planning Team:

- Lincoln Boykin | River Counties Community Foundation
- Mary Fant Donnan | The Alleghany Foundation
- Jarrod Ellwell | Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
- Kate Keller | The Harvest Foundation
- Polly Raible | Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation
- Sarah Reardon | Jessie Ball duPont Fund

Speakers:

- Heidi Hertz | Office of the Governor
- Polly Raible | Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation (*moderator*)
- Lauryn Walker | Office of the Governor

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12:30pm Lunch

Location: Marriott Ballroom

12:45pm Lunch Plenary | Systems Change for Improving Health Outcomes

This TED-Talk-style plenary spotlights three Virginia initiatives driving systems change to improve health outcomes. Speakers will explore how Food Is Medicine models are integrating with healthcare systems, how Community Health Workers are strengthening public health infrastructure, and how innovative workforce pathways are addressing the youth behavioral health crisis. Presenters will share data-driven results, key challenges, sustainability strategies, and opportunities for philanthropy to support cross-sector solutions that advance equitable, long-term health improvements.

Location: Marriott Ballroom

Planning Team:

- Andrea Lancaster | Virginia Health Care Foundation
- Jessica Mullen | Obici Healthcare Foundation
- Courtney Rice | Northern Virginia Health Foundation
- Vineeta Shah | Jenkins Foundation

Speakers:

- Shanteny Jackson | Community Health Workers of Virginia
- Dr. Robyn Mehlenbeck | GMU Center for Community Mental Health
- Valerie McAllister | Institute for Public Health Innovation
- Radha Muthiah | Capital Area Food Bank
- Courtney Rice | Northern Virginia Health Foundation (*moderator*)

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3:00pm **Breakout Session | Resilient Family Philanthropy: Adapting Policy, Process, People & Practice**

This interactive session brings together leadership and staff of family foundations and donor advised funds to explore how the field is evolving and what it means for your work. Participants will hear the latest insights and trends from the National Center for Family Philanthropy, offering a timely snapshot of where family giving is headed.

The session then shifts into facilitated table conversations, where participants will dive deeper into four key areas shaping philanthropic practice: Policy (governance), Process (how foundations innovate and evolve over time), People (engaging next generation leaders, building legacy, and navigating sunseting), and Practice (the approaches and activities that define how work gets done).

We will conclude with shared reflections, creating space to surface practical ideas, spark peer learning, and identify strategies participants can bring back to their own organizations. Participants will also share thoughts about future learning opportunities, specifically geared toward family foundations and donor advised funds.

Location: Chesapeake 1

Planning Team:

- Kelly Chopus | Community Collaborations
- Susan Hallett | Bob and Anna Lou Schaberg Foundation
- Erin Hogan | Bank of America
- Jill McCormick | Jackson Foundation
- Matthew Peterson | John & Janice Wyatt Foundation

Speakers:

- Kelly Chopus | Community Collaborations (*moderator*)
- Sarah Dovere | National Center for Family Philanthropy
- Susan Hallett | Bob and Anna Lou Schaberg Foundation
- Matthew Peterson | John & Janice Wyatt Foundation

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**Bob and Anna Lou
Schaberg Foundation**

Supporting Sponsor:



3:00pm **Breakout Session | Beyond the Grant: Strategies for Community Foundations & United Way Leaders & Staff to Strengthen the Nonprofit Sector**

Community foundations and United Ways face growing needs that outpace available resources. When funding can't meet demand, how can we respond—and move beyond traditional grantmaking?

This interactive session explores how to leverage assets like data, partnerships, and advocacy to strengthen nonprofit capacity and shift from reactive funding to proactive systems-building. We'll discuss making data-informed decisions, navigating funding constraints with clarity and compassion, and co-creating solutions with community partners.

Participants will leave with practical strategies, real-world examples, and a framework for leading through constraint while building trust and resilience.

Location: James 1-3

Planning Team:

- Kevin Foster | John Randolph Foundation
- Lynda Helton | Smyth County Community Foundation
- Dan Layman | Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
- Mark Uren | United Way of South Hampton Roads

Facilitator:

- Dr. Mariane Doyle | Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Lead Sponsor:



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3:00pm

Breakout Session | The Modern Corporate Foundation: Balancing Stakeholder Needs with Meaningful Community Outcomes

Today's corporate foundations operate at the intersection of business strategy, employee engagement, community expectations, and increasing demands for measurable impact. As these expectations grow, leaders must thoughtfully align internal priorities while remaining responsive to evolving community needs.

This interactive session brings corporate foundation and business leaders together for a candid and practical exploration of community engagement. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of civic engagement principles and how to align their community engagement strategies with business goals, employee passions, and authentic community partnerships.

