



COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS  
*Harnessing Philanthropy's Potential*



# 2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**THE COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS' MISSION** is to strengthen and promote effective philanthropy throughout the state of New Jersey. To assist grantmakers in their work, CNJG programs and services provide members with valuable resources, networking, educational programs, collaborative opportunities, and links to a national network of organized philanthropy.

Throughout the year, CNJG programs bring together all types and sizes of grantmakers with leaders from government, business, academia, and New Jersey's nonprofit community.

In 2021, we planned and offered three virtual Signature Events, including the Spring Conference for New Jersey's Social Sector, the Investment Forum for Foundations and Endowments, and the CNJG Annual Meeting & Holiday Gathering. In addition, we provided over 70 programs, including funder briefings, Newark-focused briefings, affinity group meetings, partner programs, and skill-building webinars. In response to, and out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, all programming was virtual this year.

## Signature Events

The [2021 Virtual Spring Conference for the Social Sector: The Future of Work and the Role of Philanthropy](#) on May 19 and 20, welcomed nearly 200 attendees at our first-ever virtual conference. The coronavirus pandemic has impacted and propelled the future of work in ways we couldn't have imagined. But even before the pandemic, the world of work was shifting.

Jamie Merisotis, President and CEO of the Lumina Foundation, kicked off the event with his keynote presentation *Human Work in the Age of Smart Machines*, also the name of his most recent book, which was distributed to all attendees. His presentation and the subsequent Q & A challenged us to consider what philanthropy can do now to build a more equitable workforce for the future.

The day 2 plenary, *Championing Work and the Workforce: Philanthropy's Role in Shaping a Better Future*, moderated by Danielle Goonan, Managing Director, Economic Policy, U.S. Equity and Economic Opportunity Initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation, heard from panelists

Maria Flynn, President and CEO at Jobs for the Future, Sarita Gupta, Director, Future of Work(ers) Program at the Ford Foundation, and Kathy Krepcio, Executive Director and Senior Researcher at the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers. The panelists discussed the future of work in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic recovery, and the continued fight for social justice.

Over two days, concurrent sessions covered topics such as: reimagining and confronting white supremacy in the workplace; rethinking philanthropy's role in building worker power; job security and safety; and supporting an equitable economic recovery. The benefit of a virtual event is that attendees had access to recordings of the entire conference for six months after the conclusion of the conference via the online event platform.

CNJG thanks our generous sponsors: PSEG - *Signature Sponsor*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - *Collaborator Sponsor*, and Citi - *Contributor Sponsor* for supporting the conference. We also thank our event exhibitors and NJM Insurance Group for their contribution in support of this event. And a final thank you to the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for generously sharing an exclusive excerpt of *Transcend*, a NJSO Concert Film, with attendees as part of the event.

Because philanthropy clearly has a role to play in how we think about the future of work, we offered two bonus sessions to the CNJG Spring Conference:

- ▶ [Advancing New Jersey's Creative Economy to Prepare Our Future Workforce](#) in June discussed how philanthropy can invest in the businesses, organizations, places, and people that make up the creative economy. Moderated by Kevin O'Brien from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, panelists Laura Callahan, Founding Partner at Upstart Co-Lab; Adam Perle, President & CEO at ArtPride New Jersey; and Michelle Ramos, Executive Director at Alternate Roots, shared how the arts create jobs, help communities heal, and drive economic growth.
- ▶ [The Green Economy: Powering an Equitable Recovery](#) in September featured a panel of Jane Cohen, Executive Director at the Governor's Office of Climate Action



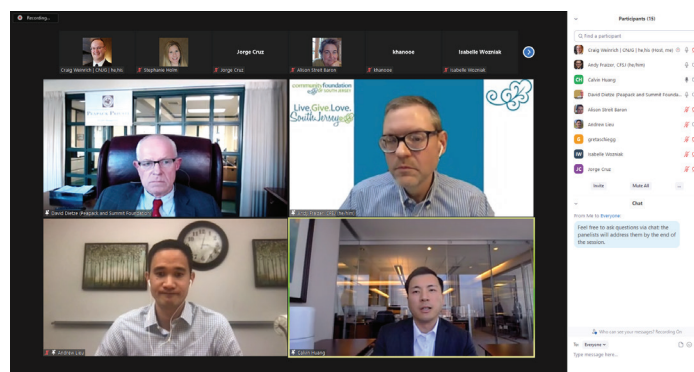
Sarita Gupta from the Future of Work(ers) Program at the Ford Foundation presents at the 2021 CNJG Spring Conference.

