



2019 SAFSF Annual Forum Program
Pittsburgh, PA
June 18-20, 2019

2019 SAFSF Annual Forum Program

For up-to-date session details, speaker and attendee info, and much more, check out the Forum mobile guide.

Download the Guidebook app and enter the passphrase "safsf19" or visit guidebook.com/redeem and enter "safsf19."

Monday, June 17

10 am-7 pm **Registration Open** *(Second Floor)*

Afternoon **Pre-Forum Activities** *(Pre-registration is required.)*

12-6 pm **A Visit to Fallingwater: Frank Lloyd Wright's Iconic House**
(Meet in lobby at 11:45 am for prompt 12 pm departure.)

Join your fellow funders for a special tour of renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic Fallingwater, located in the mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania about 70 miles east of Pittsburgh. Fallingwater is one of Wright's most widely acclaimed works and best exemplifies his philosophy of organic architecture: the harmonious union of art and nature. Designed in 1935 and completed in 1939, Fallingwater and its surrounding 1,500 acres of natural land was donated and entrusted to the Western Pennsylvania Conservatory in 1963.

Today, Fallingwater is open to the public as a museum and is designated as a National Historic Landmark and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Treasure. The house was also named the "best all-time work of American architecture" in a poll of members of the American Institute of Architects. Travel+Leisure Magazine stated that Fallingwater is "one of the 12 landmarks that will change the way you see the world." Since its public debut 82 years ago, more than five million visitors have toured and experienced Fallingwater. Come join their ranks during this fun pre-Forum visit.

1-4 pm **Indian Flatbread Cooking Class at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**
(Phipps Conservatory, 1 Schenley Drive, Pittsburgh – transportation on your own; check in at the Visitor Center for class in the Botany Hall Kitchen.)

Start your Forum experience with a hands-on Indian bread making class! We'll meet at a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens to participate in a delicious hands-on experience guided by Chatham University's Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation (CRAFT). This class will explore two traditional Indian breads: chappathi (roti), an unleavened flatbread, and masala dosa, a South Indian specialty made of fermented rice and lentil batter filled with Indian-style potatoes. Participants will also learn about Indian cooking and spices, and make a chutney to be eaten with the dosa. Each participant will leave with the knowledge of how to make these tasty breads at home!

Instructor: **Jayashree (Jay) Iyengar**, owner, Popping Mustard Seeds - Indian Cooking Classes and More, PA

5-6:30 pm Informal Networking Social

(fl.2 bar in the Fairmont; no host)

Kick off your time at the Forum by joining your colleagues for informal mixing and mingling at fl.2 bar and restaurant—named for its location on the second floor of the Fairmont Hotel. Connect with peers and SAFSF staff and leadership over drinks.

Tuesday, June 18

7-8:15 am Breakfast *(Grand Ballroom)*

8:15-8:45 am Welcome *(Grand Ballroom)*

Speakers:

Bridget Dobrowski, *managing director, SAFSF, CA*

Andrew McElwaine, *vice president for sustainability, The Heinz Endowments, PA*

Jen Zuckerman, *director of strategic initiatives, World Food Policy Center, Duke University; chair, SAFSF board of directors and 2019 SAFSF Forum planning committee, NC*

8:45-10:15 am Opening Plenary
Points of Convergence: Learning from Coalition Leaders in Pittsburgh
(Grand Ballroom)

The Pittsburgh region sits at the confluence of three major rivers and the Appalachian Mountains. It is in the cross-currents of significant social change. As the region's economy finally rebounds from the devastating loss of 125,000 manufacturing jobs between 1979 and 1986, lingering structural issues of racial equity, social justice, and food security now mingle with new questions around climate change, energy production, and public health.

In the opening plenary, regional thought leaders will share how they are addressing these challenges in an intersectional way and implementing community-based and regional solutions by building true partnerships and working in coalition. Our speakers will highlight the opportunities and challenges facing the region related to issues of immigration, rural economies, extractive industries, food systems, and more, and will share a vision of what the Pittsburgh region's food system could be if everyone has a voice in shaping the regional narrative.

