

# Giving Innovation Summit 2026: Charitable Giving and Philanthropy in Turbulent Times

## Speaker biographies

**Sara Barba** is Managing Partner at Integer, LLC, where she leads the firm's tax and nonprofit policy work. For the past decade, Sara has represented individual, corporate and nonprofit tax interests on Capitol Hill and in the Administration, developing and leading advocacy efforts to advance clients' priorities in the tax code. Her expertise lies at the intersection of philanthropy and tax, where much of the policy impacting how grantmakers and charities carry out their missions is made. Sara's efforts in DC have led to simplified tax filings for foundations, increased incentives for donors to give away their money, the repeal of excise taxes on nonprofit organizations, and the prevention of punitive policies for donors from advancing through Congress. Sara holds a master's in philanthropic studies from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University and bachelor's degrees in journalism and political science from the University of Missouri.

**Jon Bergdoll, M.A.**, currently serves as the Interim Director of Data and Research Partnerships. He initially joined the Research team of the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy in 2015 as an applied statistician. With rich experience in U.S. and international philanthropy data, Jon's current research interests at the school include the measurement of philanthropic giving, data analytics, and policy analysis. One of Jon's primary responsibilities has been serving for the past 10 years as the lead analyst for one of the school's signature projects, Giving USA, the longest-running annual report on charitable giving in the United States. He has also served as the methodological lead for the Equitable Giving Lab (funded by Google), which produces searchable indexes of comprehensive lists and analyses of US charities serving underserved populations, such as the Military & Veterans Community Index. Other significant endeavors include serving as the lead analyst on the Bank of America High Net Worth bi-annual reports (funded by Bank of America) and the Global Philanthropy Tracker (funded by Charles Stewart Mott Foundation), which measures cross-border donations from individuals and organizations around the world.

**Daniel Cueto-Villalobos** is a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota. Broadly, his interests are in the areas of urban politics, race, and religion. Daniel is involved in a number of mixed-methods collaborative projects examining the social impacts of COVID-19, policing, immigration, and political polarization on local communities. His research has received support from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the American Sociological Association, University of Minnesota Graduate School, University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center, and the Lilly Endowment. His scholarly work has been published in leading social science journals including *Social Problems*, *Sociology of Religion*, and the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and he has contributed commentary on Minnesota Public Radio, *The Conversation*, and *The Society Pages*.

**Asha Curran** is CEO of GivingTuesday. She was formerly Chief Innovation Officer and Director of the Belfer Center for Innovation & Social Impact at the 92nd Street Y. She serves as Chair of the Board of Guardian.org, as a Board member of the Resource Alliance, and as a member of the Alliance Magazine Editorial Advisory Council. She has been a Fellow at Stanford University's Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society, a Marla and Barry Beck Visiting Social Innovator at the Social Innovation and Change Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School, and a Fellow at the Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford. Asha was named to the inaugural TIME100 Philanthropy List in 2025 and the Nonprofit Times' Top Fifty Power and Influence list annually 2019 through 2024, when she was also honored as Influencer of the Year.

**Floyd Jones** is the Founder of BackBlack, an initiative that has directed over \$13M to more than 1,300 Black-led nonprofits. He is also the founder of Floyd Jones Enterprises, a media and coaching company helping changemakers scale their impact through community-led growth. An internationally recognized speaker and community builder, Floyd is focused on helping nonprofits build sustainable, engaged communities that drive lasting impact. Over the course of his career, he has raised over \$50M for grassroots organizations and transformed the nonprofit landscape through strategic community-building efforts. His work has been featured on platforms such as ESPN, LinkedIn, Blavity, The Anthem Awards, Variety, Black Enterprise, and Wired, and sponsored by brands including NIKE, Whole Foods, VISA, and NBA2K. As the newly appointed Global Chair of Black Philanthropy Month, Floyd is passionate about turning engagement into long-term support and committed to uplifting changemakers worldwide through bold, equity-driven strategies.

**Michael Layton** joined the Johnson Center in September 2020 as the W.K. Kellogg Community Philanthropy Chair, the first endowed chair in the U.S. dedicated to advancing community philanthropy. Michael brings extensive experience to this role as a researcher, educator, director, advocate, and consultant. Having worked closely with a diverse range of community philanthropy organizations across the Americas, he offers a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in leveraging community philanthropy to catalyze community-led development and strengthen local philanthropic ecosystems. Michael's recent research advances the understanding of how community philanthropy manifests in practice. In collaboration with Philanthropy Together and Colmena Consulting, he co-authored *In Abundance: An Analysis of the Thriving Landscape of Collective Giving in the U.S.*, which explores the growth of collective giving and its role in advancing equity in philanthropy, and *Patterns in the Tapestry: A Typology of Collective Giving Groups*, which introduces a framework for categorizing these groups. Additionally, he partnered with Dr. Michael Moody on *Connecting Community and Family Philanthropy in Latin America: Mexico* (also available in Spanish), a study that examines the intersections of community foundations and family philanthropy through case studies and interviews.