and the Green Economy; Kim Gaddy, Environmental Justice Organizer at Clean Water Action; and Reverend Ronald B. Tuff, New Jersey Organizer at Greenfaith; moderated by Lucy Vandenberg from The Fund for New Jersey; and Stephanie Greenwood from Victoria Foundation. Panelists shared how philanthropy can support green jobs, center environmental justice, and transition to ensure a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable recovery for New Jersey.

Foundations and nonprofits gathered for three informative afternoons of learning and networking at the [CNJG 2021 Virtual Investment Forum for Foundations and Endowments](#) on November 9, 10, and 16. This year's virtual event included three plenaries, 11 concurrent sessions, and daily networking.

The opening plenary, **A Career in Finance – Three Women Share Their Wisdom and Experience**, featured three women leaders in finance: Leena Bhutta, Deputy Chief Investment Officer at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Carolyn Lange, Chief Financial Officer at the Community Foundation of New Jersey; and Jacqueline D. Robinson, Chief Financial Officer at New Jersey Community Capital, who shared their inspiring back stories and the importance of supporting women in a largely male-dominated field. An audience favorite, the **Market Outlook Plenary: Managing Your Portfolio Today for the Long-Term** provided critical insights and knowledge to consider how best to management investment portfolios. The closing keynote with Brian O'Neil, Chief Investment Officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation outlined best practices for investment management and asset allocation.

Eleven concurrent sessions were offered over the three-day event, including the two-part Portfolio Construction and Management – Investments Basics and Beyond the Basics; Ensuring You Can Sleep Well: Governance, Operational Due Diligence and the Importance of Knowing Your Fiduciary Duty; Alternative Investments: What Makes Sense for Your Portfolio?; ESG Investing; and Chasing the Yield – How to Find Return in a Low Interest Rate Environment. Attendees can access all session recordings, and the plenary sessions via the online event platform until May 16, 2022.



Portfolio Construction Management panelists (clockwise from top left) David Dietze, Anthony Fraizer, Calvin Huang, and Andrew Lieu.

CNJG is grateful to our sponsors: JPMorgan Chase – *Signature Investor Sponsor*, Bessemer Trust – *Partner Sponsor*, PNC Institutional Asset Management and Glenmede – *Host Sponsors*, Vanguard and PKF O'Connor Davies – *Expert Sponsors*, and Peapack Private Wealth Management – *Advisor Sponsor*. Thank you also to the Investment Forum Planning Committee led by chair William Gibson from The Leavens Foundation. Their guidance has been immeasurable!

Our [2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, From Moment to Movement: Upending Traditional Philanthropy](#) welcomed over 100 members on December 13 and 14, and tackled how foundations can implement practices based in trust, confront uneven power structures, and advance equity in the philanthropic sector.

The Annual Meeting Workshop on December 13 explored how The Claneil Foundation and Weingart Foundation are using general operating support, multi-year funding, and transparent communication and feedback to build strong, effective relationships with nonprofit partners. The workshop provided attendees with a first look at how CNJG is building on 2020 response efforts to reach





\*\*\* MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 & TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 \*\*\*



**Doing Good Better panelists** (clockwise from top left)  
Nancy Bird, Joanna Jackson, Duane Perry, and Mailee Walker.

beyond the COVID-19 crisis and advance the sector. This session kicked off **Doing Good Better**, a joint initiative led by CNJG and the Center for Non-Profits to reimagine how philanthropy and nonprofits work together for the communities and people of our state. Moderator Nancy Burd, The Burd Group and special advisor for this work, facilitated a panel discussion with Mailee Walker, Executive Director, and Duane Perry, Board Chair, of The Claneil Foundation and Joanna Jackson, Vice President of Programs from the Weingart Foundation. Panelists shared their organizational and personal journeys to transform their giving practices and strengthen nonprofit partnerships, as well as their efforts to infuse trust-based practices throughout their grantmaking. Following the panel, funders engaged in small group conversations to consider how their own organizations might rethink their grantmaking practices.