Moderator:

Mila Sanina, *executive director, PublicSource, PA*

Speakers:

Veronica Coptis, *executive director, Center for Coalfield Justice, PA*

Jamaal Craig, *executive director, Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network, PA*

Betty Cruz, *founder and All for All project director, Change Agency, PA*

Amber Farr, director, One Northside, The Buhl Foundation, PA

Dawn Plummer, executive director, Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, PA

10:15-10:45 am **Break / Find Your Workshop**

10:45 am-12:15 pm **Concurrent Workshops**

Beyond Carbon: How the Toxic Vision of the Energy Sector Threatens Sustainable Agriculture and What We Can Do About It *(Grand Ballroom South)*

Sponsored by The 11th Hour Project, GRACE Communications Foundation, and Marisla Foundation

As global efforts to fight climate change grow, the movement for sustainable agriculture will face new and intensified threats from an energy sector seeking to diversify income, externalize waste streams, and position false solutions as real and inevitable. This session will inform funders about three growing concerns: the factory farm industry's move to entrench—and greenwash—itsself through “brown energy” infrastructure; the increased production of pesticides and fertilizers resulting from the natural gas boom; and the expanding use of untested wastewater from fracked gas wells for irrigation of crops and livestock. We will explore the implications of these threats for local farmers and communities, the future of sustainable agriculture, and the movement for a just transition. We aim to identify areas of collaboration, where efforts to stop pipelines and industrial facilities can partner productively with farmers, foodies, and philanthropists with a vision for a fundamentally sustainable future.

Moderator:

Sarah Bell, program director, The 11th Hour Project, CA

Speakers:

Lisa Anne Hamilton, director, Climate and Energy Program, Center for International Environmental Law, DC

Seth Shonkoff, executive director, PSE for Healthy Energy, CA (invited)

Kendra Kimbirauskas, sustainable agriculture program consultant, State Innovation Exchange (SiX), OR

Movement Building and Social Change: The Multi-Sectoral Impact of Funding Good Food in Early Child Care and K-12 Settings *(Grand Ballroom North)*

Sponsored by Chef Ann Foundation, National Farm to School Network, The Policy Equity Group, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation

With more than 30 million students eating school lunch every day and more than four million children participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, school meal and child nutrition programs are vast not only in their reach but also in their impact. This session will engage funders in understanding the role that food system stakeholders, organizations, investors, and policymakers play in advancing a healthy, sustainable institutional food movement. Attendees will explore how investing in good food in K-12 schools as well as early care and education (ECE) settings can not only improve the health of children, but can also lead to procurement policies that benefit local and sustainable food producers, and spur workforce development through scratch-cook training. We will also discuss state and federal policies that come into play when addressing healthy food in educational settings. Through this session, funders will

walk away with a clear understanding of the ingredients and impacts of healthy, equitable, and sustainable ECE and K-12 school food programs.

Moderator:

Anupama Joshi, *executive director, Blue Sky Funders Forum, NC*

Speakers:

Helen Dombalis, *executive director, National Farm to School Network, CO*

Mara Fleishman, *chief executive officer, Chef Ann Foundation, CO*

Malik Hamilton, *purchasing supervisor, Pittsburgh Public Schools, PA*

James Kwele, *director of food equity, Ecotrust, OR (formerly with the Food Trust, PA)*

Erica Lewis, *food and nutrition manager, The Caring Center, PA*

The Fabric of Community: Exploring Economic Justice, Investment Strategies, and Rural Revitalization through Sustainable Fiber and Textiles *(Yeager)*

Sponsored by LIFT Economy, 11th Hour Project, Patagonia, Threadspan, and Island Foundation

In communities across the country, fiber and textile production is emerging as an opportunity to diversify small agricultural enterprises and revitalize rural economies. This growing sector also offers opportunities to prioritize equity and ensure that historically disenfranchised communities take ownership of economically just production systems. In a final point of intersection, local textile processing infrastructure offers new opportunities for philanthropic investors and those deploying integrated capital strategies. Our session, co-sponsored by five partners from the in-depth fiber session at the 2018 SAFSF Forum, will feature intersecting perspectives from Native communities, apparel brands, and investment practitioners. Panelists will use a case study of a Native-led fiber hemp processing system to explore deeper questions of economic justice, cross-sector partnerships, and the role of capital in supporting just transition. The legalization of industrial hemp makes it especially critical that disenfranchised farmers benefit from this revived industry. Along the way we'll explore the soil carbon sequestration potential of fiber cropping systems, and attendees will reflect on the many ways fiber systems can intersect with and inform strategies for just transition in food systems.

