

CNJG 2014 Spring Colloquium

BEING FEARLESS: DRIVING CHANGE FOR IMPACT

A Conversation on the Social Sector



**Tuesday, June 3, 2014
George Street Playhouse
New Brunswick, New Jersey**

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AGENDA

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

POETRY PERFORMANCE

Natasha Vargas

State Champion, 2014 New Jersey Poetry Out Loud

A CONVERSATION ON THE SOCIAL SECTOR BEING FEARLESS: DRIVING CHANGE FOR IMPACT

Moderator

Ellen W. Lambert

President, PSEG Foundation and Chief Diversity Officer and
Director of Corporate Citizenship and Responsibility, PSEG

Featured Guests

Ben Cameron

Program Director for the Arts, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Ami Dar

Founder and Executive Director, Idealist

Cindy T. Rizzo

Vice President, Impact & Learning, Arcus Foundation

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING COLLEAGUES

GROUP DISCUSSIONS OVER BOXED LUNCH

SO WHAT EXACTLY DOES “NO SOLICITATION” MEAN?

Many have asked recently what “no solicitation” – a longstanding rule of business at Council of New Jersey Grantmakers’ meetings – means. While it may be self-evident to some, revisiting a few “do’s” and “don’t’s” is a valuable exercise for preserving the meeting ground for everyone.

FOR PUBLIC CHARITIES:

DO bring your business cards.
DON’T bring proposals.

DO tell grantmakers about your organization’s work.
DON’T ask on the spot if they want to fund your organization.

DO follow up on leads when you get home, as appropriate.
DON’T send everyone you meet a request for funding.

FOR GRANTMAKERS:

DO invite a charity to follow up with you after the program, if appropriate.
DON’T accept proposals on the spot.

DO say, “Sorry, this program isn’t the place,” if you’re faced with a request for funding.
DON’T mistake enthusiasm from nonprofit leaders about their programs for a request for funding.

FOR EVERYONE:

DO respect the spirit of the “no solicitation” rule – beyond the obvious “do’s” and “don’t’s” mentioned above.

Thank you for protecting and enhancing the valuable “meeting ground” provided by CNJG’s 2014 Spring Colloquium and other forums.



Courtesy of Independent Sector

MODERATOR

ELLEN W. LAMBERT



Ellen Lambert is currently the Chief Diversity Officer at PSEG. In addition, she holds the positions of President of the PSEG Foundation and Director of Corporate Citizenship and Responsibility. Lambert is responsible for the company-wide diversity and inclusion strategy as well as leadership of the Diversity and Inclusion Council, development and implementation of social investment strategies and overseeing employee engagement, corporate contributions, volunteering, sponsorships and employee giving programs.

Prior to PSEG, Lambert led the Merck Foundation and its Office of Corporate Giving where she was responsible for philanthropic, community and volunteer endeavors including the development of The Richard T. Clark Global Fellowship program, strategic health, education and community-focused initiatives. She created corporate-wide employee engagement programs that allowed workers to ‘give back’ and hone their professional skills by working with non-profits. She led the groups responsible for the Merck Institute for Science Education and the Merck Childhood Asthma network.

Formerly, Lambert was the Executive Director of the ROCHE Foundation and Director of Corporate Relations and Contributions for the company. She served as Executive Director of the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, the Executive Director of the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Foundation and the Vice President of Development for the New York Special Olympics.

Lambert holds a J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Tulane University and a Bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University. She is an adjunct professor at New York University.

FEATURED GUESTS

BEN CAMERON



Since 2006, Ben Cameron has been Program Director for the Arts at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in New York, NY, supervising both an annual \$14 million grants program focusing on the theatre, contemporary dance, jazz and presenting fields, and an additional \$50 million initiative designed primarily to serve individual artists.

Previously, he managed philanthropic programs for Target Stores and the Dayton Hudson Foundation, served as the Executive Director of Theatre Communications Group, and was Director of the Theater Program at the National Endowment for the Arts. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

CINDY T. RIZZO

Cindy Rizzo is the Vice President for Impact & Learning at the Arcus Foundation in New York City. Arcus is a private foundation dedicated to the idea that people can live in harmony with one another and with the natural world. It advances its mission through strategic grantmaking, leadership, and listening and learning in two areas—LGBT social justice and conservation of the world's great apes. Rizzo has been with the foundation since 2006 and currently has responsibility for overseeing evaluation, knowledge management, organizational learning and a new program on shareholder activism. She is currently chair of the board of Funders for LGBTQ Issues, an affinity group of the Council on Foundations, sits on the Membership Committee of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations and serves on the board of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah.



