

# Exploring the Social Sector Infrastructure's Current State and Future Needs

## Speaker Biographies

**Alan Abramson** (@AbramsonAlan) is a professor and the director of the Center on Nonprofits, Philanthropy, and Social Enterprise in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. In these positions, he teaches, conducts research, and works in the broad field of public administration, with a particular focus on issues related to the nonprofit sector and philanthropy. For more than a decade, Abramson directed the Aspen Institute's Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy Program, overseeing the Nonprofit Sector Research Fund and other initiatives that helped to build the nonprofit research field in the U.S., strengthen nonprofit and foundation leaders, and deepen the understanding of policymakers about nonprofit activities. Before joining the Aspen Institute, he was on the staff of the Urban Institute, where he conducted research on a variety of domestic public policy issues. Abramson is the author and coauthor of numerous books and articles, and his work has twice won awards from the American Political Science Association. He has served on many national and local nonprofit boards and advisory committees, and has been named among the 50 most influential leaders in the U.S. nonprofit sector. In 2015-16, Abramson served as president of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), the nation's leading association for nonprofit researchers. In 2016, he was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and in 2018-19 he served as the first Visiting Scholar at Independent Sector. In July 2021, he became coeditor-in-chief of the scholarly journal *Nonprofit Policy Forum*. Knowledgeable about a broad range of nonprofit issues, his major, current interests are: the infrastructure—or support system—for the nonprofit sector; nonprofit advocacy; public policy toward social enterprise; the health of the overall nonprofit sector; and shared governance, the engagement of all three sectors—nonprofit, government, and business—in addressing social problems. Abramson received his PhD in political science from Yale University and his BA from Wesleyan University.

**Kathy Ko Chin** (@KathyKoChin) serves as the CEO of Jasper Inclusion Advisors, which advises philanthropic organizations, nonprofits, and government entities. Most recently, she served as president & CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) for over a decade. The daughter of immigrants from China and Cleveland, Ohio native, Ko Chin's 40-year career has been committed to building community institutions that contribute to a just and multiracial society. Her extraordinary contributions to health equity and social justice led the American Public Health Association to honor her with the prestigious Helen Rodriguez-Trias Social Justice Award in 2020. Ko Chin, a universally recognized voice in AA, NH, and PIs communities, has served on and chaired the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, including the public financing initiatives of Blue Cross of California's Investment in a Healthy California Program, the Cal-Mortgage program, and Catholic Healthcare West, as well as leading organizations, such as Public Health Institute, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, and Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. From 2014 to 2017, she served as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She has served on The Kresge Foundation Board of Trustees since 2017. She earned a master's degree in health policy and management from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University.

**Monisha Kapila** (@monishakapila) is Co-CEO of ProInspire. She founded ProInspire to help individuals and organizations achieve their potential for social impact. Born and raised as a first-generation South Asian immigrant in Flint, Michigan, Kapila's passion stems from her personal experience working in the nonprofit sector. Over the past decade, she has led ProInspire to grow from supporting five fellows to working with hundreds of organizations to

advance leadership and equity. Prior to launching ProInspire, Kapila worked for Capital One, Accion, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, CARE, and Arthur Andersen. Kapila has an MBA from Harvard Business School, where she received the Dean's Award, a BBA from the University of Michigan, and a Certificate in Leadership Coaching from Georgetown University. She teaches about leadership and equity at Georgetown's Center for Public & Nonprofit Leadership. Kapila serves as a Board Member for AchieveMission, the National Human Services Assembly, and advises many early stage nonprofit initiatives. She has been published in *Nonprofit Quarterly*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, the *Huffington Post*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *Next Billion*, and other publications. Kapila has been recognized as a HBS Leadership Fellow, American Express NGen Fellow, National Urban Fellows America's Leaders of Change, and was named to *The Chronicle of Philanthropy's* 40 Under 40 list. Outside of work, she enjoys hikes with her family, finding easy Instant Pot recipes, and biking on the trails in Arlington, VA.

**Frances Kunreuther** (@fkunreuther) is co-executive director of the Building Movement Project which conducts research, develops resources, and builds relationships to strengthen U.S. nonprofits as sites of civic engagement and social change. She is co-author of two books, *From the Ground Up: Grassroots Organizations Making Social Change* (Cornell, 2006) and *Working Across Generations: Defining the Future of Nonprofit Leadership* (Jossey Bass, 2009). Kunreuther was a senior fellow at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University for five years after heading the Hetrick-Martin Institute for LGBT youth. She began her career in social services working with homeless youth and families, undocumented immigrants, women experiencing violence, and substance users. She writes and presents frequently on issues related to nonprofits, leadership, and social change.

