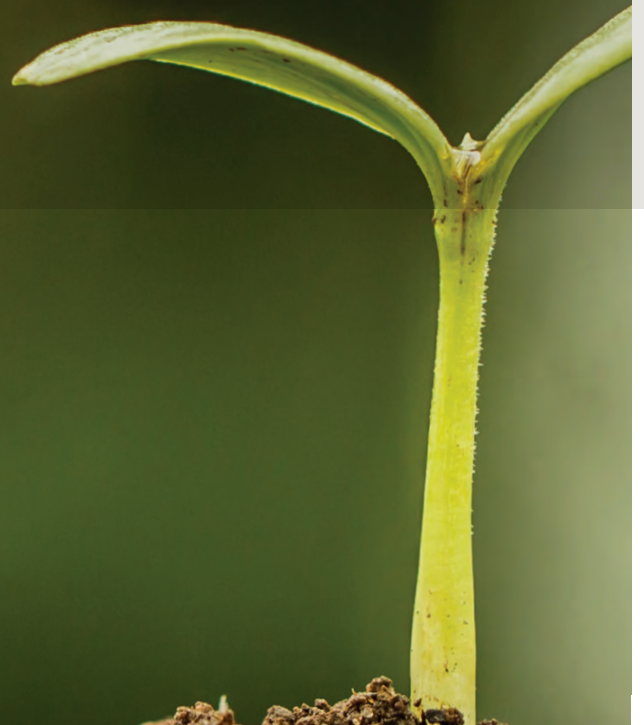


SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE &
FOOD SYSTEMS FUNDERS



COLLABORATION.
EQUITY.
RESPECT.
STEWARDSHIP.
INTEGRITY.



Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders
2016 Year End Report

COLLABORATION

THE ACTION OF WORKING WITH SOMEONE TO PRODUCE OR CREATE SOMETHING

EQUITY

FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE IN THE WAY PEOPLE ARE TREATED

RESPECT

TO HOLD IN ESTEEM OR HONOR

STEWARDSHIP

THE RESPONSIBLE OVERSEEING AND PROTECTION OF SOMETHING
CONSIDERED WORTH CARING FOR AND PRESERVING

INTEGRITY

THE STATE OF BEING WHOLE AND UNDIVIDED

OUR VALUES DRIVE US EVERY DAY.

These values guide us in everything we do and must be integrated into the strategic plans and life of our organization as well as the whole of the good food movement.

OUR WORK IS OUR PASSION.

We believe SAFSF plays a valuable role in fostering the philanthropic leadership that is critical in bringing together the ideas and resources to ensure a vibrant, healthy, and just food system for all.

We fulfill our mission with a sense of joy—by building relationships, embracing diverse ideas and voices, and appreciating that solutions and reform only come about when there is a collective sense of inclusion.

LETTERS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

As agriculturalists, we are comfortable with the changing of the seasons, but, to quote the Bard, “Now is the winter of our discontent.” Your membership and active participation in the Sustainable Agriculture and Food System Funders network has never been more important to our collective mission.



Kyle Datta
SAFSF Co-chair
Ulupono Initiative

The Steering Committee of SAFSF recognizes that we have a responsibility, now more than ever, to add value to each of our members, not only by informing you of the changes in SAFSF governance, but also by expanding opportunities for the network to collaborate to make positive social change.

2016 has been a very good year for SAFSF. Under Virginia's leadership, with superb execution and support by the staff, SAFSF has had its best financial year ever. We want to thank our partners at The Kresge Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for their generous long-term support. Our membership has grown dramatically, and has more than doubled since 2009. With member support, SAFSF has expanded our collective influence to bring our message to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). We have supported the growth of local collaborative funder networks in

many regions across the country. And as always, we continue to be a forum for discovery, collaboration, and community.

Healthy, just, and sustainable are not mere words; they represent a vision that unifies us. Collectively, and collaboratively, our programs and policy advocacy are helping to build a food system that revitalizes rural areas, transcends the political divide, regenerates the land, and restores the people. As the co-chair, I want to express my gratitude for everything that each and every member contributes to our mission, and our collective movement.