Moderator:

Sarah Kelley, *senior program officer, Island Foundation, MA*

Speakers:

Sarah Ebe, *environmental program officer, Patagonia, CA*

Mark Watson, *managing director, Boston Impact Initiative, MA*

Don Wedll, *lead project manager, Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute, MN*

Together Against the Grain: Growing Regenerative Agriculture in Illinois *(Knox)*

Sponsored by Food:Land:Opportunity, Liberty Prairie Foundation, and The Lumpkin Family Foundation

Whatever your geographic focus area, join us for a conversation about advancing regenerative agriculture practices in areas where the industrial agricultural system dominates. In this case study from the Heartland, speakers representing businesses and NGOs that form the ReGenerate Illinois (RI) coalition will share their multi-faceted, systems-oriented approach to challenges in our food system. These efforts include farmer organizing through the Idea Farm Network, on-the-ground activities focused in a rural watershed, and state-level policy change strategies. Attendees will learn what's

working and what obstacles are being encountered. You will also hear how RI members work to foster good, harmonious collaboration, even as they come to the table with different cultures and in competition for funding. We invite you to come and share your experiences and insights on coalition-building and agricultural change in rural areas as we build this work together.

Moderator:

Nathan Aaberg, *director, conservation and working lands, Liberty Prairie Foundation, IL*

Speakers:

Lenore Beyer, *director of conservation programs, Kinship Foundation, IL*

Will Glazik, *farmer, IL*

Erin Meyer, *founder and director, Basil's Harvest, IL*

Liz Stelk, *executive director, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, IL*

Transformative Approaches to Farmworker Justice *(Ryan's Court)*

Sponsored by NEO Philanthropy

Our current food system is dominated by corporate supply chains that relegate the workers who pick or produce our food to the bottom. Bringing justice to the food system requires looking deeply at these power dynamics, where a quest for profit drives low wages, abusive working conditions, and precarity, while alienating us from the sources of our food. When workers have no power in a male-dominated industry, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation also become more common. This workshop will look at several organizations seeking to transform this power dynamic. The Fair Food Program mobilizes consumers to hold brands accountable for enforcing better working conditions—and has largely eliminated sexual harassment on participating farms. California Harvesters, a labor contractor owned by a worker trust, ensures better wages, job mobility, and complaint mechanisms for abuses. Migrant Justice has recently signed an enforceable agreement with Ben & Jerry's, which includes raising both wages for dairy workers and income for small farm owners. Audience members will be invited to consider what approaches have transformative effects on other parts of the food system.

Moderator:

Sienna Baskin, *director, Anti-Trafficking Fund, NEO Philanthropy, MA*

Speakers:

Enrique Balcazar, *organizer, Migrant Justice, VT*

Hon. Laura Safer Espinoza, *executive director, Fair Food Standards Council, FL*

Magaly Licolli, *founding member, Venceremos, AK*

12:15-1:15 pm

Networking Lunch *(Grand Ballroom)*

1:15-1:30 pm

Find Your Workshop

1:30-3:00 pm

Concurrent Workshops

Fouled Food: How Toxic Chemicals Are Contaminating Farms and Our Food Supply

(Ryan's Court)

Sponsored by The John Merck Fund

The proliferation of chemicals in our environment threatens not only our water and air, but also our food systems. We've all heard about pesticides, but equally dangerous is the food contamination arising from toxins such as phthalates used in tubing and perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) in water, sewage sludge, and coated paper packaging. The session will explore this emerging issue through the example of compost contaminated by chemicals used in food packaging. Using PFAS as a case study, we will investigate how produce grown with contaminated compost or sludge absorbs toxins from soil and re-contaminates people who aim to make healthy food choices. We will also look at how farmers and ranchers could be threatened by water contaminated by PFAS. In this discussion, participants will learn about common chemical offenders found in food, dive deeper into the dangers of PFAS, and hear how advocates are using market and policy campaigns to turn off the tap on toxic chemicals.

