

THE LEADING EDGE

ISSUE 17 | April 2021

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Notes from the EDGE

Transitions at the EDGE

As a new season begins, so does a new chapter for EDGE. As you know from [our announcement last month](#), we've had some important changes in our team configuration. [Sofia Arroyo](#), EDGE's Executive Director, and [Martina Fin](#), EDGE's Program Officer for Learning and Engagement, will continue advancing the organization's work with the support of some amazing consultants that you already know and love: our dear [Arianne Shaffer](#) facilitating and leading the Global Engagement Lab supported by the wonderful [Hana ElSafoury](#) who is taking care of all GEL logistics and communications; and [Martin Modlinger](#), who many of you know from his amazing organizing work in Europe, supporting Programs.

We remain committed to building community and changing philanthropy with you and extremely grateful for all the support, love and appreciation the EDGE community has offered us through these important transitions.



Remembering Tatiana Cordero

It is with great sadness that all of us at EDGE Funders received the news of our dear Tatiana Cordero Velásquez's passing. She was an incredible activist who led Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and a wonderful colleague, smart and generous who also served as Board Member of EDGE Funders Alliance where she inspired and mentored so many of us.

We will always remember her fondly and continue to advance the work she was so passionate about by uplifting feminist practices and practicing radical self care because, as she always said, care is political.

Strengthening Collaboration and Partnerships



EDGE Working Groups

As we continue to find ways to weave relationships and change philanthropy, we would like to renew an invitation for you to participate in EDGE's Working Groups. While some of these have been around for some time, we expect to launch new Working Groups over the next few months, which will include participation of social movement partners as a way to open more spaces for horizontal collaboration in support of systemic alternatives. Below is a short overview of the current Working Groups and other programmatic initiatives you can participate in. For more information please reach out to [Martina Fin](#).

- The [Gender Justice Initiative](#), a Working Group comprised of funders and social movement partners working together around gender justice since 2016, meets every two months. In these self-organized meetings, members of this initiative present and explore projects and discuss ways to incorporate a gender lens into their work and within the philanthropic landscape. [Sign up here](#) to receive the latest updates.
- Starting in May we will launch a special Working Group to **organize towards the COP26**, as a way to launch the Global Initiatives Working Group. If you are interested in joining this Working Group [sign up here](#). Other new Working Groups will be launched in the upcoming months!

EDGE Members Engagement

In April we re-launched the **EDGEy Wednesdays**, monthly informal conversations organised by EDGE members for EDGE members. The main objective of these conversations is to offer a space for members to connect and have a community of practice, and for this to be a creative space for imagining new possibilities in support of their work. The next EDGEy Wednesday will take place on **May 19th at 2:00pm-3:30pm UTC**: [sign up here](#) if you are an interested EDGE member!

Are you not yet an EDGE member, but you'd like to know more about membership? Visit [our website](#) or reach out to Martina at martina@edgefunders.org

**Weaving systemic
alternatives from the
Global South: A**

conversation with GTA

As the world struggles to find ways out of multiple global crises, we need to heed myriad voices emerging in the Global South from Indigenous Peoples and other local rural and urban communities that are working on thousands of alternatives covering the full range of human concerns, while attempting to sustain all life on earth. These alternatives, grounded in specific ecological and socio-economic contexts, are based on diverse worldviews and ethics that are profoundly different from the currently dominant system, but unfortunately are often isolated and fragmented.



Register now for this free 90 minute webinar organized by [EDGE Funders Alliance](#) and [Global Tapestry of Alternatives](#) (GTA) where you can learn about systemic alternatives, through examples and experiences from various parts of the world, and hear how GTA has been weaving together myriad networks of alternatives across the world to enable cross-cultural and cross-sectoral collaborations, mutual learning and critical engagement to collectively envision possible futures, and organize a critical mass for macro-change. Interpretation in Spanish will be available. More information about speakers and the webinar can be found [on our website](#).

[REGISTER
HERE](#)

Global Engagement Lab 4 cohort launched in February 2021

The fourth [Global Engagement Lab](#), with a cohort of 25 people, kicked off in February with the first online retreat and will continue until September 2021. The focus this year is around structural and systemic racism, including a collective exploration of how these issues show up in our work environments, various histories, regional and cultural contexts and in our grantmaking practices.

Together, we hope to unpack what role philanthropy can play in challenging these systems and move collectively towards systemic alternatives based on justice and solidarity.

The 2021 GEL Webinar series will take place in July 2021. We will share with you a save the date soon, and in the meanwhile you can watch the previous [webinar series here](#).

"I've gained confidence, camaraderie, frameworks, resources, and support, which have already shifted my approach to my work, and have helped me open up really important conversations within my institution" - GEL Alumni

If you missed it...

Why we need a Global Green New Deal — and how to win it

In February EDGE Funders Alliance, [The Leap](#) and [War on Want](#) co-organised the webinar "[Why we need a Global Green New Deal — and how to win it](#)" in which we introduced the concept of a Global Green New Deal, the key players



advancing different facets of the work, the stakes for COP26 and global movements, and how progressive funders can support this project and embed the framing across their climate efforts.

If you missed it, you can watch the Global Green New Deal webinar [here](#). If you want to learn more about the GGND check out this [read this important document](#) and contact [Natalia Guidorzi](#) at War on Want.

This webinar, along with the upcoming webinar with Global Tapestry of Alternatives, aim to offer an opportunities for collaboration and shared learning between progressive systemic change funders and social movements around global initiatives.

From Our Blog



[The role of philanthropy beyond regenerative economies](#)

A piece written by Sofia Arroyo, EDGE Executive Director, on the importance for philanthropy to have a more incisive role in supporting global initiatives committed to climate justice.



[What does love for humankind, justice and collaboration in philanthropy have in common?](#)

Debora Guidetti (Ariadne Network) reflects on the importance in joining forces within the European philanthropic network to fight systemic racism.

FYI

[Dafne Announces New Chair and Board Member](#)

Carola Carazzone, Secretary General of Assifero, Italy, and Carol Mack, Chief Executive of UK's ACF, elected to Dafne's Board of Directors.

[Philanthropy and the Case for Reparations](#)

Organised by [Decolonizing Wealth Project](#) and Liberated Capital, this online event explores how to address the Racial Wealth Gap and the reason why the way forward is indeed reparations.

[Indigenizing Philanthropy: challenging our colonial roots and shifting our practices](#)

[Imagine Philanthropy for Europe](#)

A study commissioned by the [European Cultural Foundation](#) and [Allianz Kulturstiftung](#) to invite us all to imagine European philanthropy for a common future.

[Neighborhood Funders Group Annual Conference](#)

A series of meaningful recordings from the NFG Annual Conference, including all session videos, transcripts, graphic recordings, and related resources.

[Building a Just Culture](#)

A Just Culture is one where all nonprofit

Curated by [Cultural Survival](#), the Indigenizing Philanthropy series is a five-part article series accompanied with a webinar and toolkit to provide a framework in how to transform and Indigenize philanthropy.

workers (staff, board, volunteers, and contractors) have access to fair compensation and benefits, opportunities for shared decision making, support to grow professionally, and the ability to work in a safe, welcoming, and healthy environment.

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