



Accelerating Ideas into Action

Centering Economic Equity: The Power of Intentionality

April 16-18, 2024 ~ New Orleans, Louisiana

Conference Co-Chairs:

Lynette Bell, Truist Foundation

Rev. Cory Anderson, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

AGENDA

Tuesday, April 16

Pre-Conference & Registration Day

10:00 AM

Registration Opens

12:00 - 4:00 PM

Asset Funders Network Pre-Conference

12:00 - 1:45 PM

Louisiana AFN – 5 Years Strong and Forward

Conference kick-off will include a dialogue on addressing racial segregation in housing led by Redress Movement's Cashauna Hill followed by a deep dive into climate change in the session "Building Assets for Vulnerable Communities in the Anthropocene." *Speakers: Jamie Schmill, Foundation for Louisiana, Jannease Seastrunk, Red River Bank, Cashauna Hill, Fair Housing Action Center & The Redress Movement, Ashleigh Gardere, Policy Link*

1:45 - 2:00 PM

Break

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Pre-Conference Mobile Sessions

Option 1: The Future of Equitable Transportation

Explore New Orleans on New Orleans Transit with the Ride New Orleans Team in a simulation focusing on transportation and economic justice.

Speaker: Courtney Jackson, Executive Director, Ride New Orleans

Option 2: Community-Centered Approaches to Housing Affordability

Join us for a tour of People's Housing+, a one-stop hub for affordable housing led by dynamic figures shaping the affordable housing environment in Louisiana.

Speakers: Kathy LaBorde, Gulf Coast Housing Partnership, Mike Grote, New Orleans Office/Alembic Community Development, Colin Felsman, People's Housing+, Terri Gage, Habitat for Humanity/St. Tammany Parish

4:30 - 8:00 PM

AFN Board Meeting & Dinner

6:00 - 8:00 PM

New Orleans District Inspired Dine-Arounds

AFN has thoughtfully curated a range of dining options across New Orleans' diverse districts. Invite a colleague or a newfound companion, and immerse yourself in a self-guided culinary journey through the various neighborhoods.

Wednesday, April 17

General Session Day One

7:30 AM

Registration Opens

7:30 - 8:45 AM

Breakfast & Networking

7:30 - 8:45 AM

Youth/Young Adults Networking Breakfast: Advancing the Financial Well-Being of Youth and Young Adults

9:00 - 9:30 AM

Welcome to New Orleans

Speaker: Lynette Bell, President, Truist Foundation

9:30 - 10:30 AM

Mainstage Session: Exploring the Roots and Horizons of Our Shared Asset-Building Journey

Join AFN as we celebrate 20 years, drawing inspiration from lessons learned in the asset-building movement. Together, let's honor our strengths, tackle challenges, pay tribute to our origins, and chart a course for a future. *Speakers: Joe Antolin, Asset Funders Network, Qiana Thomason, Health Forward*

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 - 12:00 PM

Mainstage Session: Centering Community Voice and Power

Learn from practitioners and grantmakers how to move from understanding to intentional action to center community voices, redefine power dynamics, and enhance accountability towards communities systematically excluded from wealth building. *Speakers: Claudia Arroyo, Prospera, Stephanie Gutierrez, Seven Fires, Tracey Greene-Washington, CoThinkk*

12:00 - 12:15 PM

Break

12:15 - 1:15 PM

Lunch & Regional/National Table Networking

1:15 - 1:30 PM

Break

1:30 - 2:45 PM

Breakout Sessions

Creative Models and Supportive Policies For Equitable Homeownership

Explore creative pathways, such as shared ownership programs, to effectively reduce racial and gender disparities in homeownership while also preserving our communities. *Speakers: Abe Hudson, Walton Family Foundation, Sara Albright, Excellerate Foundation, Kiyadh Burt, HOPE Enterprise Corporation*

CDFIs: Essential Partners for Racial Equity in Small Business

This panel will highlight successful CDFI models, identify support gaps, and propose actions to increase CDFI effectiveness to provide capital and technical support to small business owners, especially women and people of color in low-and moderate-income communities. *Speakers: Gina Nisbeth, 9th & Clinton Advisory, Willow Lung Aman, National Center for Smart Growth & Small Business Anti-Displacement Network, Darrin Williams, Southern BanCorp,*

Funder Collaborations for Quality Jobs and Equitable Workforce Systems

This session will explore examples of funder collaboration to ensure high-quality jobs, enhance employment wraparound services, fortify worker protections, promote power-building, and advance equitable workforce systems. *Speakers: Adrian Esquivel, Chicagoland Workforce Funder Alliance, Dawnn Leary, Greater Washington Workforce Collaborative/Greater Washington Community Foundation, Greg Mangum, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, Paula D'Ambrosa, Prudential Financial (Moderator)*

AGENDA - cont'd

Wednesday, April 17

General Session Day One

1:30 - 2:45 PM

Breakout Sessions (continued)

Fines and Fees: Innovative Strategies to Advance Financial Justice

Examine progress made through multi-state initiatives and the potential for future investments. Whether new or experienced in this field, you will gain actionable insights into philanthropy's role in disrupting harmful fines and fees practices.