Moderator:

Christine James, *executive director, The John Merck Fund, MA*

Speakers:

Sarah Doll, *national director, Safer States, OR*

Jen Jackson, *toxics reduction and healthy ecosystems program manager, San Francisco Department of the Environment, CA*

Erika Schreder, *science director, Toxic-Free Future, WA*

Losing Local Control: The Role of Preemption in Blocking Progressive Food Policy

(Yeager)

Sponsored by GRACE Communications Foundation

Preemption—where a higher authority of law, such as a state, displaces a lower authority, such as a municipality—is a tactic that can derail locally-based, progressive policies, and funders need to be paying attention. As a cross-sector problem, preemption affects many food system issues: nutrition policy such as soda taxes and childhood nutrition standards, permitting and regulations on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), food labeling, and fair wages—to name a few. Furthermore, the practice of preemption often serves to silence the voices of communities of color and to transfer control of state lawmaking to corporations, which have the resources to lobby effectively. This playbook, in part disseminated by organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council, which drafts and shares state-level legislation templates, is being replicated across multiple states. Even when local control is preserved, maintaining it requires enormous amounts of resources.

This session is designed to educate funders broadly about preemption and its effects on local control as it relates to food system issues, and through the lens of ensuring equity for affected populations. What can funders do to fight preemption within their sectors, and over time? What are the best ways to message about preemption when working on local fights against state interference?

Moderator:

Caroline Brunton, *program officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, MI*

Speakers:

Allyson Frazier, *campaign research and development senior manager, American Heart Association, MA*

Patty Lovera, *food and water program director, Food and Water Watch, DC*

Rhonda Perry, *program director, Missouri Rural Crisis Center, MO*

Narrative: What It Really Means and Why It Really Matters *(Grand Ballroom South)*

Sponsored by Food and Farm Communications Fund

Narrative is a commonly misunderstood concept, often confused with storytelling. While narrative work involves storytelling, it encompasses a much broader values-driven body of work, combining communications research, message framing, and creative engagement. Narratives have significant influence, shaping our understanding of the way things are in the world, our identities and actions, as well as our notions for what change is even possible. Many working to advance social change struggle to overcome entrenched narratives that reinforce the status quo and hold us back. This session will demystify narrative, giving concrete examples of what it is (and what it isn't) – and why long-term investment in narrative work is essential to harnessing its immense power. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from two topnotch narrative efforts: First Nation Development Institute's "Reclaiming Native Truth" and the Animal Agriculture Reform Collaborative's work to create a shared narrative among their 44 member organizations. Participants will also explore narrative research and consider how narrative work can advance their own grantmaking goals.

Moderator:

Anna Lappé, *program director, food and democracy, Panta Rhea Foundation, CA*

Speakers:

Michael Roberts, *president and CEO, First Nations Development Institute, CO*

Rebecca M. Terk, *grassroots organizer, Dakota Rural Action, SD*

Philanthropy at the Nexus of Agriculture, Soil, Climate, Health, and Water *(Grand Ballroom North)*

Sponsored by GRACE Communications Foundation, Globetrotter Fund, TomKat Foundation, and Cedar Tree Foundation

How can healthy soil shift the trajectory of climate change, while simultaneously producing healthier food and healthier people? Join us for an interactive discussion with soil scientist David Montgomery, organic inspector and farmer Christie Badger, and environmental health scientist Urvashi Rangan to explore connections between the soil, human, and planetary biomes. The goal for the session is to bring participants on a journey from soil through the agricultural production system, recognizing along the way the impact of healthy soils on our bodies and the planet's atmosphere. Participants can connect the learning to their own grantmaking through hands-on engagement in a game based on Betsy Taylor's "Healthy Soils to Cool the Planet," a new philanthropic and investment guide to scaling up soil carbon sequestration that provides information on the benefits of healthy soils, a list of regenerative agricultural practices, and an extensive portfolio of recommended grantees. The session will be structured to promote professional skill building and new collaborative relationships, and to share emerging initiatives.