Prior to coming to Arcus, Rizzo was the Director of Grantmaking at the Boston Foundation and oversaw the foundation's health and human services portfolio. She is also a published author of fiction and essays.

AMI DAR



Ami Dar is the founder and executive director of Idealist.org. Built in 1996 with \$3,500, Idealist has become one of the most popular nonprofit resources on the web, with information provided by 90,000 organizations around the world and 100,000 visitors every day. Dar was born in Jerusalem, grew up in Peru and in Mexico, and lives in New York.

FEATURED ARTIST

NATASHA VARGAS

Natasha Vargas, a senior at Lawrence High School, was named State Champion at the 2014 NJ Poetry Out Loud State Finals competition and placed third in the 2014 Poetry Out Loud National Championship. Vargas has participated in numerous productions including *Hairspray*, *South Pacific*, and *Legally Blonde*. When not on stage singing, acting, dancing, or reciting poetry, she can be found playing the violin. She is also the vice president of her school's chapter of SAVE (Students Against Violating Earth) and a member of the National Honor Society. As a member of her school's honors music program, she travels to other schools and encourages elementary school pupils to take an interest in learning a musical instrument. In the fall, Vargas will attend Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.



Now in its ninth year, Poetry Out Loud is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation, and is implemented by State Arts Councils across the country. With more than 365,000 students engaged nationwide, New Jersey ranks second with 28,618 students participating and first for teacher participation with more than 780 teachers involved this year. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts sponsors NJ Poetry Out Loud and works closely with a network of partners to maximize the impact of the program.

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For 30 years, the Center for Non-Profits has provided leadership and services for New Jersey non-profits, and remains the *only* umbrella organization for all charities in our state. Through advocacy, education, capacity building programs and cost-saving member services, the Center gives non-profits the knowledge and tools to pursue *their* missions more effectively, strengthening non-profits as individual organizations and as a community.

COMING NOVEMBER 5, 2014



Council of New Jersey Grantmakers

**Investment Forum
for Foundations
and Endowments**

For private foundations and endowed nonprofits

Details available in August at
www.cnjg.org/investmentforum

LUNCHEON CONVERSATION STARTERS

As we continue to explore how grantmakers and nonprofits can strengthen communities, we ask that you consider:

- How has your organization experimented — or how can your organization experiment in the future — with innovative ideas and novel partners?
- What are some ways that you can foster a culture of experimentation in your organization? What are the tools, resources or protocols that need to be in place?
- Discuss a risk that your organization has taken and the outcome.
- Does your organization actively evaluate programs and projects that are considered not successful?
- How have past failures impacted the work that you do?
- Discuss a project or program failure in your organization. Was it a risky venture? Why did it fail? How was it addressed internally and externally? How did staff learn from the failure? What was learned? Did the experience ultimately breed success in this or other initiatives?
- What are some ways that you can foster a more fearless, pioneering approach to philanthropy in your organization, or in the social sector in general? What are the tools, resources or protocols that need to be in place to ensure that risks taken and potential failures can be a learning opportunity for an organization?
- How has — or how can — experimentation and evaluation of failure improve(d) the effectiveness and impact of your work?
- What are other ways to increase impact and success in the work you do?
- Have experimentation and past failures undermined or enhanced your ability to have a positive impact?
- What knowledge do the leaders of the social sector — nonprofit and philanthropic staff and trustees — need to effectively experiment and/or learn from failure?

ABOUT CNJG

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers is the center for philanthropy in New Jersey, serving the leading independent, corporate, family and community foundations as well as public grantmakers of our state.

We support our members by strengthening their capacity to address New Jersey's and society's most difficult problems. We also access the resources of the philanthropic community — funding, expertise, leverage — to provide leadership on statewide issues. Our mission is to strengthen and promote effective philanthropy throughout New Jersey.

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