THE 2015 JUST GIVING
APRIL 8 - 10, 2015, BALTIMORE, MD

BETTER, NOT MORE
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES FOR THE NEXT
ECONOMY

EDGE Funders Alliance, 60 29th Street, Box 559, San Francisco, CA 94110 | www.edgefunders.org | contactus@edgefunders.org
Evidence abounds that human society's social, ecological and economic crises are interconnected and systemic. Such approaches require bold departures from conventional politics and policy. Yet philanthropy remains more adept at addressing symptoms than root causes.

Meanwhile, movement moments continue to emerge, demanding deeper and more far-reaching change - from calls by *Idle No More* for Indigenous Sovereignty, to *ZADists* squatting to stop "large, useless and imposed projects;" from *Ya Me Cansé* protests against corruption and violence, to *I Can't Breathe/Black Lives Matter* marches and *End Rape Culture* protests; to growing demands for real intergovernmental action on climate change. A bold and engaged philanthropic field accompanying and championing these movements and supporting their approach to deeper societal transformation can contribute critically to meaningful and lasting progress.

Even progressive philanthropy, however, tends often to settle for piecemeal reforms and incremental changes within the system, while remaining wary of explicit confrontations with the deeper philosophical ideas that animate contemporary politics, economics and culture.

EDGE Funders is a place within philanthropy for just such an explicit journey of exploration.

As we assess the current state of our world and consider together the elements that are essential to a ‘just transition’, and ultimately, a just economy, we are called to consider four goals: to decommodify nature, reimagine work, liberate knowledge and democratize wealth. These are interrelated, especially as they demand attention to the notion of enclosures - the private appropriation of resources previously held in common - and to the need for an alternative collaborative economy promoting the common good. We should consider:

- How are nature, work, knowledge and wealth being appropriated for private ends?
- How can such enclosures be resisted, and transcended?
- How are local, translocal and transnational movements engaging in this work?
- How can philanthropy support their efforts?

An emerging alternative economy has roots in notions of cooperative management and collective ownership, in feminist as well as ecological economics, and in the creative and the natural commons. Historical approaches in Africa include *Ubuntu* and *Ujamaa*, and in indigenous cultures it is expressed through alternatives to development like *Buen Vivir*. Such approaches are proliferating through the resurgence of new types of cooperatives, in movements such as Transition Towns, and in campaigns by indigenous peoples to defend their cultures and ethno-
botanical landscapes. Elements of the collaborative economy can also be seen in new visions of work, in peer production ranging from open source software to open design and manufacturing, in food commons and community land trusts, and in cultural commons.

These approaches bring together unlikely allies and co-creators. In broad terms, they offer a basis for a greater convergence of efforts and North/South solidarity in resisting neoliberal trade and development policy, which too often constitute the enclosures that deprive increasing billions of dignity, community and the means to sufficiency. They also gravely endangering the future of the biosphere.

Just Giving 2015 will focus a changing economy based on commoning principles and practices being undertaken by already active transnational movements and by thinkers throughout the globe. It will allow us to consider our funding strategies in new ways, so with partners around the world we can find common ground in our ongoing work for deep and meaningful social change.

Nikhil Aziz and Harriet Barlow
Just Giving 2015 Co-Chairs
EDGE Funders Alliance is a unique, diverse and passionately engaged community of donors, foundation officers and advisors from across the philanthropic landscape, with differing priorities and strategies but a shared commitment to addressing the systemic nature of today's social, economic and ecological challenges. By understanding our work within a global context, by forging strategic partnerships in and outside philanthropy, and especially through reflection and collaboration among our members, EDGE Funders works to increase resources for community well-being and transnational organizing in ways that promote justice and build lasting, meaningful change.

With your active participation and the support of our allies from around the world, Just Giving provides a unique space to better understand how grassroots communities and transnational movements are responding to global challenges, and how our grantmaking practices can make a difference. We look forward to engaging with you over the next three days.