Day 2 opened with the business portion of the Annual Meeting and included various reports, as well as the election of new trustees: Kate Barrett, Campbell Soup Company; Kortney Swanson Davis, Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation; Justin Kiczek, F.M. Kirby Foundation; Marianna Schaffer, Geraldine R. Dodge

Foundation; and Catherine Wilson, United Way of Greater Newark. We also said good-bye to five trustees who rotated off the board: Kimberly Boller, The Nicholson Foundation; William V. Engel, The Hyde and Watson Foundation; Jeremy Grunin, The Grunin Foundation; Jonathan Pearson, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; and Annette Strickland, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey.

Following the business meeting, Marcus Walton, President and CEO of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations gave an inspiring keynote presentation. Marcus kicked off the keynote by sharing critical insights for building trust within and outside your organization. He then engaged in a candid conversation with CNJG President and CEO Maria Vizcarrondo, and answered questions from attendees about how funders can rethink traditional grantmaking practices and advance racial equity within philanthropy and New Jersey.

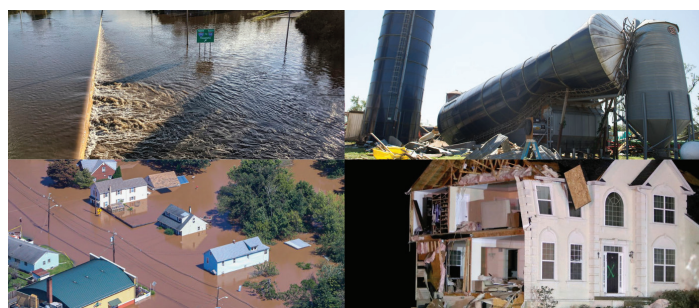
CNJG is grateful to our sponsors for their generous support: Prudential - *Signature Sponsor*, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Grunin Foundation - *Contributing Sponsors*, and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey - *Supporting Sponsor*.

## Programs

### FUNDER BRIEFINGS

*Throughout the year, CNJG offered five funder briefings providing a forum to exchange knowledge and insights related to pressing societal issues that affect our communities.*

CNJG quickly organized a [Hurricane Ida Funders Briefing](#) with NJVOAD Executive Director Keith Adams to learn about immediate needs, current response efforts, and



Scenes from the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

where philanthropic funding will be needed most, following the unexpectedly damaging storm. The state, counties, and local organizations were just starting to assess damage and share information regarding how to best help those individuals and neighborhoods most impacted by the disaster. At the time, six New Jersey counties - Bergen, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Passaic, and Somerset - had received a Major Disaster Declaration from FEMA.

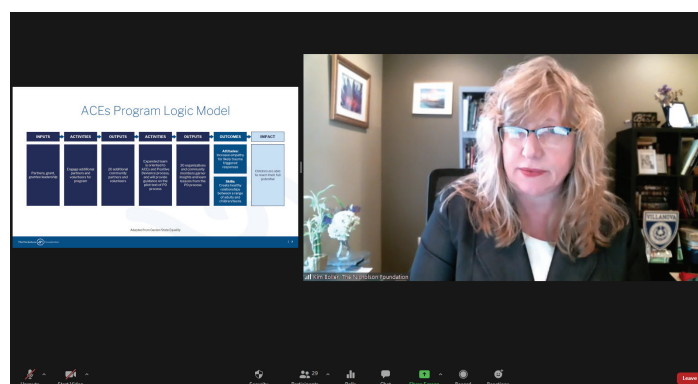
Deborah Cornavaca, Deputy Chief of Staff of Outreach to Governor Murphy met virtually with Council members for a [Funders Briefing on New Jersey's COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout](#). In addition to providing updated information, Cornavaca and her team wanted to hear funders' suggestions and insights for working with various interested parties. The knowledge and resources shared during the briefing helped grantmakers consider how they can further support nonprofits on the ground, and work with community and government partners to ensure all New Jerseyans are informed about the vaccine.

The other three briefings addressed [supporting immigrant families in New Jersey](#), [supporting fair redistricting](#), and the [learnings from sunseting foundations](#).

