

Giving Innovation Summit: Are Fewer People Giving to Charity, or Are They Just Giving Differently?

Speaker Biographies

Ann Mei Chang is the CEO of Candid, a nonprofit that provides the most comprehensive data about the social sector—where money comes from, where it goes, and why it matters. Ann Mei leads Candid in harnessing the precision of data, the power of technology, and the compassion of the social sector to increase its collective ability to do good during these unprecedented times of disruption and need. She is a leading expert on social innovation and the author of *Lean Impact: How to Innovate for Radically Greater Social Good*. Ann Mei served as chief innovation officer at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the first executive director of its U.S. Global Development Lab. In addition, she was chief innovation officer for Pete for America, chief innovation officer at Mercy Corps, and senior advisor for women and technology at the U.S. Department of State. Prior to her work in the public and social sectors, Ann Mei was a seasoned technology executive, with more than 20 years of experience at Google, Apple, and Intuit, as well as at a range of startups. As senior engineering director at Google, she led worldwide engineering for mobile applications and services, with a mission to bring the next billion people online. She was recognized as one of the “Women in the World: 125 Women of Impact” by Newsweek/The Daily Beast in 2013, “23 most powerful LGBTQ+ people in tech” by Business Insider in 2019, and “20 Top LGBTQ+ Entrepreneurs, Executives and Thought Leaders” by Global Shakers in 2019. Ann Mei earned a B.S. in computer science from Stanford University and is a member of the Aspen Institute’s Henry Crown Fellows class of 2011.

Tyrone McKinley Freeman is a 2022 Laureate of the Dan David Research Prize, “the largest history prize in the world,” for his work on the history of African American philanthropy. The award-winning scholar and teacher serves as Associate Professor of Philanthropic Studies at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Previously, he was a professional fundraiser in community development, youth and family social services, and higher education organizations. He was also Associate Director of The Fund Raising School where he trained nonprofit leaders in the United States, Asia, Africa, and Europe. His research focuses on philanthropy in communities of color and philanthropy in higher education. His latest book, *Madam C.J. Walker’s Gospel of Giving: Black Women’s Philanthropy during Jim Crow* (University of Illinois Press, 2020), won the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Global Skystone Partners Research Prize in Fundraising and Philanthropy and the Terry McAdam Book Award from the Alliance for Nonprofit Management. His work has appeared or been cited in *The New York Times*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *TIME*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Black Perspectives*, *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *CASE Currents*, and *Advancing Philanthropy*. He is co-author of *Race, Gender and Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2011).

Alix Guerrier leads DonorsChoose, a nonprofit website which enables anyone to help a classroom in need. Prior to DonorsChoose, he co-founded an educational technology company, LearnZillion (acquired in 2019) and served as CEO of the philanthropic platform GlobalGiving. His previous work experience includes consulting in McKinsey & Company’s education practice, teaching middle school and high school mathematics, and working in the public finance department at Citigroup. His awards include the NewSchools Venture Fund Entrepreneur of the Year, *FastCompany*’s Most Innovative Education Company, *DC’s Top 40 Entrepreneurs Under 40*, *Washington Post* top workplaces, and *Nonprofit Times Power & Influence Top 50*. Alix has a Masters in Education from the Stanford University School of Education and an MBA from Stanford’s Graduate School of Business. He graduated from Harvard University with an AB in physics and is a proud product of New Haven Public Schools. A first-generation American and child of parents from Haiti and rural Brazil, he lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and two daughters.

Asim Khwaja is the Director of the Center for International Development and the Sumitomo-Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development Professor of International Finance and Development at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is also the co-founder of the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP). His areas of interest include economic development, finance, education, political economy, institutions, and contract theory/mechanism design. His research combines extensive fieldwork, rigorous empirical analysis, and microeconomic theory to answer questions that are motivated by and engage with policy. Khwaja has been published in leading economics journals, such as the American Economic Review and the Quarterly Journal of Economics, and has received coverage in numerous media outlets, such as The Economist, The New York Times, the Washington Post, the International Herald Tribune, Al-Jazeera, BBC, and CNN. His recent work ranges from understanding market failures in emerging financial markets to examining the private education market in low-income countries. Khwaja received BS degrees in economics and in mathematics with computer science from MIT and a PhD in economics from Harvard.