Moderator:

Urvashi Rangan, *chief science advisor, GRACE Communications Foundation, NY*

Speakers:

Christie Badger, *independent organic inspector, PA*

David Montgomery, *professor and author, University of Washington, WA*

Who Benefits: Unlocking the Potential of Foundation Investments to Achieve Impact Across Issues and Industries *(Knox)*

Sponsored by Cornerstone Capital Group and HRK Foundation

Do you ever wonder how your foundation's investment portfolio actually impacts the planet and people? Or how the investments in your foundation's endowment might or might not align with your grantmaking and PRI strategy? Moreover, have you been thinking about how you can utilize the power of capital without replicating or falling prey to the institutional bias that has defined capital markets throughout history? In this session you will learn how foundations are breaking new ground in investing in a way that has a positive impact on the climate; economic opportunity; health and nutrition; and other critical vectors of social and environmental change.

Moderator:

Katherine Pease, *managing director, impact strategy, Cornerstone Capital Group, CO*

Speakers:

Kim Dempsey, *deputy director, social investment practice, Kresge Foundation, MI*

Shuaib Siddiqui, *director of impact investing, Surdna Foundation, NY*

3:00-3:30 pm **Break & Snack**

3:30-3:45 pm **Performance by Jacquea Mae, 1Hood Media** *(Grand Ballroom)*

3:45-5 pm **Plenary**
Holding up the Mirror: Funders' Roles in Supporting Movements that Sustain Social Change *(Grand Ballroom)*

In this plenary session, panelists who are building infrastructure for sustained social change will challenge funders to 'hold up the mirror' and examine how we are using our power, privilege, and potential to bring about a transformation in the food system. Our speakers represent innovative funders and grantees utilizing the breadth of their capital to cultivate community-driven power, build and learn from social movements, and support truly transformative collaborations.

Speakers will reflect on questions including: What will it take to shift from funding at an organizational level to achieving the broader societal change we wish to see? How might we envision a social movement that truly supports a just and sustainable food and agriculture system for all? Can we, as gatekeepers of financial and social capital, practice grantmaking in a way that authentically values the long-term work of our grantees and their movement-building?

Guided by the learnings and reflections of our speakers, attendees will leave with insights and inspiration to lean into these critical questions about the social changes we want to see in the world and the practices we can implement to bring about those changes.

Moderator:

Kolu Zigbi, *program director, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, NY*

Speakers:

Farhad Ebrahemi, *founder and president, Chorus Foundation, NY*

Saru Jayaraman, *president, ROC United and ROC Action; director, Food Labor Research Center, CA*

Leah Penniman, *co-director and program manager, Soul Fire Farm, NY*

5-5:45 pm

Book Signing (*Grand Ballroom*)

We know that many in our network have written or published books that may be of interest to other attendees. We will have space in the Grand Ballroom on Tuesday, June 19 from 5-5:45 pm for authors in our network to set out a few copies of your book and chat with other attendees. You are welcome to sign, sell, or give away copies of your book. We will not have assistance for processing payments but you are welcome to self-manage the process or take cash payments.

5-6:30 pm

Break

6:30-9 pm

Dinner on Your Own or Themed Dinners

Pre-registration is required for themed dinners.

Dinner on Your Own

Use this time to meet with fellow attendees and make connections, or simply have a quiet night to reflect on the day's learning. A list of nearby restaurants can be found in the mobile guide.