EDGE Funders Alliance wishes to thank the following individuals and institutions for their invaluable contributions to the organizing of this conference:

**Conference Planning Committee**
- Harriet Barlow, Blue Mountain Center/Donor Advisor
- Nikhil Aziz, American Jewish World Service
- Aditi Vaidya, Solidago Foundation
- Akwasi Aidoo, Humanity United
- Tanya Dawkins, Trustee, CarEth Foundation
- Matthias Fiedler, Director, Bewegungsstiftung
- Cuong Hoang, Chorus Foundation
- Ed Whitfield, Fund for Democratic Communities
- Heike Loeschmann, Heinrich Boell Foundation
- Holly Bartling, General Service Foundation
- Laine Romero-Alston, Ford Foundation
- Leah Hunt-Hendrix, Sister Fund and Solidare
- Nicolas Krausz, Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer/FPH Samantha Harvey, Overbrook Foundation
- Sarah Hobson, New Field Foundation
- Stuart Clarke, Towne Creek Foundation
- Sarah Mersha, Grassroots International

**Sponsoring Groups**
EDGE Funders would like to thank the following workshop and plenary sponsors, who helped bring speakers and partners to participate in the conference:

11th Hour Project
- A Team Foundation
- afterFACT
- American Jewish World Service
- Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- Ben and Jerry’s Foundation
- Chorus Foundation
- Christensen Fund
- CS Fund
- European Cultural Foundation
- Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer
- Ford Foundation
- Franciscan Sisters of Mary
- FRIDA, the Young Feminist Fund,
  Fund for Democratic Communities
- Fund for Global Human Rights
- General Service Foundation
- Global Fund for Women
- Global Greengrants Fund
- Grassroots International
- Green Cities Fund
- Heinrich Böll Foundation
- Humanity United
- International Development Exchange (IDEX)
- International Network of Women’s Funds
- Jennifer Altman Foundation
- JMG Foundation
- Kindle Project
- McKnight Foundation
- New Field Foundation
- New Venture Fund
- Open Society Justice Initiative
- Overbrook Foundation
- Reynolds Foundation
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Solidago Foundation
- Stranahan Family Foundation
- Surdna Foundation
- Swift Foundation
- Synchronicity Earth
- Threshold Foundation - Thriving Resilient Communities Collaboratory (TRCC)
- Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
- Town Creek Foundation
- Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
- Urgent Action Fund
- Wallace Global Fund
- Working Group for Labor Community Partnerships

**Special Appreciation To:**
- Laine Romero-Alston and Jee Kim with the Ford Foundation for generous support to the overall conference program, to Cara Mertes with Just Films at theFord Foundation and Nicolas Krausz of Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer for their support to the conference film “Better Not More,” and to Stuart Clarke with Town Creek Foundation for sponsoring and helping organize the Community Meeting.

**Conference Volunteers:**
- Rasheeda Farage
- Leila Roberts
- Valeria Velazquez
- Leila Salazar-Lopez

**EDGE Funders Board of Director**
- Shalini Nataraj, Vice President Programs, Ing Foundation
- Eileen Jamison Tyrer, Senior Program Officer, Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
- Nikhil Aziz, Program Director, American Jewish World Service Tanya Dawkins, Trustee, CarEth Foundation
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- Leah Hunt-Hendrix, Advisor, The Sister Fund
- Terry Odendahl, Executive Director, Global Greengrants Fund Sarah Christiansen, Senior Program Officer, Solidago Foundation
- Ellen Dorsey, Executive Director, Wallace Global Fund
- Monica Enriquez-Enriquez, Program Officer, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
- Nicolas Krausz, Program Officer, Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation
- Samantha Harvey, Program Manager, Overbrook Foundation Cuong P. Hoang, Director of Programs, Chorus Foundation

**EDGE Funders Staff**
- Mark Randazzo, Director
- Lamar Gibson, Operations Manager
- Lola Ibrahim, Communications Manager
- Jörg Rohwedder, Manager, EDGE Funders/Europe to the staff.

**Consultants**
- Linda Smith, Conference Organizer, GreenMeetings
# At-A-Glance

## Wednesday, April 8

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
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<td>Welcoming Remarks</td>
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<td>Cocktail Reception</td>
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<td>Dine Arounds</td>
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<td>Community Exchange with Local Foundations and Activists (Red Emma's Restaurant)</td>
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## Thursday, April 9

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<td>Welcome &amp; Cultural Program</td>
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## Friday, April 10

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<td>Community Exchange with Local Foundations and Activists</td>
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<td>Table Discussions: Philanthropic Principles and Practices</td>
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<td>Strategies Towards a Just Transition</td>
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## Side Offerings & Events