Through guided activities and discussions attendees will assess their current approach, discuss how organizations can navigate common stakeholder tensions and gain tools to begin building a more targeted, strategic plan for impact.

Location: Chesapeake 2

Planning Team:

- Carolyn Champion | Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- Linda Hall | Atlantic Union Bank
- Emily McCartney | Virginia Natural Gas

Speakers:

- Vanessa Diamond | Points of Light (*facilitator*)
- Megyn Robertson | Community Foundation for a greater Richmond

Supporting Sponsors:



5:30pm Dine Arounds

Wednesday, May 6

7:30am Breakfast w/ Open Table Conversations for Sponsors & Exhibitors

9:00am **Deep Dive | Press Forward Virginia: Shaping Virginia's Local News Ecosystem Together**

Press Forward Virginia has recently been designated as a state chapter—creating a timely opportunity for funders to shape a more coordinated, effective approach to supporting local news.

In this highly interactive session, we'll share some highlights of the research on Virginia's local news ecosystem, map out existing funding efforts across the state, and talk about next steps for helping build the chapter. Come and share what the news ecosystem looks like in your community, your questions and concerns, and your hopes for the future of local news in Virginia that we can build together.

Location: Chesapeake 1

Planning Team:

- Matthew Gibson | Virginia Humanities
- Holly Hatcher | The Anne & Gene Worrell Foundation
- Amy Petty | PATH Foundation

Facilitators:

- Megan Griffith-Greene | The Poynter Institute
- Kelly McBride | The Poynter Institute

Lead Sponsor:



Anne & Gene
Worrell
Foundation

9:00am **Deep Dive | Transforming Together: Shared Services, Strategic Mergers, and High-Impact Collaboration**

Nonprofits are being asked to do more than ever—often with fewer resources. Funders play a critical role in supporting models that help organizations work smarter, strengthen capacity, and increase impact. This session explores how shared services, strategic alliances, and mergers can build stronger, more sustainable nonprofits while preserving mission and community trust.

Participants will hear real-world examples of collaboration, discuss when integration makes sense, and examine how funders can support these conversations through thoughtful funding strategies that advance long-term resilience.

Location: Chesapeake 2

Planning Team & Facilitators:

- Lisa Baehre | Sandler Center Foundation
- Staci Barfield | Armstrong McGuire
- Amanda Bomfim | Community Foundation for Northern Virginia (*moderator*)
- Megyn Robertson | The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
- Sarah Walsh | United Way of Virginia

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9:00am **Deep Dive | Legal Landscapes & the Philanthropic Sector**

Federal and state policy developments are reshaping the landscape for philanthropic organizations and the nonprofits they support. This session will highlight key legislative and regulatory changes, including emerging federal tax policy discussions, proposed Virginia legislation establishing a state Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) insurance program, and proposed updates to the Virginia Nonstock Corporation Act affecting nonprofit governance and oversight. Speakers will discuss compliance considerations, legal risks, and implications for funding work with immigrant communities, while offering strategies to help funders stay informed and prepared.

Location: James 1-3

Planning Team:

- Nadine Marsh Carter | The Cameron Foundation
- Whitney Saunders | The Blocker Foundation

Speakers:

- Michele McKinnon | McGuireWoods
- Alec Sauble | McGuireWoods

10:30am **Closing Plenary | The State of the Nonprofit Sector, Philanthropy & Our Shared Future**

As the social sector navigates rapid change and uncertainty, this closing session offers both perspective and resolve. In the keynote, Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Council of Nonprofits, will provide a national overview of the nonprofit sector—examining funding trends, workforce challenges, and the policy landscape—while sharing new data from the Center for Nonprofit Excellence highlighting the nonprofit sector's economic impact and role as a major employer across Virginia.

Following the keynote, Diane will moderate a fireside chat with philanthropy leaders Raj Borsellino and David Daniels on how philanthropy is adapting to today's realities while staying grounded in long-term vision and values.

The session concludes with a call to action: strengthening Virginia's social sector will require courage, collaboration, and shared commitment from nonprofits, philanthropy, policymakers, and partners alike.

Location: Marriott Ballroom

Planning Team:

- Mariane Doyle | Center for Nonprofit Excellence
- Melissa German | Center for Nonprofit Excellence
- Mark Johnson | Truist
- Amanda Smith | Bainum Family Foundation

Speakers:

- Raj Borsellino | Truist
- David Daniels | Bainum Family Foundation
- Diane Yentel | National Council of Nonprofits

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12:15 pm **Adjourn**