## SKILL-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

*CNJG's workshops develop our members' practical skills to inform and advance their grantmaking practice.*

The two-part workshop, [How to Build a Learning Culture - Creating an Organizational Theory of Change for Better Evaluation](#) in March, and [Co-Creating Program Logic Models and Impact Maps](#) in April, helped funders learn how they can create a theory of change for their foundation to guide funding decisions, support nonprofits in right-sizing data collection and evaluations, and develop a shared learning culture. Thank you to Kim Boller, Chief Strategy and Evaluation Officer at The Nicholson Foundation, Atiya Weiss, Executive Director at The Burke Foundation, Caroline Taggart at Via Evaluation, Andy Fraizer, Executive Director at Community Foundation of South Jersey, and Elena Ragusa, founder of DRIVE Evaluation Studio, for sharing their expertise.



Kim Boller from The Nicholson Foundation leads *How to Build a Learning Culture*

## AFFINITY GROUP MEETINGS

*CNJG's affinity groups provide a valued forum through which grantmakers can connect, exchange information, and learn from experts about a specific funding interest or geographic area. We highlight four of the 25 different affinity group meetings from the year.*

The [Health & Aging Funders Affinity Group](#) heard from Dr. Diane Hill, Assistant Chancellor of University-Community Partnerships at Rutgers University, and Amanda Medina-Forrester, Executive Director of the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health at the NJ Department of Health, in January to [discuss vaccine safety and equity](#). Speakers shared challenges and opportunities in distributing vaccines in New Jersey, the importance of clear messaging, and how we can battle misinformation, as well as the role of community-based organizations.

The [Finance and Investment Affinity Group](#) hosted their annual Market Outlook in January with Caleb Croquart, National Investment Director from PNC Institutional Advisory Solutions, and a Market Update in April featuring Michael Griffin, Investment Specialist with JPMorgan Private Bank. CNJG's Finance and Investment Affinity Group exists to keep foundation executives informed as they manage the investment of their corpus. Growth of foundation assets and the active exchange of sound investment strategies is the focus of each program. [The Funders for NJ Education Affinity Group](#) learned about the [New Jersey Tutoring Corps](#), a new project established to tackle COVID-related learning loss. Speakers included Laura Overdeck from the Overdeck

## 2021 AFFINITY GROUPS CHAIRS

### CAMDEN FUNDERS

- ▶ Kate Barrett, *Campbell Soup Foundation*
- ▶ Erik Estrada, *Community Foundation of South Jersey*

### CULTURE FUNDERS

- ▶ Tammy Herman, *New Jersey State Council on the Arts*
- ▶ Sharnita Johnson, *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation/Victoria Foundation*

### NEWARK EDUCATION FUNDERS

- ▶ Ronald Chalusán, *Newark Trust for Education*
- ▶ Irene Cooper-Basch, *Victoria Foundation*
- ▶ Tiffany Jackson, *Prudential Foundation*

### EMERGING LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY

- ▶ Monica Hall, *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*
- ▶ Stephanie Toal, *OceanFirst Foundation*

### ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS

- ▶ Naeema Campbell, *Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*
- ▶ Lucy Vandenberg, *The Fund for New Jersey*
- ▶ Stephanie Greenwood, *Victoria Foundation*

### FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

- ▶ Bill Gibson, *The Leavens Foundation*

### HEALTH AND AGING

- ▶ Renie Carniol, *The Grotta Fund for Senior Care*
- ▶ Diane Hagerman, *New Jersey Health Initiatives*

### NEWARK FUNDERS

- ▶ Nicole Butler, *Prudential Foundation*
- ▶ Craig Drinkard, *Victoria Foundation*

### NEW JERSEY CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY NETWORK

- ▶ Pat Hartpence, *New Jersey Manufacturers*
- ▶ Marion O'Neill, *PSEG*

### NEW JERSEY FUNDERS FOR EDUCATION

- ▶ Melissa Litwin, *The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation*
- ▶ Kortney Swanson Davis, *Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation*

### PATERSON FUNDERS

- ▶ Barbara Lawrence, *The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation*

### STRONG & THRIVING COMMUNITIES

- ▶ Craig Drinkard, *Victoria Foundation*
- ▶ Lois Greco, *Community Foundation of South Jersey*

