

FACT SHEET

ABOUT PLACES: [PLACES](#) is a transformational leadership development program of The Funders Network. It was created to support a diverse network of professionals in philanthropy to build the skills and knowledge to better understand issues of race, equity, and inclusiveness, to model the behavior, and translate it into grantmaking practices.

The fellowship works to build grant maker capacity and help the philanthropic sector address interrelated issues of community and economic development, environmental sustainability, and regional planning using an explicit lens of social, economic and racial equity.

Each cohort is made up of a diverse group of professionals working for place-based, regional, and national philanthropic organizations, intermediaries, and philanthropy serving organizations.

We envision that all graduates will have a deep understanding of the following concepts:

- Personal leadership development, coaching and skill building
- Equity, inclusiveness and sustainability
- Understanding the constructs of race and racialization
- Collaborative grantmaking and community engagement to increase equity in philanthropy and tools, resources, and best practices to help increase effectiveness
- Influencing the field and encouraging change in culture and equitable practices through leadership and action

In addition to the PLACES curriculum, Fellows learn from the people and places we visit. Our Fellowship Cohort, selected annually from a highly competitive pool of applicants, embarks on a 10-month journey that includes four site visits to communities across North America. As part of our learnings, we meet with local nonprofits, community leaders, funders, and government officials to better understand the issues impacting low-income communities and communities of color, and to learn about innovative, community driven efforts that are working to address them.

The Funders Network

is a membership organization that helps grantmakers advance strategies to create fair, prosperous, and sustainable regions, and communities that offer everyone the chance for a good life. **PLACES** helps support that mission.

- 🏠 Over 123 philanthropic organizations in North America have participated.
- 🏠 Since 2009, PLACES has graduated 162 fellows.
- 🏠 PLACES has a 97% graduation rate.
- 🏠 97% of Fellows have connected formally or informally with alumni and other TFN members.
- 🏠 8 alumni have served on the TFN Board of Directors.

Our Team:

[Dion Cartwright](#), Director of Equitable Initiatives and Leadership Development

[Talissa Lahaliyed](#), Equity Programs Manager

Bina M. Patel,
[Saathi Impact Consulting](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How are Fellows selected?

A: All fellows go through a competitive application process and are selected based on a variety of factors, especially a commitment to learning about equity in the context of community development and a willingness to invest in their professional and personal growth. An external application review committee reviews all eligible applications and meets over a two-day period to discuss each application. The committee makes recommendations to TFN staff for approval. TFN staff do not have a vote. Final approval is given by the CEO.

Q: What is the average cost to participate?

A: TFN charges a small participation to all who are accepted into the program. The current member rate is \$750 and \$1,250 for non-members. The Funders Network will cover all the costs associated with the learning activities (meals, conference calls, meeting materials, facilitators, speaker honorariums, and coaching). The candidate's foundation/organization is expected to cover their time for participation in the program, and any travel and lodging expenses incurred by the fellow during the program. The average organizational cost for Fellows to participate is up to \$6,000. *Limited travel sponsorships are available when feasible to TFN.*

Q: How is the Fellowship experience structured?

A: PLACES fellows attend up to 4 three-day site visits to various cities over the course of the learning year. Coaching and peer learning is provided throughout the entire experience. In addition to the PLACES curriculum, fellows learn from the people and places we visit. The site visit locations vary each year. The fellowship concludes with a capstone presentation and graduation. *The global Covid pandemic could impact planned site visits and travel. TFN will switch to virtual learning if necessary.*

Q: Am I eligible to participate?

A: If you have at least one year of experience in philanthropy and are working as a funder or at an organization serving philanthropy, you are eligible to participate. PLACES cohorts include diversity in experience, geography, race, age, ethnicity, gender identity and sexuality. We do our best to make any necessary accommodation for people with disabilities at their request.

Q: How is PLACES connected to The Funders Network?

TFN is working to create philanthropic leaders who are engaged, emboldened, and equipped to bring about a just society. This includes increasing representation of people of color in leadership positions. PLACES is an initiative of The Funders Network.



“PLACES was an extraordinary experience - the people and learning will forever serve to propel me forward as a person and professional committed to justice.”

“The #PLACES journey has been unreal, transformative, and propulsive. #gratitude. Thank you, @fundersnetwork! “

PLACES ADVISORY BOARD

The PLACES Fellowship Program is guided by an advisory board of national and place-based funders used to engage in the TFN Network as part of its ongoing commitment to incorporate issues of equity, fairness, opportunity and access in the fellowship program.

The advisory board plays a vital role by serving as a guiding body for program development to remain focused on issues of race, class and opportunity in the context of growth and development. Additionally, board members contribute their perspectives and expertise related to implementation of PLACES goals and strategies including alumni engagement.

Current Advisory Board Members:

- Aaron Robertson, Advancement Project California
- Anne Phillips, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Camille Cyprian, Centered Spaces
- C.J. Hager, Episcopal Health Foundation
- Chan Brown, Kansas Health Foundation
- Jaime Love, Climate Innovation at Movement Strategy Center
- Jonathan Hui, Kresge Foundation
- Kumar Raj, Kellogg Foundation
- Maranda Witherspoon, MWR Consulting Services
- Mekaelia Davis, Surdna Foundation
- Natalia Swanson, Mary Black Foundation
- Scot Spencer, Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Sheena Solomon, The Gifford Foundation (Chair)

PLACES IMPACT & STORYTELLING

PLACES X: Stories of Impact

For the [10th anniversary of TFN's PLACES Fellowship](#), we worked with two award-winning journalists to help capture the stories shared and the lessons learned through the [PLACES Fellowship](#). The result is our [PLACES Impact Stories](#) project, which includes profiles written by WLRN social justice reporter [Nadege Green](#) and videos created by documentary filmmaker [Oscar Corral](#).

Going PLACES Blog Series

After each [PLACES](#) site visit, we ask the fellows to reflect on their experiences in our blog series [Going PLACES](#). Check out some recent highlights from our [PLACES alumni](#).



SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

The PLACES Fellowship is supported by the generous contributions of various funders and The Funders Network. Key supporters include:



Questions?

If you would like to know more about [PLACES](#), including ways your organization can invest in our equity-focused PLACES Fellowship and Alumni Network, or offer general operating support of [The Funders Network](#), please email Dion Cartwright at dion@fundersnetwork.org or TFN's President, Patricia Smith at pat@fundersnetwork.org to schedule a meeting.