Speakers: Anand Subramanian, San Francisco Foundation, Priya Sarathy Jones, Fines and Fees Justice Center, Stephanie Campos-Bui, University of California Policy Advocacy Clinic, Francesca Jean-Baptiste, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

2:45 - 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 - 4:15 PM

Mainstage Session: Unlocking Philanthropy's Disruptive Potential

Embrace the discomfort of addressing the contradictions and responsibilities inherent in funding environmental and economic justice work. Reflect on your evolving role while committing to a reparative framework that includes strategies like supporting community-led and grassroots movements. *Speakers: Aria Florant, Liberation Ventures, Raquel Hatter, Kresge Foundation, Andre Perry, Brookings Metro, Ryan P. Haygood, Esq., New Jersey Institute for Social Justice*

4:15 - 4:30 PM

Day One Recap & Celebration Preparation

Speaker: Lynette Bell, President, Truist Foundation

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Reception at Ogden Museum of Southern Art

Join AFN at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art as we raise a toast to the last 20 years and look ahead to our collective future. Located in the vibrant Warehouse Arts District of downtown New Orleans, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art holds the largest and most comprehensive collection of Southern art. *Speakers: Patty Riddlebarger, Entergy, Annika Little, Asset Funders Network*

Thursday, April 18

General Session Day Two

7:00 - 8:30 AM

New Orleans Historical Slave Trade Coffee Conversation (optional)

Join Mr. Leon Waters, a local historian and publisher, for a conversation on the 'Port of New Orleans and its Legacy of Chattel Slavery.' Descendant of the largest slave revolt in the city's history, Mr. Waters will illuminate the harrowing journey of enslaved people in New Orleans and their profound impact on American society. This trauma-informed and culturally somatic discussion encourages us to collectively explore our responsibility and potential to transform into equitable funders for the future. *Sponsored by Arkansas Black Philanthropy Collaborative*

7:30 - 8:30 AM

Breakfast

8:30 - 9:45 AM

Mainstage Session: Mobilizing and Moving Systems to Realize Equity

Philanthropy has the potential to challenge established norms and propel systemic change by mobilizing voices and actions. During this mainstage session, funders, regardless of their size, focus, or sphere of interest, will depart with fresh, inspiring ideas and actionable strategies, empowering each participant to contribute to the long-lasting transformation toward a more equitable society. *Speakers: Elizabeth Brister, Entergy, Mendi Blue-Paca, Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Jessamyn Sabbag, San Francisco Foundation, John-Michael Cortez, Google Fiber*

AGENDA - cont'd

Thursday, April 18

General Session Day Two

9:45 - 10:00 AM

Break

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Breakout Sessions

Investing in Care: Lessons from the Field

The pandemic emphasized the universal importance of the care economy, spanning childcare, paid leave, and support for older adults and people with disabilities. Explore the care economy's scope, learn about innovative models for justice, and gain strategies for enhanced philanthropic collaborations. *Speakers: Camille Emeagwali, New York Women's Foundation, Cathy McHorse, United Way for Greater Austin, Anna Wadia, The CARE Fund, Kippi Waters, Cooperative Home Care Associates*

Degrees Without Debt

Join us for an interactive discussion on how philanthropy can lead in addressing the pressing issue of student loan debt and forgiveness. We'll explore a continuum of strategies for funders, including scholarships, cutting-edge research and policy initiatives, and pioneering programs that diminish the reliance on loans. *Speakers: Ray Boshara, Washington University Social Policy Institute & U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Tanya I. Garcia, The Institute for College Access & Success, Kesa Jessup, The Winston-Salem Foundation, Kevin Almasy, Dell Foundation*

Guiding the Way in Guaranteed Income Grantmaking

Guaranteed Income (GI) programs continue to grow, providing evidence of key design features and the critical importance of moving them to scale through systems change. Discover how funders can influence the future of GI programs and leave with a practical playbook aligned with your unique mission and positioning. *Speakers: Lori Pfingst, Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Hope Wollensack, Georgia Resilience and Opportunity Fund, Ciara Coleman, Manager, Economic Practice, Economic Equity Initiative, Rockefeller Foundation, Lawrence Bowdish, Wells Fargo*

Philanthropy's Opportunity to Impact the Broadband Gap

The federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program presents a unique opportunity for philanthropy to join forces with public and private capital to enhance broadband access and boost the financial health of marginalized communities. Join us to discuss innovative approaches to expand broadband accessibility, affordability, and adoption. *Speakers: Veneeth Iyengar, ConnectLA, JoAnn Melchor, New Mexico Foundation, Catherine Krantz, Communities Unlimited, Marycruz De Leon, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas*

11:30 - 11:45 AM

Break

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM

Lunch & Regional/National Table Networking

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Mainstage Session: Influencing Change Together

Our final main stage session synthesizes insights from the past three days, delving into the 'why' and 'how' of collective action and change. Inspirational leaders in the fields of belonging and collective action will shed light on how our influence transcends traditional grantmaking. By strategically leveraging all the facets of our influence, we can reach our shared objective of closing the racial wealth gap and attaining economic equity. *Speakers: Robert Burns, Walton Family Foundation, Rev. Cory Anderson, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Anna Giffy Opoku-Agyeman, Research Scholar in Economics, Public Policy Doctoral Candidate at Harvard University*

1:30 - 1:45 PM

Closing Remarks & Call to Action

Speakers: Rev. Cory Anderson, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation,