



COUNCIL COLUMN

SEPTEMBER 2021

Happy Fall, ICoF Network!

As this season always reminds us, change is inevitable. There have been some changes at the ICoF and we wanted to make sure our members were in the loop, so here's a quick recap:

- We are grateful to Michele Walstrom for five years as the ICoF Community Foundation Services Coordinator. Please join us in congratulating her on her new position with the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust. Interviews are underway to fill the part-time ICoF contractor position.
- We launched a new membership management software system that required each member to reset their ICoF password. (If you haven't done so yet, use [this link](#) or the *Forgot Password?* link on our homepage.) This new system should make event registrations and other interactions easier for you, but, as with any new system, there are a few bugs to work out. If you run into any problems please [email me](#) to troubleshoot.
- Kari is transitioning back to full-time hours after welcoming son Evan in July.

If you're new to the ICoF network and these names or changes don't mean much to you (yet!), you should [join us for our fall New Member Mixer at 1 pm on November 4!](#) Time and again our members tell us that the connections they make as members are hugely valuable, so let's start connecting!

We plan on seeing many of you for our October 7 quarterly membership meeting. A number of registrants have chosen to attend more of the Iowa Nonprofit Summit, giving Iowa's philanthropic sector great representation at that event. [If you haven't registered yet, it's not too late.](#)

September marks one year of working at the ICoF for me. It's hard to believe I have yet to meet any of you in person! Here's to fall changes bringing about more good, more hope, and more connections for the months ahead.



With gratitude,

Laura Riordan Berardi
Administrative & Communications Coordinator
Iowa Council of Foundations

Upcoming ICoF Events

Fall Quarterly Membership Meeting: Purpose-Driven Board Leadership

PANELISTS ANNOUNCED!

October 7 | 2:30 - 4 pm | Virtual

*The ICoF Fall Membership Meeting will be in conjunction with the Iowa Nonprofit Summit. ICoF members may register for just this ICoF Membership Meeting session **OR** for the entire 3-day Summit.*

In the face of increasingly pressing systemic inequities, foundation and nonprofit boards should consider changing the traditional ways they have worked and instead prioritize an organization's purpose, show respect for the ecosystem in which they operate, commit to equity, and recognize that power must be authorized by the people they're aiming to help.

In an *SSIR* article published earlier this year titled "[The Four Principles of Purpose-Driven Board Leadership](#)," BoardSource CEO **Anne Wallestad** calls for a reset on board leadership and offers a new framework for consideration. Since the article was published, Wallestad has been sharing the principles with philanthropic and nonprofit leaders across the country. **During this session, we bring this important conversation to Iowa!**

Join us for an exploration of the four principles and the implications of purpose-driven board leadership for foundation and nonprofit board governance. The session will begin with a fireside chat between Wallestad and ICoF President Kari McCann Boutell about the four principles and what they mean for foundations and nonprofits, followed by what promises to be a lively dialogue with responses and discussion from our [Iowa panel](#):

- **Rob Barron**, Executive Director, Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact (ICoF member)
- **Dr. Maria Corona**, Executive Director, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Dr. Matt Mendenhall**, President & CEO, Regional Development

Authority (and vice chair, ICoF board of directors)

We strongly encourage you to invite members of your Board of Directors and Grantmaking Committees to join us for this session. We hope this dialogue can help seed further examination of these principles at foundations and nonprofits throughout the state of Iowa.

[Learn more and Register](#)

Iowa Nonprofit Summit: ICoF Member Session Highlights

Take note of our own ICoF members presenting at the Nonprofit Summit!

Jane Leighty Justis (**The Leighty Foundation**) and Megan McKenzie (**R.J. McElroy Trust**) are presenters for the October 6 session "Strategic Volunteer Engagement is a Strategy, Not a Program."

Professional advisor and ICoF member **Angela Fogt** (Counsel, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP) is a presenter for the October 7 session "Nonprofit Law in Iowa."

[See the full Summit Agenda](#)



New Member Mixer

November 4 | 1 - 2:15 pm | Zoom

Are you new to the ICoF network? We hope you will join us for our virtual New Member Mixer. This event is especially for new network members and also people who are new to their roles or their organizations. Or, if you have been a

people who are new to their roles or their organizations. Or, if you have been a member for awhile but would like a refresher on your ICoF membership benefits, please join us!

Kari and Laura wanted to provide this space so you can make the most out of your ICoF membership. You will learn more about what we do, membership benefits, and what's on the horizon. There will also be plenty of time for asking questions and getting to know some of your peers in Iowa's philanthropic community. Hope to see you then!

[Join the New Member Mixer](#)

Welcome, New Members!

We extend a warm welcome to Trinity Health Foundation and Humanities Iowa, our newest ICoF member organizations.

Trinity Health Foundation is based in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois, and serves the region through scholarships, community health initiatives, and sponsorships.

Humanities Iowa awards grants in support of humanities projects and programming for the public, among other initiatives.