Caroline Lee is Professor of Sociology and Faculty Director of the Landis Center for Community Engagement at Lafayette College. Her research explores the intersection of social movements, business, and democracy in American politics. Her book *Do-it-Yourself Democracy: The Rise of the Public Engagement Industry* (Oxford 2015) studies the public engagement industry in the United States. *Democratizing Inequalities: Dilemmas of the New Public Participation* (2015), an edited volume with collaborators Edward Walker and Michael McQuarrie, explores the challenges of "the new public participation" – the dramatic expansion of democratic practices in organizations – in an era of stark economic inequalities.

Terence Lester is a speaker, activist, author, and thought leader in the realm of systemic poverty. He's known for nationwide campaigns that bring awareness to issues surrounding homelessness, poverty, and economic inequality. His awareness campaigns have been featured on MLK50, CNN, Good Morning America, TVONE, Creative Mornings, USA Today, NBC, AJC, Black Enterprise, Rolling Out, and Upworthy. These campaigns have been viewed by millions of people worldwide. In 2018, Terence led the March Against Poverty as he walked from Atlanta to Memphis (386 miles). He finished the march and spoke at the historic Lorraine Motel for the 50th Anniversary of MLK's assassination. He has spoken on the same platform as other civil rights activists: Bernice King, Roland Martin, Gina Belafonte, Michael Eric Dyson, Tamika D. Mallory, and many others. Terence's unique approach combines storytelling and digital media to help illustrate social justice issues with practical approaches to solving these ailments. In 2013, Terence founded the non-profit "Love Beyond Walls" and has helped hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty rebuild their lives. In 2019, Terence launched the first museum in the U.S. representing homelessness out of a shipping container called Dignity Museum. Terence has written six books, and his new book, "When We Stand: The Power Of Seeking Justice Together," released May 18, 2021, with InterVarsity Press. He also holds four degrees and is working towards his Ph.D. at Union Institute & University in Public Policy & Social Change. He is happily married to his best friend, Cecilia Lester, and they have two amazing children, Zion Joy and Terence II.

Elizabeth Lynn has founded and led several programs designed to expand moral imagination for civic leadership, including the Center for Civic Reflection. Through her writings and creative leadership she has contributed to contemporary understandings of philanthropy and the humanities in American life. Elizabeth currently directs Shifting Ground, a Lake Institute initiative focused on deepening conversation about the changing landscape of faith, philanthropy, and community. She lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Tyesha Maddox is an Assistant Professor at Fordham University in the Department of African & African American Studies. She received her PhD in History from New York University in 2016. She received a BA in History and Africana Studies and a MPS in Africana Studies both from Cornell University. Her current manuscript, "A Home Away from Home: Mutual Aid, Political Activism, and the Construction of Caribbean

American Identity, 1890-1940," examines the significance of early twentieth century Anglophone Caribbean immigrant mutual aid societies and benevolent associations in New York City. In 2020, she co-edited a comprehensive resource guide and website titled "This is Not a Riot!" to help contextualize the Black Lives Matter Uprisings of 2020 by placing them in the historical radical tradition of black protest in the US. She also serves as a key organizer for Mutual Aid NYC's Organizing Archive and Library. Her research and teaching interests include the African Diaspora, Caribbean, Black Atlantic, Women and Gender, African American History, Race, Transnational Communities, Migrational Movements, Immigration, Black Identity Formation, Social and Cultural History.

