STAFF TRANSITIONS

Ruth LaToison Ifill
Interim President and CEO

Caroline Healey
Associate
Membership and Communications

BOARD MEMBERS

Amanda Misiko Andere
Funders Together to End Homelessness

Kirra Jarratt
DC Bar Foundation

Nancie Suzuki
The Marriott Foundations

Tonia Wellons
Greater Washington Community Foundation
Welcome to our 8 new members!
3RD ANNUAL CAFRITZ LECTURE

On February 27th, WRAG members and partners gathered at The Woolly Mammoth Theater in Washington D.C. to hear from the Founder and Executive Director of Groundswell Fund, Vanessa Daniels. In her lecture, Daniels discussed how common foundation practices and implicit biases create barriers to funding for people and organizations closest to the problems that foundations are trying to address.

RACE, EQUITY, & THE FUTURE OF GREATER WASHINGTON SUMMIT

On January 30th, WRAG hosted a kick-off celebration at American University for our flagship Race Equity Summit. On June 11th, local leaders gathered on Zoom for the summit to share insights and ideas for greater collaboration on racial equity across the DMV. WRAG and our six partner organizations welcomed over 500 attendees to join us for discussion on the theme: Rising to What This Moment Demands of Us. We were joined by our speakers: C. Anneta Arno, Director, Office of Health Equity at the DC Department of Health; Dr. George Askew, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health, Human Services, and Education, Prince George’s County; Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer, Fairfax County Government; Jacqueline Tucker, Chief Equity Officer, City of Alexandria; and Tiffany Ward, Chief Equity Officer, Montgomery County Government.
On November 12th, WRAG members and partners gathered for first-ever virtual Annual Meeting. Tonia Wellons, CEO of Washington Greater Community Foundation in newly elected WRAG Board Member shared how the DMV philanthropic community collaborated and innovated to support the region in response to COVID-19. WRAG Interim President and CEO, Ruth LaToison Ifill, delivered her president’s address and introduced the panel on ensuring mutual accountability between nonprofits and philanthropy. The actress and activist Aunjanue Ellis moderated the panel with Jeffery Tribble, Jr. of the MusicianShip, Samanta Davis of Black Swan Academy, and Qiana Johnson of Life After Release. DJ Curley Sue provided entertainment for the event and in support of local business, Immigrant Food provided catering through online orders. During the event, artist Mark Korsak created an inspirational event illustration.
After years of planning, the 2020 Census Working Group saw their hard work come to fruition this year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Working Group provided rapid response grants to support Census efforts in the Washington, DC region. The group convened CountDMVIn nonprofit grantees to share updates, lessons, challenges, and recommendations for future work to inspire cross-sector collaboration in administering the Census. The group also organized a region-wide multi-stakeholder gathering with more than 100 participants to exchange information and identify recommendations in MONTH. To cap off the Census, the group planned a regionwide report-out event on the Census work and recommendations, to take place in early 2021. The group also collaborated with their peers via the Funders Committee for Civic Participation’s Funders Census Initiative.

The group began by developing their 2020 objectives to (a) Support members’ efforts to operationalize their commitment to advancing racial equity and addressing anti-Black racism, (b) Support members in advancing collective action by nurturing collaboration, and (c) Align REWG’s work with regional efforts focused on addressing systemic racism. In June, the group drafted a statement in partnership with Board on events after George Floyd’s murder. Later in the year, the group introduced and explored the concept of racial healing with Richael Faithful, a multidisciplinary folk healer and healing justice practitioner rooted in southern Black traditions. The group also spent time lifting up and learning about local funder initiatives focused on racial equity. For their last meeting of the year, the group explored the impact of COVID through a grief and trauma lens with April Preston, M.A. LMFT, Owner and Lead Therapist of Kovu Healing, LLC.
Working Groups

CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES, AND EDUCATION

The working group started the year combining the CYF Working Group and Public Education Learning Series into one learning agenda. In March 2020 their focus shifted to COVID-19. We learned about its impact in the community and the responses of national and local philanthropy. There was suddenly an enormous amount to learn and keeping up to date in the evolving environment was a full-time job, so they placed an emphasis on efficiency and coordinating learning with other organizations, many of which had overlapping memberships. Members attended our regular update meetings and those of the Greater Washington Community Foundation’s COVID Emergency Response Fund Team which included funders and government officials. Members were also active in the Washington Area Women’s Foundation Early Childhood Education Funding Collaborative and advocacy work of DC Action for Children. We hosted a DC Children’s Budget Briefing in June with speakers from DC Fiscal Policy Institute, DC Action for Children, and Children’s Law Center.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

In response to the pandemic, the working group quickly pivoted learning topics to learn more about national, regional, and local pandemic response efforts to support communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, centering equity on topics such as housing and behavioral health. During the year, the group also organized an informative panel on regional efforts to ensure an equitable census count.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WRAG’s role as a co-convener in the Housing Leaders Group continued in 2020, with an ultimate goal to raise $1 billion in public and private capital commitments to housing affordability above current baseline levels. The group also launched a playbook on a set of innovative, adaptable strategies and tools to help message, frame, and communicate effectively about housing and affordability in the Washington, DC region.
The Institute for Corporate Responsibility completed its first-ever virtual training, for the seventh year of the program in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Johns Hopkins University. A class of 17 students joined 8 sessions with 11 instructors on topics such as "Sustainability", "Strategic Investments", and "Communicating CSR". Students reported enjoying the virtual program, adding "The institute didn’t disappoint, even virtually, we were able to connect personally, learn from others and I’ve already implemented ideas I’ve discovered through our speakers and my classmates." Another stated "Learning alongside this group of professionals was a welcome constant during a time filled with inconsistency. Instructors were leaders in their fields, the content was highly relevant and actionable and the entire team kept things running smoothly despite the unexpected shift to virtual.”

In September, WRAG’s Corporate Affinity Group hosted a panel discussion on the innovative strategies and corporate collaborations funders had undertaken during the pandemic. Grantmakers shared examples of corporate partnerships and challenges through the COVID-19 pandemic and in the environment of elevated awareness of systemic racism. It was moderated by Lee Parker, Senior Vice President, Philanthropic Client Manager at Bank of America. Panelists included: Rosie Allen-Herring, President & CEO, United Way of the National Capital Area; Eileen Ellsworth, President & CEO, The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia; and Tonia Wellons, President & CEO, Greater Washington Community Foundation.
WRAG acts a fiscal sponsor for several nonprofit programs, highlighted below

**BREAK A DIFFERENCE**

Break A Difference’s mission is to strategically engage individuals and institutions through service to make positive impacts in communities and in those who serve. As a nonprofit, we accomplish this by engaging corporations in large-scale service projects, preparing skilled leaders to serve on nonprofit boards, expanding the volunteer service capacity for nonprofits, and partnering with organizations to engage college students in week-long immersive service trips, otherwise known as Alternative Breaks. We recognize service and volunteering as powerful tools to tackle such important matters as leadership development, team building, and employee engagement.

**FRANK KAREL FELLOWSHIP**

The Karel Fellowship honors and advances the legacy of Frank Karel, who established, led and nurtured the field of strategic communications in philanthropy during his 30 years as chief communications officer for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. Among Karel’s strong beliefs was that the public would best be served if the next generation of advocates was reflective of America’s ever-growing diverse communities. Towards that end, each summer, the Fellowship matches first-generation and/or minority students with leading nonprofits in the D.C. area, where they work on social justice issues under the guidance of a communication mentor.
The Sports & Entertainment Impact Collective (SEIC) is an unparalleled sports and entertainment philanthropy organization that combines academic training, professional development and custom events. Recognizing the synergy and collaboration across two cultural pillars, sports and entertainment, SEIC brings together a unique group motivated by the common interest of building a more sophisticated industry with greater community impact. SEIC offers the gold standard in educational opportunities that result in success and growth for leaders from across the sports and entertainment industries. Our students, faculty and event participants represent diverse organizations with a variety of programs, outcomes and obstacles. SEIC’s three areas of engagement remove the barriers that exist for leaders in social impact to take time and afford high quality, trusted training. SEIC’s goal is for leaders to return to their organizations after participating in one of our programs more motivated, more connected and ready to move the field forward.