As a network, we are more unified than ever before. Let us join hands and help grow the restorative agriculture system in every corner of this country, and in so doing, help heal it.

Warmest aloha to you all,
Kyle Datta



Virginia Clarke
SAFSF Executive Director

Ambitious. Values-driven. Demanding. Energizing. These are just some of the words that come to mind as I look back on this past year.

In 2016, we came together to learn on small and large farms, in urban centers and in rural communities. We sat at kitchen tables and in senior government offices. We heard individual, family, and community stories—some of them uplifting, some of them heartbreaking—all of them important as we work to ensure a healthy, just, and sustainable food system for all.

We hope you enjoy the dramatically new (and improved!) look and feel of our SAFSF 2016 Year End report with highlights and stories told through the lens of our values: collaboration, equity, respect, stewardship, and integrity. It is our

values that drive our work, that attract new partners, and which keep us focused in this ever-changing, ever more challenging landscape. We are eager to be in conversation with you and to field any questions, comments, or suggestions that might arise from your reading.

In celebration of all that we have accomplished, yet mindful of what remains to be done in the months and years ahead, I encourage you to join us. All are welcome at our table.

Peace and blessings,
Virginia

Stacey Barbas, The Kresge Foundation
Kyle Datta (Co-chair), Ulupono Initiative
Linda Jo Doctor, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Erin Eisenberg, TomKat Foundation
Kathleen Fluegel, HRK Foundation
Andrew Kang Bartlett, Presbyterian Hunger Program
Brad Leibov, Liberty Prairie Foundation
Carol Pickering, Dietel Partners
Michael Roberts, First Nations Development Institute
Jeff Rosen, Solidago Foundation
Mailee Walker, Claneil Foundation
Jennifer Zuckerman (Co-chair), Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation

STEERING COMMITTEE

2016 PROGRAMMING



14TH ANNUAL SAFSF FORUM

SAFSF's 14th Annual Forum was held in Louisville, KY over three days in June 2016.

The theme, **"The Stakes: Race, Class, Gender, & Power in the Food System,"** embodied SAFSF's determination to be more explicit about our work and our values. A series of pre-Forum activities, plenary sessions, workshops, and site visits highlighted SAFSF's values through conversations about power, race, class, gender, money, climate change, and food systems' often symbiotic relationship with art and culture.

More than 260 funders, speakers, and guests explored issues such as politics, rural traditions, and market development in the context of a region whose people, land, and economy are experiencing both subtle and powerful transitions. The decline of the tobacco and coal industries has created a cultural and

economic crisis in Kentucky, but the emergence of sustainable agriculture, a growing local foods movement, and the reintroduction of hemp as a food and fiber crop are bringing new economic opportunities, and with them, hope.

We sincerely thank the 25-plus organizations (including farmers, NGOs, universities, businesses) and their staff that helped to arrange the site visits. Their on-the-ground knowledge, combined with national perspectives from well-known researchers and activists, provided meaningful experiences and in-depth information for Forum attendees.

I was surprised, relieved and inspired by the degree to which the program located the issues raised in terms of commitments to justice & equity, and the complementary perspectives of scientific & spiritual practices.

SAVE THE DATE!

15TH ANNUAL FORUM

FROM THE SOURCE:
Water, Culture, and Equity

JUNE 27-29, 2017
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
www.safsf.org/2017forum

24

HOSTED OR
CO-HOSTED
LEARNING
CALLS

8 SAFSF
Member-only
learning calls

LEARNING CALLS

A core element of SAFSF programming is our learning calls. These calls range from member-only policy strategy calls and regional food/agriculture network calls, to issue-specific educational webinars and member-only network updates. In 2016, SAFSF hosted or co-hosted 24 learning calls—a record for our organization.

SAFSF offers a monthly webinar series open to all funders that features a diverse set of speakers and covers a wide range of topics. In 2016 our webinar series touched on issues like food waste, food sovereignty for Native Americans, the Farm Bill, and carbon sequestration, among many

OVER

500

FUNDERS ENGAGED
IN OUR LEARNING CALLS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

others. Hosting a monthly webinar series gives SAFSF increased flexibility to provide programming that covers current events and critical issues.