Jonathan Meer is the Mary Julia and George R. Jordan professor of public policy at the Department of Economics at Texas A&M University, and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. In 2021, he was named to a University Professorship for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence at Texas A&M, and he is the Director of Undergraduate Programs and Director of Engagement and Outreach for the Department of Economics. He earned his A.B. in economics from Princeton University in 2002 and his Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University in 2009. He is author of over thirty research papers on charitable giving, the economics of education, and the economics of low-skill labor markets.

Faith Mitchell is an Institute fellow working with the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy and the Health Policy Center. She is also developing the Urban Institute's American Transformation project, which will look at the implications—and possibilities—of this country's racial and ethnic evolution. Over several decades, her career has bridged research, practice, and social and health policy. Previously, Mitchell was president and CEO of Grantmakers In Health, a DC-based national organization that advises, informs, and supports the work of health foundations and corporate giving programs. Before that, she held leadership positions at the National Academies (National Research Council and Institute of Medicine), the US Department of State, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the San Francisco Foundation. Mitchell has a doctorate in medical anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. She has written or edited numerous policy-related publications and is the author of Hoodoo Medicine, a groundbreaking study of Black folk medicine, and The Book of Secrets, Part 1, a semifactual supernatural thriller. She cochairs the advisory group for the John A. Hartford Foundation and Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative and serves on the advisory committee of the National Collaborative for Health Equity, the editorial board of Health Affairs, and the boards of directors of Community Wealth Partners and The Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation.

Benjamin Soskis is a senior research associate in the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. His work explores the ways historical inquiry can inform contemporary philanthropic practice. He is especially interested in the relationship between philanthropy and democratic norms and institutions. A historian and journalist, Soskis is the coeditor of HistPhil, a web publication devoted to the history of the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. Previously, he was a fellow at the Center for Nonprofit Management, Philanthropy, and Policy at George Mason University. He is also a consultant for the Open Philanthropy Project and a frequent contributor to the Chronicle of Philanthropy. His writing on philanthropy has also appeared in the Washington Post, the Atlantic, the Guardian, New Yorker online, Stanford Social Innovation Review, American Prospect, and Boston Review. He is coauthor of The Battle Hymn of the Republic: A Biography of the Song that Marches On, which was a finalist for the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, coauthor of Looking Back at 50 Years of US Philanthropy (Hewlett Foundation 2016), and "A History of Associational Life and the Nonprofit Sector in the United States," in The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook (Stanford University Press, forthcoming). Soskis has taught at the George Washington University and the University of California, Washington Center. He received his PhD in American history from Columbia University.

Tené Traylor brings national expertise in place-based philanthropy, equity, and civic leadership, particularly in the South, where she has honed a distinguished career in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. She will join Urban after concluding her tenure at The Kendeda Fund, where she oversees several grantmaking portfolios totaling approximately \$8 million annually. Before joining Kendeda, Traylor was a senior program officer at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. She led community development and neighborhood transformation grantmaking (including the Neighborhood Fund) for 10 years, launched several related programs and initiatives, and helped transform the foundation's grantmaking approach from programmatic to general or core support. She has also held positions with the United Way for Greater Atlanta and the Zeist Foundation, Inc. Traylor holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Georgia State University and a master of public administration degree in public policy and nonprofit administration from the University of Georgia. She will formally assume her role at Urban in August.

Laura Tomasko is a policy program manager in the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on charitable giving, the philanthropic sector, and impact investing. She draws on more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit, philanthropic, and public sectors to ensure research initiatives inform policy and practice. Before joining Urban, Tomasko was an associate program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she managed a portfolio of grants focused on building policy and data capacity for the philanthropic sector. During the Obama administration, she served as a senior policy advisor for social innovation in the White House Domestic Policy Council and deputy associate director for public engagement at the Council on Environmental Quality. Tomasko previously held positions at national philanthropy associations, the Council on Foundations and Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, as well as community-based organizations, the Central New York Community Foundation and the Children's Aid Society. Tomasko holds a master of public administration degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where she served as the Vernon Snow Fellow in Nonprofit Management, and a bachelor of arts degree in history from Occidental College, graduating with honors and Phi Beta Kappa.