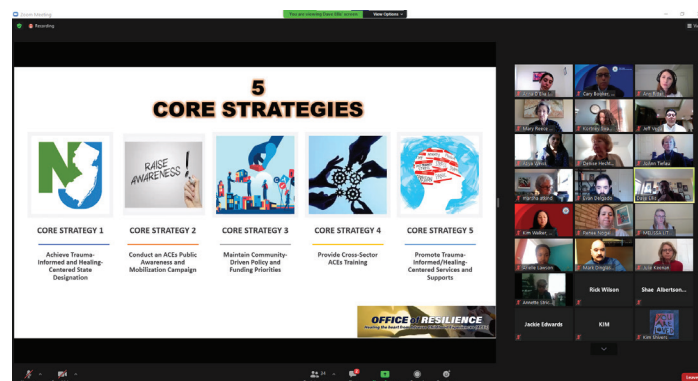
### TRENTON AND MERCER COUNTY FUNDERS

- ▶ Rita Nini, *Educational Testing Service*
- ▶ Jeffrey Vega, *Princeton Area Community Foundation*

CNJG thanks all our chairs for organizing their meetings throughout the year!



Family Foundation and Education Committee Chair of The New Jersey Pandemic Relief Foundation; Suzanne McCotter, Dean of School of Education at The College of New Jersey; Katherine Bassett, Director of the New Jersey Tutoring Corps; and Cari Tarica, Operations Director at the Boys and Girls Clubs of New Jersey. The eight-week program was designed to provide highly personalized, small-group instruction in math and language arts. Tutoring will be offered to K-5 children attending summer programming at participating Boys and Girls Clubs of New Jersey, YMCA/YWCAs, and other community organizations in high-need areas.



The Funders for NJ Education Affinity Group learned about the New Jersey Tutoring Corps.

The New Jersey Corporate Philanthropy Network held three virtual gatherings this year. The year began with “The State of Corporate Citizenship” in March, followed by “Corporate Disaster Philanthropy: Make the Most of Your Resources” in May. Matthew Barnes, ASG Advisors, led a discussion on best practices and examples of organizations that successfully adapted to hybrid models of giving, in *Giving in a Hybrid World*, followed a discussion how one corporate funder is rethinking employee volunteering to fit a hybrid model, and lessons learned around virtual engagement.



## PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS

CNJG partnered with **United Philanthropy Forum** and a number of regional and national philanthropy-serving organizations throughout the year to provide 32 special briefings and knowledge-building programs for CNJG members.

In partnership with the **Center for Effective Philanthropy**, CNJG offered [Foundations Respond to Crisis](#) to share how the pandemic is spurring fundamental changes in how funders approach their work — increasing long-term, flexible funding, shifting the funder-grantee power dynamic, placing greater trust in nonprofits, and increasing foundation payout. The **Funders' Committee for Civic Participation** helped us consider how funders can support gatekeeper movements to hold big tech accountable in [The Critical Roles of Organizing and Local Media in Combating Mis/Disinformation](#). Hosted by 10 philanthropy-serving organizations, including CNJG, [The Shifting Landscape of Corporate Social Responsibility](#) discussed how the overall field of corporate philanthropy is adapting to make the most of limited human and financial capital resources to help communities throughout the country.

The 3-part **Summer Learning Series** hosted by our colleagues at Philanthropy Missouri, Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington, Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania, and New Mexico Association of Grantmakers was a crash course in trust-based philanthropy. [Part 1: The Purpose, Culture, and Values of Trust-based Philanthropy](#) explored the fundamental values that undergird this approach, the roles of staff and board to cultivate a culture of trust required to make this work successful, and the six grantmaking principles that guide this philosophy. [Part 2: Unrestricted Funding, Doing the Homework, Streamlined Paperwork](#) took on the nuts and bolts of the first three trust-based principles: 1) multi-year, unrestricted funding as a strategy to build long-term relationships and support nonprofit self-determination; 2) doing the homework to expand our understanding of the organizations and issues we support; and 3) simplifying and streamlining. [Part 3: Transparent Communication, Soliciting Feedback, and Support Beyond the Check](#) examined the final three principles, 1) being transparent and responsive as a strategy to minimize power imbalances and build honest communication, 2) soliciting and acting on feedback as an opportunity to inform and strengthen your work, and 3) offering support beyond the check to support nonprofits

