



## **GREEN Working Group Virtual Annual Meeting**

As of November 24, 2020

### **Meeting Goals:**

- Deepen learning from practitioners and peers with focus on Racial and Social Justice, Power Building, and Equity-Centered Climate and Sustainability Investments.
- Strategize how the multiple challenges, inequities, and harms exacerbated by and laid bare by COVID-19 call for new funder strategies centered in racial justice.
- Provide time for shared learning, funder discussion and exploring collaborative opportunities.
- Address key cross-cutting themes throughout: Power, Equity, Climate, Sustainability

### **Virtual Meeting Schedule: December 2-3, 2020**

#### **WEDNESDAY, December 2, 2020**

- 1:00 p.m.      **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Pat Smith**, The Funders Network
  - **Jen Somers**, the Energy Foundation and GREEN Chair
- 1:15 p.m.      **2020 Election Results and Implications for Equitable Climate Action and City Sustainability**
- Our opening panelists will debrief the results of the November election and share their perspectives on what it means for funders interested in equitable climate action and sustainable cities and communities. The session will include time for questions and discussion with our funder participants.
- **Jason Mark**, CEO, Energy Foundation
  - **John Mitterholzer**, George Gund Foundation (Moderator)
- 2:30 p.m.      **BREAK**
- 2:45 p.m.      **From Community Engagement to Collaborative Governance: the Providence Racial Equity Journey and Learning Lab**
- Funder, local government, and frontline community leaders in a number of cities and counties across the country are piloting new strategies for advancing collaborative equitable change. These new approaches treat equity as a design imperative and seek to place community leaders in equal partnership with local government, sharing power in decision-making and responsibilities for implementation. The City of Providence has been on the leading edge of this work moving from engagement toward collaborative governance. This panel will provide a deep dive into the Providence racial equity journey and learning laboratory including highlighting the role that philanthropy has played contributing to this work.
- **Desiree Williams-Rajee**, Kapwa Consulting

- **Leah Bamberger**, Director, City of Providence Office of Sustainability
- **Vatic Kuumba**, Racial and Environmental Justice Committee (invited)
- **Diane Ives**, Kendeda Fund (Moderator)

4:00 **BREAK**

4:30 p.m. **Fun and Games: Calamari Cocktails and GREEN Jeopardy: Rhode Island Edition**

**THURSDAY, December 3, 2020**

1:00 p.m. **Welcome to Day Two; Introductions in Chat**  
**Jen Somers**, Energy Foundation and GREEN Co-Chair

1:15 p.m. **Energy Democracy and Justice: Broadening Economic Opportunity, Bringing Economic Relief**  
 This session will highlight exciting energy democracy work underway in the region. Funders will learn about the multi-year organizing and advocacy work led by Neighbor to Neighbor in four communities across Massachusetts and the powerful localized efforts of Chelsea-based GreenRoots to tackle climate pollution and create jobs by promoting development of a community micro-grid in this working class environmental justice community. We will hear how community activists in Holyoke, Mass successfully closed down a dirty coal plant and helped secure a solar farm be built in its place, and are now working with the city to develop a net zero energy transition plan. We will learn how community leaders combine local initiatives that bring clean energy investments to frontline communities with statewide, regional, and national policy campaigns advancing public investment in support community-led clean energy.

- **Andrea Nyamekye**, Co-Director, Neighbor to Neighbor
- **Maria Belen Power**, GreenRoots
- **Mariella Puerto**, Co-Director Climate, Barr Foundation (Moderator)

2:45 p.m. **BREAK**

3:00 p.m. **Funder Discussion: Transforming Philanthropic Practices to Center Equity**

- Several foundation colleagues will share how they are revamping grantmaking strategies and approaches to share power and support community-led or community-engaged grant decisions. These approaches are responsive to calls to democratize philanthropy, and they can help build movements, center equity, and invest in the capacity of frontline and grassroots leaders. We will hear why this work is even more important today and how these approaches have

been strengthened or adjusted in light of the multiple crises facing communities this year – COVID-19, growing racial injustice, the climate crisis, housing and economic insecurity

- **David Beckman**, President, Pisces Foundation
- **Julia Dundorf**, Executive Director, New England Grassroots Environment Fund
- **Zoe Kircos**, Director of Grants and Partnerships, People for Bikes (Moderator) (invited)

Small group breakouts to share individual and institutional approaches

4:15 p.m.

**Meeting Reflections and Opportunities to Learn and Engage in 2021**

- Reflections on meeting; ideas for shared learning or collaboration
- TFN Strategic Framework introducing Communities of Practice
- Piloting with Systems Transformation Learning Series
- Brainstorming topics for communities of practice approach

4:40 p.m.

**Closing Remarks, Next Steps, and Appreciations**

Jen Somers, GREEN Chair