Our 2016 member-only policy strategy calls, titled Policy Radio Hours, focused on post-election results, and our involvement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA).

New in 2016, we offered an "Introduction to SAFSF" webinar designed to help orient first-time funder attendees to our Annual Forum.

In addition to the annual conference, we participate regularly in SAFSF's well-coordinated online presentations and conference calls, which provide us with greater understanding of the field and inform our grantmaking. I appreciate how SAFSF has stretched over the years to be responsive and inclusive as trends and priorities in the food movement have evolved to be more comprehensive and social justice oriented.

POLICY PROGRAMMING

From the annual Policy Briefing, to monthly Policy Radio Hours, to developing networks with key players, SAFSF is building the power of philanthropy.

We are seeing a groundswell of interest from funders excited to learn about local, state, and national agriculture-related policies and how the strategy of funding policy efforts can create systemic change that supports grassroots efforts and pivots our nation closer to an inclusive food system.

SAFSF's policy efforts engage funders in peer learning and in-depth discussions to explore ways in which philanthropy can support policies that will grow the sustainable agriculture and food movement at the intersection of health, environment, economic development, and social justice.

3RD ANNUAL POLICY BRIEFING

Funders, advocates, producers, and policymakers convened in Sacramento, California from December 12-14, 2016 for the 3rd Annual SAFSF Policy Briefing, titled **"Vision to Action: Building Power on Shaky Ground."** This year the planning committee was intentional about bringing in experts from both "inside" and "outside" the governmental power structures in order to provide a clearer landscape of the policy arena, and to highlight a variety of entry points for understanding and addressing food

and agriculture policy. The planning committee identified speakers and shaped sessions intended to stimulate complex policy analysis and spark challenging discussion about how funders can take concrete steps toward impacting the policy landscape. Attendees indicated that the diversity and expertise of participants resulted in rich conversations and action-oriented thinking; and many expressed their excitement with the continued growth and impact of our policy work.

The 3rd Annual SAFSF Policy Briefing took place only weeks after a

This was a very productive and relevant conference. I learned a great deal and made strong and focused ties. It was an excellent way to spend my time.

- 2016 Policy Briefing Funder Attendee

SAVE THE DATE!

4TH ANNUAL POLICY BRIEFING

POWER IN ACTION

DECEMBER 4-6, 2017
WASHINGTON, DC
CAPITOL SKYLINE HOTEL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE (NASDA)

2016 marked the third year that SAFSF members directly engaged with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Nineteen SAFSF members collectively funded both Diamond and Bronze level sponsorships at NASDA's centennial gathering in Lincoln, Nebraska. One member noted his support as a "low-cost, high-impact investment." This year, the Diamond-level sponsor was Nebraska based Center for Rural Affairs, and the Bronze-level sponsor was SAFSF. These sponsorships ensured that regional and national nonprofit food and agriculture professionals attended the conference as champions of our work and our values.

SAFSF's engagement in NASDA has multiple benefits: it offers delegates an incredible opportunity to connect with state agriculture leaders, provides SAFSF a bird's-eye vantage point on important policy conversations, allows SAFSF to explore areas and issues of potential commonality with state colleagues, and increases SAFSF's visibility and impact in national conversations. Going forward, we believe both SAFSF and NASDA members will benefit from a deeper and expanded relationship at the individual, state, regional, tribal, and national levels.



Greg Fripp
Center for Rural Affairs
2016 NASDA Diamond Sponsor Delegate

POLICY RADIO HOURS

SAFSF is a learning organization and, as such, we continually look for ways to respond to members' needs, in this case, with regard to our work in the policy realm. In August 2016, SAFSF launched a monthly call series entitled Policy Radio Hours.

Our goal with these calls is to facilitate an ongoing opportunity for SAFSF members active in policy work to dig into the issues, inform each other of events and activities, and engage in more strategic conversations. SAFSF members who have participated in one or more of the calls have expressed significant enthusiasm for continuing the calls into the future.

As with all of our programming, we will continue to modify the format, timing, and design of these calls to best serve our membership.

SAFSF sponsorship of NASDA is helping

to change the conversation. The reality is that SAFSF gains a level of attention that it wouldn't if it were not a sponsor. Your sponsorship helps change the nature and level of awareness around [sustainable ag & food systems] issues by coming to the table.