### Wednesday, April 8
- 2:00 - 3:00: Healthy Conference Center
- 9:00: Community Exchange with Local Foundations and Activists

### Thursday, April 9
- 7:30 - 8:00 AM: Qi Qong
- 1:00 - 3:45: Informal Meetings and Caucuses
- 2:00 - 4:00: Healthy Conference Center

### Friday, April 10
- 8:00 - 8:30 AM: Qi Qong

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For full session descriptions, speaker bios, and attendee lists, download our mobile app.
Scan the barcode to the right using your smart phone’s scan app, or follow the instructions below:

1) Download the free GUIDEBOOK App from your app store
2) At the top of the screen click on “Use Code”
3) Enter the code: “edge” (all lower case, without quotes.)

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![QR Code](image-url)
Day 1 – Wednesday, April 8th

Conference Orientation, Introductions, & Networking: A Funder-Free Zone. 8:00 – 9:30
A space for NGO representatives, social movement actors and other partner allies to meet, network, and share over breakfast.
Location: Columbia

Breakfast 9:00 - 11:00
Location: Constellation EF

Welcoming Remarks – 11:00 - 11:30

PLENARY: BEYOND MORE, TOWARDS A COLLABORATIVE COMMONS FOR THE SOCIAL GOOD
11:30 - 1:30
This discussion will describe principles and elements essential to an ecological and socially just economy, examining the loss of common rights under “enclosure” to the detriment of the social good. Panelists will describe how nature, work, knowledge and wealth are being appropriated for private ends, and discuss concepts and frameworks for an alternative collaborative economy to help inform our vision for the work ahead. Moderated by Harriet Barlow, Blue Mountain Center with Firoze Manji, Thoughtworks, Barbara Unmüssig, Boell Foundation and Juliette Schorr, Boston College.
Location: Constellation Ballroom

Lunch – 1:30 - 2:30 (Location: Constellation EF)

Breakout Workshops – 2:30 - 4:00

Feminism Within the Movements: Political Education as a Strategy for Building a Just Transition
Sponsored by: Grassroots International, International Development Exchange (IDEX), Global Fund for Women
Speakers: Cindy Wiesner, National Coordinator, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance; Maria da Graça N. Samo, Coordinator of the International Secretariat, World March of Women; Maria Jose Urbina Maradiaga, Coordinator of the National Women Commission, Association of Rural Workers. Moderated by Chung-Wha Hong, Grassroots International.
Location: Baltimore

Civil Society for Just Transition: Democracy, Grassroots and the Commons: How to effectively change the system
Sponsored by: Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer and European Cultural Foundation
Speakers: Nicolas Krausz, Programme Manager, Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer; Michael Narberhaus, Smart CSOs founder and coordinator; Carlos Delclos and Nuria Atienza, Radical Democracy: Reclaiming the Commons (Spain) & Michelle Mascarenhas-Swan, Movement Generation; Moderated by Vivian Paulissen, Programme and Knowledge Manager, European Cultural Foundation (Netherlands).
Location: Annapolis

Transnational Labor Rights in the Global Supply Chain
Sponsored by: Fund for Global Human Rights, Ford Foundation, General Service Foundation
Speakers: Anannya Bachatterjee, Society for Labour and Development; Alejandra Ancheita, ProDESC; Jennifer Rosenbaum, National Guest Worker Alliance; Moderated by Nik Theodore, Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago.
Location: Frederick

The Power of Whistleblowing: Public Interest Disclosures Effecting Change
Sponsored by: Open Society Justice Initiative and Humanity United
Speakers: Aicha ElBasi, former Spokeswoman for the African Union United Nations Mission in Darfur; Mike Beckner, North American Director, WildLeaks & Elephant Action League; David Abramowitz, Vice President, Policy & Government Relations of Humanity United; Sandra Coliver, Senior Legal Adviser, Open Society Justice Initiative; Moderated by Anna Myers, Director, Whistleblowing International Network.
Location: Columbia

Intermission and Coffee Break – 4:00 - 4:30 (Location: Constellation EF)
Innovation Labs and Other Experiments—Reimagining how to Resource Change


**Speakers:** Palak Shah, National Domestic Workers Alliance/Fair Care Labs; Jee Kim, Program Officer, Ford Foundation; Peter Murray, Accelerate Change; Moderated by Laine Romero-Alston, Program Officer, Ford Foundation.

**Location:** Baltimore

Movement Support Organizations: Not All the Action Is On the Frontlines

**Sponsored by:** Chorus Foundation.

**Speakers:** Christine Cordero, Center for Story-Based Strategy; and Yotam Marom, The Wildfire Project; Moderated by Michelle Mascarenhas-Swan, Movement Generation.

**Location:** Frederick

Cooperatives, Commons and Policies for a “Co-operative Commonwealth”

**Sponsored by:** Heinrich Böll Foundation and Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer

**Speakers:** Michel Bauwens, P2P Foundation; Pat Conaty, New Economics Foundation, UK; Cheyenna Weber, Solidarity NYC; Moderated by David Bollier, Commons Strategies Group.

**Location:** Annapolis

Taking Back Democracy: Human Rights v. Corporate Rights at Home and Abroad

**Sponsored by:** Stranahan Family Foundation, Jennifer Altman Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers fund, CS Fund, JMG Foundation.

**Speakers:** Jeff Clements, Clements Family Foundation, Free Speech For People; Shorey Myers, Jennifer Altman Foundation; Taren Stinebrickner-Kaufmann, SumOfUs; Moderated by Sarah Stranahan, Stranahan Foundation & Free Speech for People.

**Location:** Pratt/Calvert

#BlackLivesMatter: Making Global-Local Links

**Sponsored by:** Grassroots International, Global-Local Links Project, Fund for Democratic Communities

**Speakers:** Juslene Tyresias, Peasant Movement of Papaye/ Mouvman Peyisan Papay and Group of 4 Haitian Peasant Platform/ La Plateforme Paysanne 4G Kontre; Opal Tometi, co-founder of #BlackLivesMatter and Executive Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (New York); Malik Yakini, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network; Moderated by Tanya Dawkins, Global-Local Links Project.

**Location:** Columbia

Cocktail Reception with Naomi Klein (via satellite) – 6:00 - 7:00

**Location:** 15th Floor, next to Pices

Dine-Arounds – 7:30 (Sign up before 2:30pm today at the conference registration desk)

Community Exchange With Local Foundations and Activists - 9:00 - 10:00 (30 West North Avenue, Baltimore.)

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**Day 2 – Thursday, April 9th**

Qi Qong – 7:30-8:00

**Location:** Constellation Ballroom Foyer

Breakfast – 7:30 - 8:30

**Location:** Constellation EF
PLENARY: GETTING TO BETTER: TURNING PRINCIPLES AND VISION INTO PRACTICE
9:00 - 11:00
New movements rooted in historically rich and culturally diverse models and approaches are proliferating across the globe, contributing to alternative economies rooted in notions of cooperative management and collective ownership, in feminist as well as ecological economics, and in the creative and the natural commons. Panelists will lift up ways that local, translocal and transnational movements are engaging in this work, resisting and transcending “enclosure” in the pursuit of a deeper political economic vision more aligned with core social and ecological values. Moderated by Nikhil Aziz, American Jewish World Service with Graça Samo, World March of Women, Michel Bauwens, P2P Foundation, Opal Tometi, Black Alliance for Just Immigration and #Black Lives Matter.

Location: Constellation Ballroom

Intermission and Coffee Break – 11:00 - 11:30 (Location: Constellation EF)

Breakout Workshops: 11:30 - 1:00

The New Math: SSE = BCW Social Solidarity Economy means Building Community Wealth
Sponsored by: Reynolds Foundation, Green Cities Fund
Speakers: Nancy Neamtan, Co-Founder, the Chantier de l’Economie Sociale of Quebec; Maidolys Iglesias Pérez, Co-Coordinator, Social Economy Group in Cuba; Moderated by Eric Leenson, Senior Adviser, Christopher Reynolds Foundation.
Location: Baltimore

Lessons from Organizing at the Intersection of Climate, Gender and Buen Vivir
Sponsored by: Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, FRIDA, the Young Feminist Fund, Global Greengrants Fund, International Network of Women’s Funds, Urgent Action Fund LAC and Women’s Earth & Climate Action Network
Speakers: Terry Odendahl, Executive Director, Global Greengrants Fund; Osprey Orielle Lake, Co-Director, Women’s Earth & Climate Action Network; Ruby Johnson, Co-Coordinator, FRIDA, the Young Feminist Fund; Tatiana Cordero, Executive Director, Urgent Action Fund LAC; Moderated by Michelle Arroyo, International Network of Women’s Funds.
Location: Columbia

For a Just Transition to Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice: agroecology, seeds and land
Sponsored by: Grassroots International, CS Fund, New Field Foundation, 11th Hour Project, American Jewish World Service
Speakers: Iridiani Graciele Seibert, La Via Campesina, Movement of Peasant Women, Brazil; Pat Mooney, ETC Group; and Henk Hobbelink, Coordinator, GRAIN, Spain. Moderated by Sara Mersha, Grassroots International.
Location: Annapolis

Indigenous Innovation and Social Movements: driving systems change from below through building practical alternatives
Sponsored by: Christensen Fund
Speakers: Alice Ndlovu, Operations Director of the Muonde Trust (Zimbabwe); Gabriel Sundoro Wynn, Renewable Energy Project Director, Forever Sabah (Malaysian Borneo); Franco Tulio Viteri Gualinga, President, Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon – CONFENIAE; Moderated by Ken Wilson (Christensen Fund) & Cynthia Ong, Executive Director, Land Empowerment Animals People – LEAP.
Location: Frederick

Lunch 1:00
Location: Constellation EF
Caucuses, Engagement Labs and informal meetings – 1:00 - 4:00
Please check registration desk for meeting locations.

Breakout Workshops: 4:00 - 5:30

Social Movements on the Road to Paris and Beyond
Sponsored by: Global Greengrants Fund and afterFACT
Speakers: May Boeve, Executive Director, 350.org; Winnie Asiti, Advisor to the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change and Advisor to Global Greengrants Fund’s Next Generation Climate Board; Cindy Wiesner, Director, Grassroots Global Justice/Climate Justice Alliance; Christophe Aguiton, Attac and Climate 21 Coalition, Paris, France; Moderated by Terry Odendahl, Executive Director, Global Greengrants Fund.
Location: Baltimore

Democratizing Wealth: Building a financial commons for community-led development
Sponsor: Fund for Democratic Communities
Speakers: Brendan Martin, The Working World, explaining Non-Extractive Finance; Aaron Tanaka, Boston Impact Initiative and New Economy Coalition sharing the work of the Center for Economic Democracy; Marnie Thompson, Fund for Democratic Communities and Southern Grassroots Economies Project describing the developing Reparations Loan Fund; Moderated by Ed Whitfield, Fund for Democratic Communities.
Location: Annapolis

Building a Global Movement for the Rights of Nature
Sponsors: Wallace Global Fund, Ben and Jerry’s Foundation
Speakers: Thomas Linzey, Executive Director, Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund; John Olivas, Former Chair, Mora County Commission & Board Member, National Community Rights Network; and Tom Goldtooth, Executive Director, Indigenous Environmental Network; Moderated by Ellen Dorsey, Executive Director, Wallace Global Fund.
Location: Frederick

What Does it Take to Have Scaled Impact? Connecting Democracy, Economy and Sustainability in Implementing “New” Economy Principles
Sponsors: Solidago, Surdna and Overbrook Foundations
Location: Columbia

Movie Night - 8:00 - 9:00 (Constellation EF)
Dance Party – 9:00 - 11:00 (Constellation EF)

Day 3 – Friday, April 10th

Qi Qong – 7:30 - 8:00
Location: Constellation Ballroom Foyer

Breakfast – 8:00 - 9:00
Location: Constellation EF
PLENARY: PHILANTHROPY’S CHALLENGE: PROVIDING TRANSACTIONAL SUPPORT TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONAL ENDS
9:00 - 10:15
Philotropy is by nature a reformist endeavor, in which success is often judged through quantitatively measurable outcomes over the short term. Even within these inherent constraints however, funders across issues and geographies are finding innovative ways to accompany and support movements and approaches that aim at meaningful societal transformation. Funders engaged in noteworthy and significant initiatives aimed at achieving “radical” rather than “reformist” reforms will share insights, questions and doubts about how philanthropy can support the kind of work discussed over the course of the last two days, and offer thoughts on how to continue to engage in a philanthropy that is commensurate with the times in which we live. Moderated by Stuart Clarke, Town Creek Foundation, with Katherine Watson, European Cultural Foundation and Farhad Ebrahimi, Chorus Foundation.