more holistically, while deepening your relationships with them. It's important for foundations to support and position nonprofit partners as the expert on the issues they know best. Without this recognition, funders can slow down progress, perpetuate inefficiencies, and obstruct nonprofit growth and innovation. Trust-based philanthropy reimagines that dynamic; advocating for six principles of grantmaking that are geared toward building partnership and mutual learning. These workshops helped introduce CNJG members not only to trust-based philanthropy, but also to the concepts at the center of our new joint initiative "Doing Good Better: Amplifying and Deepening Philanthropic and Nonprofit Partnerships in NJ."

A long-time partner, the **National Center for Family Philanthropy** offers CNJG members monthly webinars exclusively designed with the family foundation in mind. Topics ranged from January's **Defining and Translating Motivations and Values to Effective Governance: Principles, Policies, and Practice** in April, followed by **Building a Social Impact Strategy Approach** in June, and **Scaling for Success** in September. CNJG subscribes to NCFP's deep bench of programs and services giving additional and exclusive benefits to our family foundation members.

## Member Services

Developed and compiled exclusively for CNJG members, The [2020 New Jersey Philanthropy Benefits & Salary Summary Report](#), presents comprehensive benefits data specific to New Jersey's grantmaking community,

The 2020  
New Jersey  
Philanthropy  
Benefits &  
Salary Summit  
Report



alongside data from the Council on Foundations' annual salary survey. The first section, *2020 Benefits Summary Report*, includes benefits data covering employment, leave benefits, insurance benefits, and more, as well as – for the first time ever - demographic data on the boards and staffs of respondents. The second section, *2020 Grantmaker Salary Tables: New Jersey, Mid-Atlantic and National Data* provides data on compensation across a wide range of positions and grantmaking entities. Produced every three years, this benchmarking report is a highly valued benefit of membership.

To keep members informed, CNJG provides three periodic members-only e-newsletters. In its 16th year of production, the monthly **CNJG News** provides timely grant announcements, personnel updates, and other information on members, member benefits, job announcements, and more. First launched in 2009, **Family Ties** is a monthly newsletter specifically for CNJG's family foundation members offering helpful articles, news, and tips for managing the unique needs of family philanthropy. The biweekly **Corporate Philanthropy Brief** offers articles, information, news, and resources for corporate members, focusing on CSR activities, employee engagement, and other topic specific to their needs. CNJG collaborates with a dozen other philanthropy-serving organizations to collectively curate content for both *Family Ties* and the *Corporate Philanthropy Brief*.

In response to Hurricane Ida, CNJG created a new **Disaster Response listserve** for members to share information and resources, coordinate on funding, and hear about upcoming programs regarding relief and recovery efforts for all disasters that affect New Jersey communities. While CNJG retired the NJ Sandy Response listserve at the end of 2021, the Hurricane Sandy web page remains, complete with resources and programs shared in the aftermath of the storm. CNJG will continue to maintain the separate **COVID-19 listserve** as the pandemic remains an ongoing critical issue with funders actively addressing and engaging in response efforts.

CNJG held three **New Member Orientations** by Zoom throughout the year, enabling new and new-to-CNJG members from across the state - and even outside the state - to easily convene, meet other new member colleagues, hear about what they are doing, and learn

about CNJG's work. A full list of membership benefits is available at [cnjg.org/member-benefits](https://cnjg.org/member-benefits).

In 2021, **CNJG welcomed four new members**: The Mimi Washington Starrett Foundation, Genmab, and United Way of Delaware, as well as our first-ever associate member, New Jersey Community Capital. Additionally, **CNJG welcomed back three returning members** who rejoined the network: Columbia Bank Foundation, Holman Enterprises, and I am Trenton Community Foundation. CNJG and its members together work toward the shared goals of improved practice, expanded impact, and most importantly, strong and vibrant New Jersey communities.

