After 12 years of leadership, Tamara Lucas Copeland retired as President of WRAG. On April 15, Dr. Madye Henson came on board as President & CEO, following a robust national search for a leader ready to take WRAG to the next level. WRAG also welcomed two new staff members: Todd Pittman, Director, Corporate and Foundation Advancement, and Carmen Rodriguez, Director, Communications, Technology & Administration.

At the Annual Meeting, WRAG welcomed four new board members: Robert Burns, Citi Community Development; Susie Lee, Potomac Health Foundation; Dekonti Mends-Cole, JPMorgan Chase; Heather Peeler, ACT for Alexandria. And, we recognized the contributions of departing board members: Lindsey Buss, World Bank Group; Desiree Griffin-Moore (formerly of the Greater Washington Community Foundation); and Craig Pascal, BB&T.

WRAG kicked off the year with a rousing talk at Studio Theatre by Grant Oliphant, head of the Heinz Endowments. Oliphant is a national philanthropic leader who has used his position to galvanize funders to respond to the ever-growing threats to their values of equity, inclusivity, and justice. Oliphant shared his vision for what courageous philanthropy should look like in 2019 and beyond.

In April, WRAG partnered once again with Leadership Greater Washington to take 12 regional leaders on a transformative learning journey to critical sites of the Civil Rights Movement. Over the course of 3.5 days, journeys visited major museums, houses of worship that played significant roles in the activism of the 1960s, and sites of key protests and met with individuals who were leaders on the ground in the 1960s and those who are pushing for change today.
**THE CAPITAL REGIONAL HOUSING CHALLENGE**

The Housing Leaders Group of Greater Washington (HLG) of which WRAG is a co-convener, launched its Capital Region Housing Challenge. This is a multi-faceted effort to secure $1 billion in new investment – $500K in public funding and $500K in private funding – toward housing affordability in the region. This is not the creation of a new fund. Instead, it is a platform to catalyze support and a regional commitment to scale the investment of public and private resources to meet the region’s housing production needs. To date, $238.6 million has been secured toward this goal. Are you up for the Challenge?

**PLANNING THE RACE, EQUITY & THE FUTURE OF GREATER WASHINGTON SUMMIT**

In 2018, WRAG initiated conversations with other regional, umbrella organizations, including Leadership Greater Washington, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Center for Nonprofit Advancement, United Way of the National Capital Area, Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers, and the Greater Washington Community Foundation to come together to host a cross-sector convening to examine the racial disparities in the DMV and develop a new regional agenda to advance racial equity.

In 2019, these conversations gained momentum with the announcement of the June 11, 2020 Race, Equity & the Future of Greater Washington Summit. In Fall 2019, the summit partners formed and began recruiting for committees to design the summit in an effort to create a unique, community-driven event that will have a long-lasting impact in the region.

**RACIAL EQUITY WORKING GROUP**

WRAG’s Racial Equity Working Group (REWG), our largest convening group, continued to grow in 2019, adding about 17 new members. In February, the group hosted their fourth and final community conversation, bringing together funders and DC youth of color for a facilitated dialogue on what racial equity would look like in the District.

In October, REWG convened a briefing and conversation to explore the intersection of immigrant justice and racial justice. Funders, staff of immigrant-serving organizations, and immigrant organizers and advocates came together to hear from grassroots leaders about their work to advance racial equity by organizing for policy and systems change in support of immigrant justice. Then, participants engaged in facilitated dialogues to explore areas of mutual interest related to immigrant and racial justice, particularly how philanthropy can move power and resources to amplify efforts on the ground, change narratives, and create just and equitable communities.

**INTERVENTIONS THAT WORK: 2020 CENSUS & HARD-TO-COUNT COMMUNITIES**

The 2020 Census Working Group, which launched in 2018, continued building momentum and urgency among the philanthropic community to support census outreach, education, and mobilization. In June, WRAG partnered with 13 organizations to host “Interventions that Work: 2020 Census & Hard-to-Count Communities,” a regional, cross-sector convening to kick off get-out-the-count efforts in the region. Over 250 people from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors gathered at George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health to coordinate efforts and identify effective strategies for reaching those communities at greatest risk of being missed in the 2020 Census.
GIVING REPORT

We surveyed our members to compile our annual giving report on the WRAG community’s grantmaking and "beyond dollars" giving in 2018. This year’s report features a special look at how WRAG members are supporting a complete and accurate 2020 Census.

GIVING & ASSETS IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON REGION

WRAG collected data from our members on their 2017 and 2018 giving and assets. Overall, giving by these funders collectively increased 23 percent over 2017, while assets* decreased slightly.

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UNCHARTED WATERS: WRAG’S 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Over 300 people convened for WRAG’s 2019 Annual Meeting, Uncharted Waters. This year’s event featured keynote speaker Edgar Villanueva, author of Decolonizing Wealth, in a provocative conversation with ABFE’s Susan Taylor Batten, about how we can begin to dismantle the systems of oppression that institutional philanthropy was built upon. At the business meeting, Dr. Madye Henson facilitated a panel conversation on racial equity and strategic partnerships, which featured cross-sector African American leaders, including Dr. Gregory Hutchings (Alexandria City Public Schools), Glen O’Gilvie (Center for Nonprofit Advancement), Thomas Penny (Donohoe Hospitality Services), Michael Smith (Obama Foundation), and Dr. Pierre Vigilance (HealthUp Strategic Advisors). This year’s annual meeting also inaugurated a new offering: a special convening of nonprofit leaders who engaged in facilitated dialogue on their work, experiences, and opportunities to create stronger partnerships with philanthropy to address critical issues in the region.