Dinners at the Fairmont

Ag Finance Is the Problem; What Is the Solution? (*Grand Ballroom South*)

Sponsored by Akiptan CDFI

We can't just keep pushing new money at old ways of doing business. The average age of farmers in the US is 56 and likely going up. Farm debt is up 125% since 1994. It's time to rethink the way we are doing finance. While initially intended to benefit agribusinesses, the current state of agriculture finance now serves only to improve the bottom line of the lending entities. It is no longer a solution, but part of the problem. Along with reexamining our production practices to align with the concept of sustainability, we must also evaluate the current spectrum of agriculture finance options for agribusinesses and determine whether they are contributing to this conceptual effort or inhibiting it. The Intertribal Agriculture Council has been engaged in this effort for three decades and will talk about Akiptan CDFI, its solution to this situation. We will also share the innovative strategies that will lift agriculture finance from a reliance on

existing structures and philanthropy, and help funders think of sustainable agriculture as an investment opportunity, as opposed to a charity case. And we'll have a very special meal that will leave you nourished, too.

Moderator:

Zach Ducheneaux, *chairman of the board, Akiptan CDFI, Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, SD*

Speakers:

Elsie Meeks, *board chair, Native American Agriculture Fund, Oglala Lakota Reservation, SD*

Dugan Bad Warrior, *owner, Zuya Sica Ranch, Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, SD*

A Wave of Resistance to CAFOs in the Ocean *(Grand Ballroom North)*

Sponsored by GRACE Communications Foundation

Corporate attempts to open U.S. waters to industrial fish farming (also known as open ocean or marine finfish aquaculture) have loomed for years on what looked like a distant horizon. For more than a decade, Grassroots fishing communities and environmental groups concerned about escapement, genetic manipulation, and ecosystem impacts of such facilities have worked together successfully to beat back federal permitting attempts. Unfortunately, all signs point to re-introduction of aquaculture legislation and a concerted push by the factory fish farming industry to open our oceans to CAFOs in 2019. What role can funders play in blocking the worst forms of aquaculture so we can prevent the kind of disasters such as the Puget Sound breach that saw more than 260,000 non-native Atlantic salmon escape into the wild? Join us to learn about collaborative efforts—spanning from the grassroots to the grasstops—that are working together to protect our oceans, our fishstock, the livelihoods of fishing communities, and our collective access to real, healthy, fair, and ecologically responsible seafood.

Moderator:

Scott Cullen, *executive director, GRACE Communications Foundation, NY*

Speakers:

Niaz Dorry, *coordinating director, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance & National Family Farm Coalition, MA*

Rosanna Marie Neil, *policy counsel, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance, DC*

Hallie Templeton, *senior oceans campaigner, Friends of the Earth, CA*

Co-Creating Equitable Food-Oriented Development (EFOD) *(Yeager)*

Sponsored by The Kresge Foundation

How can funders operationalize equity, justice, and self-governance in changing food systems? In the emerging area of Equitable Food Oriented Development (EFOD) work, and informed by learning from the Fresh, Local, Equitable funding initiative, The Kresge Foundation and DAISA Enterprises have supported a Steering Committee of EFOD practitioners to begin to codify a field of practice and make recommendations for just funding and relationships. Participants in this highly interactive session will discuss both the process of practitioner involvement in program design and implementation, as well as EFOD as a framework for justice-first food-based community change. The session will feature the insight of those who have long held frontline wisdom about how to shift power in neighborhood food environments, and will dissect tools and tactics.

Ideal dinner participants will have great interest in potentially supporting this work and/or experiences to share in engaging community-based practitioners in program design for greater equity and impact.

Moderator:

Stacey Barbas, *senior program officer for health, The Kresge Foundation, MI*

Speakers:

Lorena Andrade, *executive director, La Mujer Obrera, TX*

Mariela Cedeño, *interim executive director, Mandela Partners, CA*

Trisha Chakrabarti, *affiliated consultant, DAISA Enterprises, NY*

Neelam Sharma, *executive director, Community Services Unlimited, Inc., CA*

The Right to Food: Toward a Coordinated Reform of Food and Agriculture *(Knox)*

Sponsored by WhyHunger and Small Planet Fund

Fifty years of food banking in the US has failed to end hunger. The reliance on “emergency” sources has become chronic. The public perception that hunger can be solved with charitable food aid and corporate capture of charity absolves the government of responsibility and ignores the root causes. Hunger persists because people cannot afford to buy food and because people are denied access to or are displaced from the land, water, and other resources they need to produce food.