Location: Constellation Ballroom

Breakout Workshops: 10:15 - 11:45

Why Structural Change in Society Will Require Structural Change in Philanthropy
Sponsored by: Kindle Project
Speakers: Isis Amlak, Edge Fund; Farhad Ebrahimi, The Chorus Foundation, Mónica Enriquez-Enriquez, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice; Moderator, Arianne Shaffer, Kindle Project.
Location: Baltimore

Scaling Up, Not Spreading Thin: The Challenges of Balancing Philanthropic Trends and Supporting Social Movements
Sponsored by: American Jewish World Service
Speakers: Shanker Gopalkrishnan, Kislay; Egidio Angel Strappazzon, La Via Campesina. Moderated by Angela Martinez, Senior Program Officer, American Jewish World Service.
Location: Annapolis

Donor Collaboratives for Just Transitions: The Example of Agroecology
Sponsored by: New Field Foundation, Christensen Fund, Swift Foundation, Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund, Synchronicity Earth, A Team Foundation, McKnight Foundation, Franciscan Sisters of Mary, New Venture Fund.
Speakers: Ken Wilson, Christensen Fund; Rajasvini Bhansali, AEF Advisory Board Member and Biowatch, South Africa; Moderated by Daniel Moss, AgroEcology Fund Program Coordinator.
Location: Columbia

Cut the Crap: Benefits & Challenges of Collaborative Funding Practice
Sponsored by: Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, Threshold Foundation, Thriving Resilient Communities Collaboratory (TRCC) and Movement Generation
Speakers: Molly Schultz Hafid, Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock; Michelle Mascarenhas-Swan, Movement Generation and Thriving Resilient Communities Collaboratory; Moderated by Sarah Stranahan (Threshold Foundation.)
Location: Frederick

Intermission and Coffee Break – 11:45 - 12:00 (Location: Constellation EF)

Table Discussions: Philanthropic Principles and Practices – 12:00 - 1:00
Location: Constellation EF

Lunch- 1:00 - 2:00
Location: Constellation EF

Strategies Towards a Just Transition – 2:00 - 3:00
Final Thoughts, sense of purpose, next steps, acknowledgements; closing comments from Annie Leonard.
Location: Constellation EF
Healthy Conference Center

Clear • Energized • Focused • Better sleep • Reduced pain

Feeling conference fatigue? Recharge yourself at the Healthy Conference Center with Acupuncturists Without Borders (AWB). EDGE Funders Alliance and AWB have teamed up to create the Healthy Conference Center where you can enjoy free community-style acupuncture and brief, revitalizing Qigong session (relaxing stretching session). AWB provides disaster relief and trauma treatment to communities that are in crisis as the result of disaster or human conflict. The organization began in 2005 in response to Hurricane Katrina, and gave over 8,000 free acupuncture treatments in Louisiana for PTSD, depression, and stress. AWB now has a nationwide program called the Military Stress Recovery Project with dozens of free clinics located around the U.S. that help heal the wounds of war. AWB volunteers are also treating local people and training healers in Haiti, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

HEALTHY CONFERENCE CENTER SCHEDULE:
Community Acupuncture Treatments
Wednesday: 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Thursday: 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Location: Camden/Lombard

QIGONG SCHEDULE (relaxing stretching and moving session)
Thursday: 7:30 - 8:00 AM
Friday: 8:00 - 8:30 AM
Location: Constellation Foyer

Dine Arounds - Weds, April 8 at 7:30 PM

Dine Arounds are opportunities for funders who support a particular topic, theme, or region to gather informally with others at the conference to share a meal and discuss a specific issue or area of common interest.

Sign up for a dine-around at the registration desk before 2:30pm on Wednesday.

Community Exchange - Wed, April 8 at 9:00 PM

Conference participants, local funders and activists from the Baltimore area are invited to attend a community exchange and panel discussion with local activists working on food, energy, green infrastructure, fair development, and racial equity. Join us to learn more about the local organizing histories and current campaigns that represent new/regenerative economy potential in the Baltimore area.

This event will be held at Red Emma’s, a worker cooperative with a restaurant, coffee roaster, bookstore, and community events space, “dedicated to putting principles of solidarity and sustainability into practice in a democratic workplace.” Dine Arounds and other informal dining opportunities will be available in the same vicinity, and help with transportation will be provided by the EDGE.