FOCUSING ON CHILDREN, YOUTH & EDUCATION

The Children, Youth & Families Working Group continued to convene in 2019 to learn about critical issues in public education and to network and stay connected with each other. In April, CYF co-sponsored a briefing with the new DCPS Chancellor Dr. Lewis Ferebee to learn about his priorities and his vision for how philanthropy can effectively partner with the school system. One of his stated priorities was college access and success. To dig deeper into the structural and economic challenges many students face when pursuing a postsecondary credential, and learn how philanthropy can support young people on their educational journey, WRAG hosted a well-attended panel discussion with leaders of college access leaders. In September, education funders explored another pressing issue in education: the impact of trauma on learning and how area schools and school systems are implementing trauma-informed practices to better meet the mental health and wellness needs of students.
In 2019, the Healthy Communities Working Group (HCWG) continued to focus on how to apply a racial equity lens to its work. In January, the group participated in a training to set a foundation of racial equity and meaningful conversations around the benefits, challenges, and courageous actions that can be taken to integrate racial equity into future work. In November, the group hosted a panel discussion on multicultural approaches to mental health and wellness, looking at the intersection of racial equity and mental health. A number of HCWG members this year also collectively supported the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ Health Officers Committee racial equity work.

To continue to cultivate community and connections among the leadership of our member organizations, WRAG hosted two events for CEOs and trustees. In September, the annual CEO reception was hosted at Historic Howard University, where they were welcomed by Howard President Dr. Wayne Frederick and learned about the history of the university and its location in DC’s Shaw neighborhood from current Howard students. In November, CEOs and trustees gathered to hear from three of their peers about their personal journeys toward deeper understanding of race and inequity and why it is critical for philanthropy to focus on advancing racial equity in the region.

WRAG hosted the fourth annual “Fundamentals of CSR” two-day workshop, which offers nonprofit leaders and fundraisers the opportunity to learn about effective strategies for approaching and engaging corporate donors. Over 150 nonprofit fundraisers had the opportunity to learn from and network with the leading corporate social responsibility leaders in our region. This continues to be a hugely popular and well-received training opportunity for the region’s nonprofit community.

The 6th year of the Institute for Corporate Social Responsibility (iCSR) was a big success. The 2019 class included leaders from 13 leading corporations, including JetBlue, Kaiser Permanente, PwC, and Univision, as well as two international participants—a testament to the Institute’s strong reputation for quality and growing profile. WRAG’s partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation will continue in 2020, and registration for the 2020 class is currently open.

The Corporate Affinity group held a convening specifically for corporate funders, the event provided insights into some of the region’s top funding priorities and highlight a variety of investment opportunities, from the tried-and-true to the new and exciting. The group also expanded their traditional Holiday Luncheon to include all leaders of WRAG member organizations for an afternoon of great food, networking, and celebration of another impactful year of improving the health and vitality of the Greater Washington region.

WRAG’s Impact Investor Network (WIIN) and Finance & Administration Affinity Group

To learn more about impact investing at the local level and provide venues for the sharing of resources, best practices, investment opportunities, and challenges, WIIN held two convenings in 2019, focused on impact investing opportunities in affordable housing and healthcare. Guest speakers included LISC, Calvert Impact Capital, Unity Healthcare, and Capital Impact Partners. The Finance & Administration Affinity Group hosted a convening focused on recognizing and prioritizing risk management. WRAG also partnered with the Center for Nonprofit Advancement to host a special learning session that discussed the mechanics of recent accounting standard updates issued by the Financial Account Standards Board.
After a time-out to rethink and redesign the format, The Daily WRAG is back as The Weekly WRAG. It’s now an interactive communication tool that features a dynamic newsfeed and highlights members, partners, community events as well as, what’s Coming Up at WRAG. Overall, the feedback from members/non-members about the look and feel of The Weekly WRAG has been positive.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2019
WRAG welcomed two new members this year:

Washington AIDS Partnership (WAP) has run a youth development program called Health Corps for over 20 years, where 12 highly motivated recent college grads serve at local community-based organizations. The 2018-2019 team finished their year of service in July and provided prevention and health education to 1,465 individuals, tested and counseled 3,145 individuals for HIV, and helped 4,019 individuals’ access primary and mental health services, housing, hospice, and food. You can follow our current 2019-2020 team on Facebook and Instagram to see how they are making Washington, D.C. a healthier, more vibrant place for all.

WAP’s D.C. PrEP for Women initiative is working to increase the knowledge and use of PrEP among women of color in Washington, D.C. PrEP is when a person takes HIV medication daily, lowering their chances of HIV infection by over 90%. Black heterosexual women are the second largest group of people with new HIV infections in Washington, D.C. In 2019, the initiative provided education and awareness about this life-saving drug to thousands of women in the community and their medical providers. As a result of PrEP for Women initiative, more women are taking PrEP medication and decreasing their risk for HIV. The PrEP for Women initiative is a public-private partnership with the D.C. Department of Health.

PHILANTHROPY FELLOWS
This fall, four University of Maryland public policy and public health students are interning with WRAG members, gaining professional experience in philanthropy and nonprofit leadership. This year’s host organizations include ABFE, Grantmakers in Health, Kaiser Permanente, and the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth & Families.

WASHINGTON AIDS PARTNERSHIP
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