The Right to Food is part of a broader human rights framework used by global social movements in the struggle for food sovereignty through coordinated reform of food and nutrition, fishing, and farming. What can the anti-hunger and sustainable agriculture sectors in the U.S. borrow from this global framework in order to build power and support a fundamental shift away from the false narratives and neo-liberal policies that shape our current food and farming systems?

Moderator:

Alison Cohen, *senior director of programs, WhyHunger, NY*

Speakers:

Denisse Córdova Montes, *practitioner in residence, human rights clinic, University of Miami School of Law, FL*

Robert Ojeda, *chief program officer, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, AZ*

Dawn Plummer, *executive director, Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, PA*

Dinners at Revel + Roost *(242 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh)*

If You're Not at the Table, You're on the Menu: Why SAFSF Must Engage With NASDA

(Revel + Roost, Second Floor)

Sponsored by The John Merck Fund, Community Food Funders, and SAFSF

Leaders of state agriculture departments help determine the future of our farm and food system. Not only do they distribute federal funding, they also oversee programs and regulations that impact farming, local food system development, land use, soil and water conservation, market development, and more. That is why it is important to pay

attention to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Funding from SAFSF members has allowed dozens of food systems advocates to attend NASDA convenings and bring the perspective of just and sustainable food to state commissioners of agriculture. In 2018, more than 20 food systems advocates attended regional and national NASDA meetings under the auspices of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG). Those who attended carried a coordinated message of the economic, environmental, social, and political importance of the sustainable agriculture and food systems movement. NESAWG's executive director Tracy Lerman will join us to share how she is using the SAFSF-facilitated connection to NASDA to influence agriculture directors in her state and region.

Moderators:

Christine James, *executive director, The John Merck Fund, MA*

Speakers:

Adam Leibowitz, *director, Community Food Funders, NY*

Tracy Lerman, *executive director, Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, NY*

Culture: Where Seeds and Soil Converge *(Revel + Roost, Second Floor)*

Sponsored by New Field Foundation

How we think and talk about seeds and soil reflects our cultural relationship with the natural world, including our bodies. In some food systems, reverence for seeds and soil is culturally grounded through language, stories, and ceremony. In these food systems, people recognize seeds and soil as living beings, not commodities, and through them maintain their vital connection to the natural world. Nurturing spiritual values such as respect, reciprocity, relationships, and harmony can help prepare us to face the challenges and complexities of transforming a food system where poverty, malnutrition, and environmental destruction often prevail. A three-person panel of culturally-grounded farmers and food advocates will provide real examples and inspiration for how we can nurture transformation in the food system by changing how we think and talk about seeds and soil and relate spiritually and culturally to the food we eat.

Moderator:

Jonathon Landeck, *managing director, New Field Foundation, CA*

Speakers:

Marcus Briggs-Cloud, *co-director, Ekvu-Yefolecv, AL*

Lilian Hill, *executive director, Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute, AZ*

Lea Zeise, *technical assistance specialist, Intertribal Agriculture Council, WI*

Wednesday, June 19

7-8:15 am

Breakfast *(Grand Ballroom)*

All Day

Site Visits

Meet in the lobby 15 minutes before tour start time for prompt departure. Bring a water bottle and wear closed-toe shoes. Site visits happen rain or shine!

8 am-5:30 pm Fracking in the Coalfields

Across the United States, energy extraction and production—from coal mining to oil drilling to fracking to petrochemical manufacturing and more—impact communities and the environment. Energy and agriculture often intersect, whether it's a frack pad located close to a farm, a wind farm adjacent to agricultural fields, or offshore drilling and its impacts on fish stock.

Western Pennsylvania is a microcosm of many of these energy production industries. On this field trip, we'll head south of Pittsburgh into northern Appalachia and the coalfield region, taking winding mountain roads through a historic (and currently active) coal-producing area in which hundreds of fracking wells and refining and processing sites have also been installed over the last decade. Today, about 75% of the residents of Washington County and nearly 90% of residents in neighboring Greene County live within two miles of a frack pad. We'll hear directly from community members, a farmer, and other experts about how extreme energy extraction, processing, and waste related to longwall coal mining and shale gas fracking in southwestern Pennsylvania affect rural communities, agricultural lands and ecosystems, and air and water quality.