[View the full ICoF member directory here.](#)

ICoF President McCann Boutell Elected to United Philanthropy Forum Board

Kari McCann Boutell, president of the Iowa Council of Foundations, has been elected to a three-year term on the United Philanthropy Forum [board of directors](#). The United Philanthropy Forum is the largest network serving philanthropy in the U.S. [View the full press release here.](#)

Grade-Level Reading Initiative Updates

Technical Assistance Grants Available

If you have a request for technical assistance and/or capacity building grant support for your local Campaign for Grade-Level Reading work, we ask that you please submit your application to our office by **COB November 15**. You can request up to \$2,500 per community and must have \$1:\$1 matching funds. You can [access the application here.](#)

GLR Monthly Check-In Call

October 28 | 12 - 1 pm | Virtual

Please note that GLR calls, normally scheduled for the 4th Thursday of the month, will be adjusted for November and December due to the holidays. Questions about these meetings or the Iowa Campaign for GLR Network? [Contact Becky Miles-Polka.](#)

Resources

Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity (PRE) releases report: "Mismatched: The Philanthropic Response to the Call for Racial Justice"

This report provides a detailed analysis of funding from 2015-2018 and a preliminary analysis of 2020. PRE calls it "the most comprehensive assessment of racial equity and racial justice funding to date." The report finds that only 6 percent of philanthropic dollars support racial equity work, including just 1 percent focused on racial justice work. [Read more here](#) and plan to join PRE for their webinar on October 14, 11:45 am - 1 pm CT.

Mid-Iowa Health Foundation Releases New Report

The [HealthConnect Fellowship](#) was built on the idea that communities flourish when we work together to ensure kids and families have what they need to be healthy and well, coupled with a belief that people drive changes in our systems that remove barriers and create opportunities for children to thrive. But isolated advocates working on separate issues cannot address the complex tangle of challenges impacting kids and families. The [2021 HealthConnect Fellowship Report](#) recounts the journey 20 fellows have been on for the past 18 months, what they've achieved individually and collectively, and what they've learned about leading systems-change work.

Vision to Learn Releases New Report

Students who received eyeglasses through the school-based Vision for Baltimore program scored higher on reading and math tests, Johns Hopkins researchers from the Wilmer Eye Institute and School of Education found in the largest clinical study of the impact of glasses on education ever conducted in the U.S. Students who struggled the most academically before receiving glasses showed the greatest improvement, the researchers found. [Read more here](#) and learn more about [Vision to Learn here](#).

Career Center Postings

Grantmaking Specialist II

Quad Cities Community Foundation

Full-time | Quad Cities of IA/IL

[Visit the Philanthropy Career Center](#)

Educational Opportunities

Mapping Indigenous Migrant Communities In The United States

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

Sept. 30 | 12 pm | Virtual | Free

Join indigenous migrant leaders, GCIR, and Four Freedoms Fund to learn about the findings from a groundbreaking mapping project on indigenous migrant communities in the U.S., and to reflect on how funders can address ongoing needs and properly visibilize this diverse population.

The Iowa Council of Foundations is co-sponsoring this presentation.

[Details and Registration](#)

Building a More Robust and Equitable Unemployment Insurance System for a 21st Century Economy

Economic Opportunity Funders

Oct. 8 | 12-1:15 pm | Virtual | Free

While the need for a better Unemployment Insurance system was apparent before COVID-19, the economic crisis caused by the pandemic has shown that our outdated and underfunded system is broken, with disproportionate impacts on women and workers of color. Learn more about key organizing, policy, and systems design and implementation strategies for making the permanent reforms needed to transform the UI system into a fully functioning and readily accessible program that protects all jobless workers and their families and effectively stabilizes the economy during economic downturns.

[Details and Registration](#)

Remaking the Economy: Economic Justice in Indian Country

Nonprofit Quarterly & the First Nations Development Institute

Oct. 14 | 1 pm | Virtual | Free

Whether you're a social movement activist, nonprofit leader, board member, or community-based organizer, this webinar will provide you with real-life examples and lessons learned that can inform your work in your own community. What does economic justice in Indian Country look like? What are some key components of a Native economic development ecosystem? Why does the traditional credit system fail to meet the needs of Native communities? What steps can nonprofits and philanthropy take to support Native leaders?

[Details and Registration](#)

2021 Public Policy Summit

Council on Foundations

Nov. 4 | 10 am - 4 pm | Virtual
\$199 or COF members (Free)

Philanthropic leaders from across the country will get an insider's view of the policy landscape in D.C. During this year's summit, explore the cross-sections of wealth inequality, racial equity, philanthropy, and public policy; how new congressional proposals could impact philanthropy and your work; how philanthropy can partner with the federal government regarding the racial equity executive order; and how to effectively educate elected officials on policy issues that matter to the sector.

[Details and Registration](#)

Colleague Inquiry

[Last call!] A member is looking for feedback on **community review panels**. They are examining their current process and wondering how others review their grant applications. Specifically: how many review panels, how many people are on each panel, and how many apps does each panel review?

[Provide a response to this colleague inquiry here.](#)

Please [let us know](#) if you would like us to collect responses to questions or compile resources/templates from your peers across the state.

Archived Colleague Inquiries

ICoF Members Making Headlines

[Iowa West Foundation sponsors return of Southwest Iowa Art Tour](#)

[Donna Dostal, president and CEO of the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation, appointed to serve on the Iowa Arts Council](#)

[Regional Development Authority among supporters bringing back Mississippi Valley Blues Festival](#)

[The Verizon Foundation provided funding for the creation of We Play Interactive, a digital resource launched by the Women's Sports Foundation](#)





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