- NASDA Participant

COLLABORATION

THE ACTION OF WORKING WITH SOMEONE TO PRODUCE OR CREATE SOMETHING

The food system is too big and complex for any one individual, organization, or political entity to change. We must work in partnership with others. No matter what aspect of the food system our members fund, some amount of their success relies on parts of other systems—social, economic, educational, and/or political—also shifting. By facilitating connections between funders, organizing events, and offering educational opportunities, we create the space for more collaborative processes to develop.

SAFSF amplifies the influence of our members through partnerships and collaboration. We find common ground with many other types of organizations, including other funder affinity groups, national associations, regional networks, and nonprofit organizations representing diverse interests.

SAFSF facilitates closer ties among our members to encourage joint learning and explore strategic opportunities.

We encourage crossing issue lines and breaking through silos while moving toward our vision: a world in which food and agricultural systems enhance and sustain the well-being of people, animals, and our planet—now and into the future.

In this way, SAFSF ensures that together, we will have more impact than any one of us alone.

SAFSF has helped me gain both a local and national perspective on food systems investments and has provided me with an incredible network of professionals at different stages of this work—all of whom have been so accessible to answer questions, provide data, and learn along with me. The access through SAFSF has made me a better funder in the food system space.

FUNDER AFFINITY GROUP COLLABORATION

SAFSF recognizes that food system issues are interrelated with and embedded in other social, economic, and environmental causes. Our active engagement with fellow affinity groups allows us to collaborate, utilizing our differences as assets to bring about more systemic and enduring positive philanthropic change.

SAFSF collaborates with other funder affinity groups throughout the year by co-hosting meetings and webinars. For example, at our 2016 Forum, we worked with the Appalachian Funders Network (AFN) to host both a dinner and a day-long site visit. This partnership with AFN allowed us to bring needed attention to a region that is too often overlooked. It gave funder participants a unique opportunity to travel to the heart of Eastern Kentucky to hear firsthand from community leaders about their challenges, but also their amazing vision, creativity, and resilience. SAFSF would not be able to offer opportunities like this without collaborating with others.

In addition to joint programming, all funder affinity groups, SAFSF included, seek to provide support for their members on topics that are less issue-specific, such as embedding equity into their work. With this in mind, we are in active conversation with other groups about ways that we can take advantage of existing resources and share more effectively with each other.

REGIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FUNDER NETWORKS

SAFSF spent considerable time in 2016 strengthening our relationships with the increasing number of regional and statewide funder networks across the country. These networks are focusing energy, time, and resources on food and agriculture issues at the local, state, or regional levels. SAFSF hosted quarterly calls for these networks to share general updates on activities and issues, and to discuss areas for collective learning. This collaboration with other networks allows us to learn alongside SAFSF members and to connect with new funders previously not engaged in our work.

A specific example of our collaborative efforts with regional food funder networks involved a partnership with the California Foodshed Funders (CFF). Together, we hosted a day-long program on the role of state policy at the nexus of regenerative agriculture, climate change, and equity. This event, held in conjunction with our 2016 Policy Briefing, drew funders from California as well as other parts of the country, many of whom had not previously participated in our network. One attendee summed up this highly successful event by saying: “I wanted more of everything!”



***I find SAFSF invaluable** as it provides the incredible opportunity to put my state-based work into a national context. SAFSF has also allowed me to build a nationwide network of colleagues that are supportive of my personal growth, interested in professional collaboration and a constant source of new ideas.*

SAFSF MEMBERSHIP

The strength of SAFSF comes from a dynamic, engaged, and growing membership. Members represent a wide assortment of funder types: individual donors, community foundations, family and private foundations, corporate giving programs, and various types of regranting organizations. Each member comes to our collective table with a different expertise, a new curiosity, an eagerness to learn and share, and the willingness to work with others to build a sustainable and just food system for all. We offer many member benefits, including special member-only quarterly networking calls, monthly policy-specific strategy calls, discounted registration fees for our annual Forum and Policy Briefing, subscription to a member-only listserv, access to a directory of member funding data, and more.