## Leadership and Policy

Hosted by United Philanthropy Forum, in partnership with the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector, **Foundations on the Hill (FOTH)** is an annual opportunity for foundation executives, staff, and board members, philanthropy-serving organizations, and other philanthropic and social sector leaders to meet with their federal lawmakers, talk about issues of interest to philanthropy, and strengthen relationships with their representatives.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FOTH 2021 was held virtually over two weeks in March. Our delegation included Erik Cruz Morales and Lucy Vandenberg, The Fund for New Jersey; Tanuja Dehne, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Gianna Durso-Finley, The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation; William Engel, The Hyde and Watson Foundation; Andy Fraizer, Community Foundation of South Jersey; Stephanie Greenwood, Victoria Foundation; Priti Mehta, Investors Foundation; Ann Ritter, The Burke Foundation; Michael Unger, Atlantic Foundation; Jeff Vega and Nelida Valentin, Princeton



Area Community Foundation; and Maria Vizcarrondo and Theresa Jacks, CNJG. We were pleased Linda Czipo, President and CEO of the Center for Non-Profits joined our delegation once again. Her voice helps elevate discussions about the nonprofit sector and philanthropy's work to support the sector.

CNJG met with 11 of our 12 Congressional offices, and both our Senate offices, including meeting directly with Congressman Andy Kim and Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill. During our meetings we shared how NJ foundations and nonprofits stepped up to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic crisis in communities throughout our state. We encouraged our representatives to support the bipartisan, bicameral Universal Giving Pandemic Response and Recovery Act, which would raise the universal charitable deduction to roughly \$4,000 for individuals and \$8,000 for married couples filing jointly, and extend the deduction through 2022. We also thanked our Representatives and Senators for supporting COVID-response legislation that bolstered relief for charitable organizations, including the PPP Extension Act of 2021.

The Office of the **Newark Philanthropic Liaison (NPL)** is an innovative collaboration between the city of Newark and CNJG. The Liaison's 2021 work was largely overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly every project and collaboration was in some way touched by the coronavirus. Through it all, NPL Kevin Callaghan worked closely with the philanthropic sector and Mayor Baraka's

administration, and continued to move forward key initiatives. Many of these projects were reimaged in the age of COVID. We highlight some of this work:

- ▶ The NPL raised \$2,500,000 toward a Newark guaranteed income pilot in 2021, and continues to engage additional foundations. This allowed the city to announce a pilot with 400 participants in May 2021 garnering significant local, state, and national attention. Funders of the pilot include the Victoria Foundation, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, MCJ Amelior Foundation, Chris and Loretta Stadler, and Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. The Liaison also worked with city leadership to secure \$3,800,000 in additional funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. Newark's pilot will now be one of the largest in the country, setting it apart as a policy leader.
- ▶ The NPL worked with the city's Deputy Mayor for International and Diaspora Affairs, Make the Road New Jersey, and the New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Rights on a partnership to support an expansion of the Dream Ambassadors program.
- ▶ The NPL worked closely with Newark's Division of Arts and Culture Affairs Director fayemi shakur, as she launched several large initiatives. This includes the renaming of Washington Park to Harriet Tubman Square and the placement of a Harriet Tubman monument, the Creative Catalyst Fund, the art space leasing initiative, and the creation of a community museum at the site of the old First Precinct where the Newark Rebellion started in 1967. The Liaison also worked to develop funding for public arts initiatives throughout the year.



Newark Philanthropic Liaison Kevin Callaghan

The Liaison represents one of the nation's first formal partnerships between a city and the philanthropic community, and has become a national model for public-private alliances. The non-partisan Liaison position, based in Newark City Hall, serves as a bridge between Newark funders, the 130+ members of CNJG and Newark's administration. The Liaison's overall primary goals are to convene, connect, leverage, and raise resources through partnerships between New Jersey's philanthropic community and the Mayor's Office. The project has leveraged over \$70+ million in public-private support for Newark since its inception in 2007.

The Newark Philanthropic Liaison project is funded by specially designated grants to CNJG. Liaison funders actively participate at an added level of engagement as special advisors, serve on affinity and task groups, and organize and host special programs, convenings and briefings. NPL advisors and funders include Bank of America, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Maher Charitable Foundation, The Nicholson Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey, Turrell Fund and Victoria Foundation. Additional funding support was received from the MCJ Amelior Foundation for Newark-related projects.

