

PHILANTHROPY'S NEW PLAYBOOK FOR POLICY ADVOCACY

Speaker Biographies



Shena Ashley, a vice president at the Urban Institute, has expanded the Center on Nonprofit and Philanthropy's policy research and programmatic initiatives through visionary leadership and strong financial management while maintaining an active portfolio of rigorous academic scholarship. For more than 20 years, the center has been a critical resource for credible, nonpartisan, and accessible data and insights on nonprofit and philanthropic activity in society. In addition to policy research, the center provides technical assistance and philanthropic advisory services to advance more effective and equitable nonprofit and philanthropic practice. Before joining Urban, Ashley held academic positions in the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, where she taught courses on the nonprofit sector and quantitative research methods and advanced a research agenda focused on grantmaking effectiveness and nonprofit management. At the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site, Ashley was director of research and policy and developed innovative tools for community engagement in performance measurement.



Phil Buchanan, president of the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP), is a passionate advocate for philanthropy and the nonprofit sector and is deeply committed to helping foundations and individual donors maximize their impact. Hired in 2001 as the organization's first chief executive, Buchanan has led CEP's growth into the leading provider of data and insight on philanthropic effectiveness. CEP has been widely credited with bringing the voices of stakeholders to funders and with contributing to an increased emphasis on key elements of philanthropic effectiveness. Buchanan is author of *Giving Done Right: Effective Philanthropy and Making Every Dollar Count*, released in the spring 2019. He is coauthor of many CEP research reports, a columnist for *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, and a frequent blogger for the CEP blog. Buchanan is also cofounder of YouthTruth, a CEP initiative designed to harness student perceptions to help educators and funders accelerate improvements in K-12 schools and classrooms. In 2016, he was named the *Nonprofit Times* Influencer of the Year. Buchanan serves on the board of directors of Philanthropy Massachusetts.



Melanca Clark is president and CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to improving quality of life in Detroit. The foundation's core mission areas are community and economic development, safe and just communities, the built environment, and arts and culture. As president and CEO, Clark oversees overall operations, grant making, and administration of the foundation. Clark has demonstrated innovative and collaborative leadership while striving to build strong communities throughout her career. Before joining Hudson-Webber Foundation, she served in key leadership roles in the Obama administration.

Most recently, Clark served the US Department of Justice (DOJ) as chief of staff of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), a grant-making component of the department. At COPS, she devised creative funding strategies and partnerships to advance community policing and police reform. As senior counsel with the DOJ's Office for Access to Justice, Clark was a coarchitect of a strategy for increasing federal support for civil legal aid, including through the creation of the Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable, and helped develop and implement other strategies for increasing legal counsel for people unable to afford lawyers. As a senior policy advisor with the White House Domestic Policy Council, Clark convened foundations and key stakeholders to communicate and enlist support for President Obama's priorities on enhancing fairness in the criminal and juvenile system and strategically aligning philanthropic and private sector investments.



Brian Hooks is president of the Charles Koch Foundation and chairman and CEO of Stand Together, a community of organizations, business, and philanthropic leaders dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their potential. Hooks also serves on the boards of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and the Institute for Humane Studies. Previously, Hooks served as executive director and COO of the Mercatus Center, where he oversaw strategy and operations for a growing research, education, and public policy center. Hooks is a graduate of the University of Michigan.



Kelli Rhee is the president and chief executive officer of Arnold Ventures. She leads the philanthropy in its mission to employ strategic entrepreneurial philanthropy to address some of society's most complex and urgent challenges. Before joining Arnold Ventures, Rhee served in numerous strategic and entrepreneurial roles in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. She began her career as a management consultant with Bain & Company and the Bridgespan Group. After graduate school, Rhee worked in both entrepreneurial and venture capital settings as an operational leader, strategic investor, and adviser. Most recently, she was part of a team that led the creation and launch of a new academic medical center for Baylor College of Medicine. Rhee holds a master of business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, a master's degree in education from the Stanford Graduate School of Education, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Northwestern University.



Mark Rigdon is the deputy director, state and local government relations at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In this role, he directs a talented group of government relations advocates responsible for implementing the foundation’s advocacy strategies across the its 12 focus states. Before joining the foundation, Rigdon worked in various philanthropic capacities at JPMorgan Chase, The Chicago Community Trust, and the Spencer Foundation. He has also worked at the National Governors’ Association, where he advised governors about state standards and accountability systems. He also helped lead the evaluation of the nation’s first school voucher program in Milwaukee. Rigdon earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Oberlin College, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin—Madison, and a master’s degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Sarah Rosen Wartell is the president of Urban Institute, the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. During her tenure, Urban has “elevated the debate” by bringing more of its insights from research to federal, state, and local government and practice; becoming a leader in research communications and data visualization; and undertaking an ambitious program of business systems and technology modernization. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. Later, she was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell serves on the board of the Center for Law and Social Policy and on Bank of America’s National Community Advisory Council. She previously served on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund, the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has a bachelor’s degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. She has a doctoral degree from Yale Law School.