**Robert McClelland** is a senior fellow in the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. Previously, he worked in the tax analysis division of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), where he examined the impact of federal tax policy on charitable giving and bequests, the realization of capital gains, labor supply, and small businesses. He worked for the CBO from 1999 to 2005 and from 2011 to 2016, and in between, he directed the division of price and index number research at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. McClelland has published articles in journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *National Tax Journal*, and *Review of Income and Statistics*. He and John

Greenlees wrote an article in the *Monthly Labor Review* that addressed some of the misconceptions surrounding the Consumer Price Index, and in 2015, he, Tim Dowd, and Athipat Muthitacharoen won the Richard Musgrave Prize for the outstanding article in the *National Tax Journal*. McClelland is a member of the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth. He has taught econometrics at Johns Hopkins University, where he won an Excellence in Teaching award in 2006. McClelland received a BA in economics and environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a PhD in economics from the University of California, Davis.

**Faith Mitchell** is an Institute fellow at the Urban Institute, working with the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy and the Health Policy Division. She oversees Urban's American Transformation project, which looks 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 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 memoir and social history. She cochairs the advisory group for the John A. Hartford Foundation and Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative; chairs the board of the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation; serves on advisory committees for the National Collaborative for Health Equity and the University of California, San Francisco, Institute for Health Policy Studies; and serves on the editorial board of *Health Affairs*. Mitchell has a doctorate in medical anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Robert Rosenbaum** is a Co-Founder of Project Resource Optimization (PRO), an initiative established to channel philanthropic funding toward the most urgent, life-saving programs that were terminated during the dismantling of USAID, and a founding member of the Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) Fund, where he leads the fund's philanthropic partnerships work. Since early 2025, PRO has helped match over \$110 million in new philanthropic commitments to roughly 80 projects, and has built a platform to appraise and promote projects delivering highly cost-effective models to save lives and reduce suffering at scale. Rob's career in public service has included positions within government, at research institutions and within social enterprises. At USAID, he served as a Senior Advisor on the COVID Response Team and, more recently, led application review and an agency-wide scaling effort of evidence-backed public health interventions at Development Innovation Ventures (USAID/DIV). Earlier in his career, he helped lead NGOs (Children of South Africa and OpenBiome), and manage large field research (Harvard's Center for International Development, and Resolve to Save Lives). His expertise and research interests lie at the intersection of innovation, impact evaluation and scale. He holds an MPA from Princeton University.

**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 civil society and the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. Previously, he was a fellow at the Center for Nonprofit Management, Philanthropy, and Policy at George Mason University. A frequent

contributor to the Chronicle of Philanthropy, his writing on philanthropy has also appeared in the Washington Post, the Atlantic, the Guardian, Inside Philanthropy, the Stanford Social Innovation Review, and Boston Review. He is coauthor of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic: A Biography of the Song that Marches On* (Oxford University Press, 2013); author of “A History of Associational Life and the Nonprofit Sector in the United States” in the third edition of *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook* (Stanford University Press, 2020); and coeditor of *Giving in Time: Temporal Consideration in Philanthropy* (Rowman & Littlefield/Urban Institute Press, 2023). 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.

**Laura Tomasko** is a senior policy program manager in the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, part of the Research to Action Lab Division 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 was a senior policy adviser 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 the national philanthropy associations Council on Foundations and Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, as well as the community-based organizations the Central New York Community Foundation and the Children’s Aid Society. Tomasko holds a BA in history from Occidental College, graduating with honors and Phi Beta Kappa, and an MPA from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where she served as the Vernon Snow Fellow in Nonprofit Management.

**Victoria Vrana** is the CEO of GlobalGiving. She is a senior leader in innovation and philanthropy who joined GlobalGiving from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she served as Deputy Director of Philanthropic Partnerships, overseeing portfolios in policy, data, and everyday giving. Previously, Victoria held positions with Venture Philanthropy Partners, the Morino Institute, and Millennium Communications. Early in her career, she directed Network of East-West Women Online, the first online network linking women’s rights activists and NGOs in post-Soviet countries with global counterparts. Victoria studied in Germany and Hungary and has a degree in comparative literature from the University of California, Davis. She serves on the board of directors of the Washington Area Women’s Foundation, Good Tech Together, and the Paypal Giving Fund. Victoria lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband, is an incredibly proud mom to three amazing daughters, and gets out to the forest and beach as much as possible.

**Tonia Wellons** is the President & CEO of the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the largest public foundation in the Greater Washington region. Under her leadership, The Community Foundation launched a bold 10-year strategic vision to help close the region’s racial wealth gap by directing capital, strengthening civic and philanthropic infrastructure, and centering economic justice. Tonia is a dynamic and values-driven leader known for her ability to navigate seamlessly between visionary leadership, strategy, and fundraising. Since her tenure as CEO, The Community Foundation has grown from \$331 million to \$500 million in assets under management. Tonia has deep relationships across both grassroots and grassroots communities and is a trusted convener and coalition builder. Her leadership reflects a combination of on-the-ground insight and high-level influence, enabling The Community Foundation to respond with both urgency and intention to the region’s most pressing challenges and biggest

opportunities. From instigating transformative initiatives like Guaranteed Basic Income pilots and Children’s Savings Accounts to guiding major fundraising campaigns that expand the Foundation’s impact, Tonia consistently brings vision, discipline, and heart to her work. Accolades include Power 100 Washington 2025; Washingtonian Magazine’s “Hero of the Crisis,” and Washington Business Journal’s 2020 Nonprofit Leader of the Year. Tonia is a graduate of North Carolina A&T, and a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.