CNJG established a **Strategic Planning Committee** this year to examine the future for New Jersey's only nonprofit, member-driven organization for the state's philanthropic sector. Led by Board members Maisha Simmons, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Andy Fraizer, Community Foundation of New Jersey, the committee is charged with shaping, molding, and designing the strategic plan. Several months before establishing this leadership group, CNJG created the **Racial Equity Taskforce**, led by Annette Strickland, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey, to support the Board of Trustees and CNJG member organizations to address how philanthropy can center racial justice as a core principle in New Jersey. With CNJG board members and other interested parties previously engaged in racial equity discussions and activities over several months prior to the formation of the committee, it was critical to understand and integrate the strategic work of the taskforce. This integration of initiatives presents the Council with an opportunity to focus on developing critical organizational strategy through a racial equity lens. As we collectively continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and face some of the most challenging and turbulent times in recent memory, this planning process presents an opportunity to set the course for CNJG into the future. What's different about this strategic plan, from other strategic work that CNJG has done in the past, is our very deliberate and focused lens on racial equity as part of the strategic plan. CNJG received grant funding from The Nicholson Foundation, Grunin Foundation, and The Schumann Fund for New Jersey to support the racial equity work.

CNJG and the Center for Non-Profits are partnering on a new project - **Doing Good Better: Amplifying and Deepening Philanthropic and Nonprofit Partnerships in NJ** - to reimagine how our state's nonprofits and philanthropy can better and more deliberately work together. This work has been a long time coming, with the early seeds of this work sown as funders responded to Superstorm Sandy, and witnessed so many communities left behind in the wake of the storm. The motivation for this work continued as CNJG and the Center together took a leading role in the state to move forward the campaign to end the overhead myth, elevate the 'real costs = full costs' work, and confront the power dynamics between nonprofits and foundations - all as part of our Doing Good Better 1.0 work a couple years ago. Last year, as we convened funders in their response to COVID, we established the CNJG racial equity taskforce, and explored trust-based philanthropy principles and participatory grantmaking practices, this new initiative, Doing Good Better 2.0 was born.

The Center for Non-Profits and CNJG are creating a framework for a full and candid conversation between our state's philanthropic and nonprofit sectors to examine traditional grantmaking practices, and determine how we might employ new best practices resulting in resilient communities for all New Jerseyans. COVID showed us that it's possible to work differently, led in part by the Council on Foundations' call-to-action pledge - signed by over 800 funders nationwide - including NJ foundations, encouraging philanthropy to provide more flexible funding, loosen restrictions on grants, and unburden nonprofit partners so they could spend their time and energy responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

While we established an Advisory Group in October to help guide our work, the rollout of this exciting initiative to New Jersey's larger social sector was at the closing plenary of the Center for Non-Profits' virtual conference on December 2. CNJG's Annual Meeting & Holiday Gathering specifically introduced the initiative to CNJG members. Together, we hope to take the best of trust-based philanthropy principles, and participatory grantmaking practices, along with what we've learned during COVID - to re-imagine how nonprofits and philanthropy work together for the communities and people of our state. CNJG received grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Rita Allen Foundation to support this work.

## Operations and Transitions

A major undertaking, CNJG transitioned to a virtual office as of July 2021. We're grateful to Thomas Edison State University for its years of hosting our offices, however after many months of remote work, it was clear the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to rethink our physical space. While staff email addresses remain the same, CNJG's phone number and mailing address have changed. Our new main phone number is (609) 414-7110, and our new mailing address is Council of New Jersey Grantmakers, 1977 North Olden Avenue, Suite 238, Ewing, NJ 08618.

As the year closed, Maria Vizcarrondo announced she was stepping down as President and CEO.

CNJG thanks Maria for her service and wishes her well. Theresa Jacks was appointed Acting President and CEO.

### ABOUT CNJG

CNJG became a unified project under the Community Foundation of New Jersey in 1990 and was soon established as an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1997. Member dues and leadership grants from CNJG members support the Council's operations. CNJG is a member of United Philanthropy Forum a national network of regional and national philanthropy-serving organizations consisting of more than 90 organizations across the United States that represent more than 7,000 foundations and other philanthropic groups, making it the largest network serving philanthropy in America. CNJG

# CNJG

COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY GRANTMAKERS  
*Harnessing Philanthropy's Potential*

partners extensively with our sibling organization representing New Jersey's nonprofit sector, the Center for Non-Profits.

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