Red Emma’s: 30 West North Avenue, Baltimore.

Engagement Labs, Caucuses, Ad hoc Meetings
Thurs, April 9 (1:00 - 4:00)

This year, we have reserved flexible time and space for ad-hoc discussions, caucuses and Engagement Labs on Thursday, April 9th either during or following lunch, between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. These meetings are organized by funders wanting to delve more deeply into a particular subject matter, or by those leading multi-donor strategies, funding circles, working groups, or initiatives focused within a particular sector, region, or constituency group.

Check registration desk for meeting locations.

Movie Night - Thurs, April 9 at 9:00 PM

Just Giving Movie Night is a chance to experience the best in visual story telling that our community has made over the last 12 months. Movie night will be curated and emceed by Forrest Pound of Kontent Films. Kontent Films produces films that inspire action to enact the changes we need in the world.

Location: Constellation EF

(Movie Night will be followed by the Conference Dance Party at 9:00 PM)
Dear Friends,

2014 was an important year, for EDGE Funders, for our community, and for the work we all believe in so passionately. Together with many of you we’ve continued to push at the boundaries of how philanthropy can support progressive change today, within a framework that recognizes the need for deeper social and ecological transformation over the long term.

February saw the launch of new efforts with colleagues in Europe, and EDGE members have suggested permaculture’s core principles of “care for the earth,” “care for the people,” and “return of surplus” as a frame for our work there, as we build “EDGE Funders Europe” with them over the coming year.

Beginning in March we began helping shape an effort with Philanthropy New York entitled Can Philanthropy Help Shape the Next Economy? A Workshop Series for a Just Transition. Six workshops, for funders in NY and webcast live for others, have taken up issues on inclusive economies, the nature of work, finance, corporate power, food, climate and energy. Each workshop has been organized by individual foundations and funder affinity groups with expertise in each topic, sown together by a short film we produced with our partners at Kontent Films with key input from Movement Generation, How We Live: Towards A New Economy.

A slightly longer film in our How We Live series, How We Live: A Journey Towards a Just Transition premiered in April. It has been seen over 12,000 times, is used in college classrooms and has been screened along with other Kontent/EDGE productions at a number of film festivals around the country.

Reporting on our Just Giving Conference in early May, Nicola Bullard wrote that it was “a place where philanthropy and activists could climb out of their silos to see how their issues are interconnected on the ground as well as systematically. This sounds abstract, but in the actual organizing and content of the conference, it worked.” It seems she was right, as 98% of us agreed in an anonymous online survey with the statement “I am glad I attended the conference, as what I learned and experienced there will be useful to me in my work.”

Our next conference, in Baltimore April 8-10 will continue in this vein, under the title Just Giving 2015 – Better, Not More: Principles and Practices for the Next Economy. A terrific conference planning committee co-Chaired by Nikhil Aziz and Harriet Barlow will help us grapple with ways of resisting further enclosures, by “decommodifying nature, reimagining work, liberating knowledge and democratizing wealth.”

Beginning last year we have supported a groundbreaking project initiated by Overbrook Foundation, referred to as the BEA: Building Equity and Alignment for Impact. This ongoing initiative seeks among other things to increase the overall impact of the environmental and progressive movement by breaking down historic barriers between big green, grassroots and funding sectors, building authentic relationships toward greater alignment and solidarity, and increasing resources to the grassroots organizing sector.

In this vein, EDGE Funders joined the Environmental Grantmakers Association and the Climate and Energy Funders in supporting funder engagement around the historic People’s Climate March in NY in September. We are continuing to build with them and the European Foundation Centre and our European members around a COP 21 Funders Initiative as global climate negotiations move to Paris next fall. While many climate funders are focused on the negotiations themselves, EDGE members support organizing and advocacy to create the social and political conditions needed for any real progress to be made.

As in all of our work, with your support, we have worked hard to highlight the importance of the global context on grant making at all levels as well as the role of the grassroots organizing sector in building communities that are both sustainable and just, while encouraging philanthropy to look beyond short term impacts to address deeper systemic causes of our ongoing social, ecological and economic crises.

Your membership and financial support makes these achievements and initiatives like these possible, fueling the important work that is energizing and breaking new ground in our collective efforts to promote philanthropic strategies commensurate with the global challenges we face.

Thank you.
Mark Randazzo, Director