SAFSF membership has helped us move the needle on our food and farm grantmaking, and our return on investment is the increased access to healthy foods for our most vulnerable communities, improved access to markets and resources for farmers and fishers, and changes in local policies that are making it all possible.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2016

American Heart Association
Casey and Family Foundation
Center for Regional Food Systems, Michigan State University
Interact for Health
Marisla Foundation
Santa Barbara Foundation
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
The Marcus Foundation

MEMBERSHIP

\$96B COMBINED TOTAL ASSETS

\$165M CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FOOD/AGRICULTURE ANNUAL GIVING*

FUNDING BY STATE



STATES IN WHICH THE **MOST SAFSF MEMBERS** ARE FUNDING

California
New York
North Carolina
Massachusetts

STATES IN WHICH THE **LEAST SAFSF MEMBERS** ARE FUNDING

Nevada
Alabama
Delaware
Utah

ISSUE AREAS FUNDED BY MORE THAN 50% OF OUR MEMBERS

LOCAL/
REGIONAL
FOOD
INFASTRUCTURE

FOOD
ACCESS

LOCAL/
STATE/
TRIBAL
POLICY

EQUITY
& SOCIAL
JUSTICE

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

We would love to chat! Please contact us to schedule an introductory call.

Virginia Clarke, Executive Director
vclarke@safsf.org

Huyen Nguyen, Program and Membership Associate
huyen@safsf.org

*Some SAFSF members choose not to disclose this information; therefore actual figures are greater than what is shown above.

2016 FINANCIALS

SAFSF pays close attention to our financial health. We are glad to end 2016 in a position of strong financial health, allowing us to invest in future capacity and critical infrastructure updates.

SAFSF was grateful to receive a few substantial multi-year grants in 2016. All revenues for those grants are accounted for in 2016, although the funds will be received over several years, which leads to the 2016 adjusted net assets being substantially higher than in past years. The net assets will fluctuate from year to year based on when grant agreements are signed and when cash is received.

REVENUE	\$1,469,594
EXPENSES	\$945,311
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	\$534,283
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$410,758
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$935,042
FUNDS HELD FOR RESERVE	[\$300,000]
ADJUSTED NET ASSETS	\$635,042

I am pleased to report that SAFSF is in secure hands when it comes to financial reporting. In my capacity as CFO for a grantmaking philanthropy, I have reviewed hundreds of financial statements, trying to assess an organization's capacity to conduct its work. I can honestly say that SAFSF's financial statements and its overall financial position reflect organizational vitality and management capacity in equal and iterative parts. In addition to providing the fundamental oversight to ensure that program funds are secure before embarking on initiatives, SAFSF is highly attuned to using its resources for best strategic leverage. The team consistently impresses me with its ability to look ahead, in service to the field, when making decisions about deploying staff and financial resources in support of existing and new programming.

Jeff Rosen, CFO, Solidago Foundation

THE STAFF

VIRGINIA CLARKE

Executive Director
vclarke@safsf.org

ARYEH COHEN

Administrative Assistant
aryeh@safsf.org

SUSIE DIMAURO

Program Associate
susie@safsf.org

BRIDGET DOBROWSKI

Program and Operations Director
bridget@safsf.org

HUYEN NGUYEN

Program and Membership Associate
huyen@safsf.org

ABBIE NISSENSON

Program Associate
abbie@safsf.org

LEAH POWLEY

Program Intern
leah@safsf.org

DYLAN TOMPKINS

Operations and Communications Associate
dylan@safsf.org

MULTI-YEAR GRANTS

In 2016, SAFSF was honored to receive three-year general operating support grants totaling \$600,000 from two leading national funders, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and The Kresge Foundation. These funds will support the network in key areas including core programming, staff expansion and stabilization, and efforts to further ground our work in equity, justice, and inclusion.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE &
FOOD SYSTEMS FUNDERS



STAY CONNECTED

Join the SAFSF Listserv
Email dylan@safsf.org to sign up!

**We moved! Please update your
records with our new address:**

601 E. Arrellaga St., Suite 101
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
p: (805) 687-0551
f: (805) 569-2686
info@safsf.org
www.safsf.org



GRAPHIC DESIGN : ladywithafan.com

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