NATIONAL FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Founded in 2011, the National Family Support Network (NFSN) is a membership-based organization comprised of statewide networks of two or more Family Support and Strengthening programs, such as Family Resource Centers, working together within a collective impact framework to ensure coordinated quality support for families. As the United States’ coordinating body for Family Strengthening & Support networks, the NFSN currently has 30 member networks, comprised of more than 3,000 Family Support and Strengthening organizations, representing the great geographical and demographic diversity of the nation. The mission of the National Family Support Network is to promote positive outcomes for all children, families, and communities by leveraging the collective impact of state networks and championing quality family support and strengthening practices and policies.

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT IMPACT COLLECTIVE

The Sports & Entertainment Impact Collective (SEIC) is an unparalleled sports and entertainment philanthropy organization that combines academic training, professional development and custom events. Recognizing the synergy and collaboration across two cultural pillars, sports and entertainment, SEIC brings together a unique group motivated by the common interest of building a more sophisticated industry with greater community impact. SEIC offers the gold standard in educational opportunities that result in success and growth for leaders from across the sports and entertainment industries. Our students, faculty and event participants represent diverse organizations with a variety of programs, outcomes and obstacles. SEIC’s three areas of engagement remove the barriers that exist for leaders in social impact to take time and afford high quality, trusted training. SEIC’s goal is for leaders to return to their organizations after participating in one of our programs more motivated, more connected and ready to move the field forward.
The Washington AIDS Partnership (WAP) brings together ideas, people, and resources to end the HIV epidemic in the Greater Washington region. In 2020, WAP participated in the Greater Washington Community Foundation’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, working with its philanthropic partners to award much-needed funds in the community. WAP relaxed their reporting requirements and streamlined their application process so that grantees could focus on providing services. WAP’s Health Corps team, a youth development initiative that places young people in the health care field for a year of service, has screened for COVID-19 at local health centers, staffed hospice programs, and conducted virtual and in-person health education sessions, engaging over 21,000 individuals. They also stepped up to help a local nonprofit, Food & Friends, serving in their kitchen to ensure the organization was able to continue providing meals and groceries to chronically ill individuals. Over 38,000 meals were provided to local residents through this partnership.

Walker’s Legacy is a global platform for the professional and entrepreneurial multicultural woman. We exist to inspire, equip, and engage through thought-provoking content, educational programming and a global community. We strive to level the playing field by ensuring that, when it comes to business, you are not alone. The Walker’s Legacy Foundation (WLF) exists to provide the entrepreneurial, financial, and professional support needed to improve economic prosperity and reduce economic inequality for multicultural women and girls, globally. In 2020, WLF conducted a COVID-19 Impact Research Study focused on multicultural women small business owners, graduated over 400 women from their PROSPECTUS Business Accelerator, and expanded their national reach to support and uplift multicultural women and girls in Rochester, New York. Learn more here.
About WRAG Partnership

Does Your Organization....

- Make grants to multiple grantees in the Greater Washington, D.C. region?
- Want to improve the quality of your grantmaking or corporate giving?
- Provide philanthropic services in the Greater Washington, D.C. region?
- Focus on the field of philanthropy or nonprofit leadership at a University, think tank, or academic institution?
- Focus on grants and/or public partnerships at a Government office in the Greater Washington D.C. region?

Contact us about membership & partnership opportunities!

Todd Pittman
Director, Member Experience +
Executive Director, Institute for Corporate Social Responsibility
Pittman@WashingtonGrantmakers.org or (202) 556-1483

Learn More

Interested in becoming a fiscal partner?
Reach out to Carmen Rodríguez, Director, Talent & Operations
Rodriguez@WashingtonGrantmakers.org