**Hanh Le** (@HanhLeDC) is Co-CEO of if, A Foundation for Radical Possibility, which envisions a world in which Black people and people of the global majority live powerfully, abundantly and beautifully in healthy, self-determined communities free of social, economic and ideological violence. Le was previously Executive Director of the Weissberg Foundation, where she led strategy development and implementation; oversaw programmatic and operational activities; and collaborated with other philanthropic and nonprofit leaders to advance racial equity through field-building, pooled funding, and collective action. She has served as chief program officer at Exponent Philanthropy, leading educational programming and content development; and she has directed training, grant, and technical assistance programs for KaBOOM!, Community Technology Centers' Network, and the Peace Corps. Inspired by the power of collective impact, Le co-founded DC's Cherry Blossom Giving Circle and co-chairs the Metro DC chapter of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy. She serves on the boards of Asian American LEAD, and the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers. Le holds degrees in environmental geology from the College of William & Mary and in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia. She is passionate about family, friends, dogs, DC, biking, food, matrixes, and bad tv.

**Faith Mitchell** is an Institute fellow at the Urban Institute working with the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy and the Health Policy Center. She is also developing Urban'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, *The Book of Secrets, Part 1*, a semifactual supernatural thriller, and *Emma's Postcard Album: Black Lives in the Early Twentieth Century*, a microhistory of the African American experience in early twentieth-century America through the correspondence of one young woman. 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 board of directors of The Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation.

**Donna Murray-Brown** (@DonnaMurrayBro1) is the inaugural Vice President of Strategy and Development of the National Council of Nonprofits. In her new role, Murray-Brown will lead the growth of NCN's core resources through practical and impactful strategic initiatives that integrate the knowledge, policy, and advocacy competencies and support the network in advancing those strategic initiatives. Murray-Brown is also a Trustee for the McGregor Fund. Murray-Brown can trace her introduction to the nonprofit sector twenty-five years ago while serving on the United Way for Southeastern Michigan's advisory board. After transitioning from a 20+ year banking career serving in various senior management roles, including the vice president and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) director for Charter One Bank, she officially began her career in the nonprofit sector in 2009. Initially, she led the work of the Metro Detroit Partnership Office for Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA), a statewide membership organization serving nonprofits by providing a range of services, including advocacy, training, technology services, and civic engagement initiatives. In 2013, Murray-Brown was named president and CEO of the MNA. During her tenure at MNA, she is credited for being a bold and inclusive leader who created space for groundbreaking nonprofit initiatives, including a Census 2020 Michigan complete count initiative, COVID-19 mitigation programs and strategies for nonprofits, and promoting strategies to support nonprofit leaders of color. Twice honored as a NonProfit Times Power and Influence Top 50 leader in the nonprofit sector, Murray-Brown was recognized by *Crain's Detroit Business* in 2021 as one of the Most Influential Women in Michigan. She serves on the Board of Trustees for Candid and Detroit Public TV, a PBS member station, and as part of the Leadership Council for the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University. She is a first-generation college graduate earning a master's degree in Community Development from the University of Detroit Mercy and a BS in Business Administration from Central State University. She also holds certifications in corporate community affairs from Boston College and strategic perspectives in nonprofit management from Harvard Business School. Murray-Brown is a mother to three adult children and loves to travel and be with family and friends. She resides joyfully with her life partner, Stan, in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Chera Reid** is co-Executive Director of the Center for Evaluation Innovation. She is the chief designer, organizer, and champion of CEI's Evaluation Roundtable, a philanthropic learning and evaluation platform that moves in service of racial equity and justice. Reid came to CEI after serving as Director of Strategic Learning, Research, and Evaluation at the Kresge Foundation, where she guided one of the nation's largest private foundations to become an intentional learning organization [rooted in values of equity and opportunity](#). She also co-led foundation-wide efforts to raise consciousness about race and the impact of structural racism as the foundation made a [comprehensive commitment to advancing equity](#). Before joining Kresge, Reid worked at MDRC, where she focused on ensuring that all students have access to quality public education and can [pursue a college education that matches](#) their needs regardless of their family income. She has held leadership positions at New York Needs You and the Phillips Academy Andover Institute for Recruitment of Teachers, programs that expand educational and career opportunities for first-generation, low-income, and students of color. Reid earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Virginia, a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from New York University.

**Laura Tomasko** (@lauratomasko) is a senior policy program manager in the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on the social sector infrastructure, charitable giving, 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.

**Tené Traylor** (@TeneTraylor) is Vice President for Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. She 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 joins Urban from The Kendeda Fund, where she oversaw 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.