Learn from the deep expertise of community members as well as staff and board members of the Center for Coalfield Justice and other organizations. This memorable and impactful day will leave you with a deeper understanding of how extractive industry affects a place, landscape, people, and animals—and how funders and other partners might support avenues for environmental justice.

Note: This tour will involve a great deal of driving on winding mountain roads. If you tend to get carsick, we recommend that you use anti-nausea preventives such as medication and/or acupressure bands.

Host organizations include:

- Breathe Collaborative
- Center for Coalfield Justice
- Earthworks Pennsylvania
- Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project

8 am-5 pm Soil Health and Climate Resilience in Pennsylvania

The impacts of climate change vary regionally, and farmers in western Pennsylvania are already grappling with increasingly frequent extreme weather events. Amid a growing awareness of the deep impact soil has on every aspect of our biodiversity, health, climate, water, and resilience, more folks are listening to farmers and researchers in Pennsylvania and elsewhere who have been championing the importance of soil health for decades.

Soil health management systems encompass a wide variety of practices and assessment approaches and are described in a variety of ways—regenerative agriculture, organics, regenerative organic, agroecology, sustainable agriculture, and more. These approaches share common goals of protecting natural resources on and off the farm, improving productivity and profitability, and safeguarding the functioning of our planet and its health now and well into the future.

On this tour, we'll learn about long-term soil health research happening in Pennsylvania and explore how soil health relates to improved production, watershed health, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and more. We'll visit a

couple of farms and meet with farmers focused on applying the principles of soil health management to their production. We'll also learn how research, modeling, and monitoring efforts are being used to help tell the story of the benefits of healthy soil, and support the spread of best practices in soil stewardship.

Host organizations include:

- Fallen Aspen Farm
- Kretschmann Family Organic Farm
- Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)
- Pennsylvania No Till Alliance
- Rodale Institute
- Stroud Water Research Center
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

8:20 am-5 pm Crafting a Regional Food System

If you want to get your hands dirty or doughy, this is the tour for you. We'll head to Chatham University's Eden Hall campus, a 388-acre farm turned cutting-edge learning laboratory and demonstration site showcasing sustainable solutions to issues of energy, water, food and agriculture, air quality and climate, and the interaction of natural and built systems. This innovative campus is home to the Falk School of Sustainability and Environment, which encourages undergraduate and graduate students focusing on food studies to engage with the work through collaborative projects and experiences that take them outside the classroom—so that they may develop and apply real-world solutions.

You'll choose one of two hands-on activities for small group engagement (*pre-registration required*):

- *Agroecology Farm Activity*: Visit the agroecology demonstration farm and experience how students of all ages are introduced to various aspects of food system sustainability through applied and hands-on learning. We can also dig in and get our hands dirty as we harvest greens for our lunch.
- *Heritage Grains Activity*: A growing number of farmers in western Pennsylvania are cultivating heritage grains. We'll learn how their work fits into the regional food system and use some of those grains to prepare pizza dough for our lunch. As we get our hands floury, we'll learn in the same way that students and community members do: through fun, hands-on, experiential curriculum.

Throughout the day, our journey will be grounded in the work of the interdisciplinary Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation (CRAFT). We'll leave with a better understanding of how hands-on experience can deepen knowledge and engagement around sustainable food systems issues. We'll also gain new insights into western Pennsylvania's regional food system, the relationships, assets, and gaps that undergird it, and the potential of culinary tourism to support regional economic development.

Host organizations include:

- The Center for Regional Agriculture, Food, and Transformation (CRAFT) at Chatham University's Eden Hall Campus
- Frankferd Farms

8:20 am-5 pm

Technology, Innovation, and Impact

Once a center for the production of steel, iron, and glass, Pittsburgh has reemerged as a leader in medicine, education, healthcare, and—relevant to this tour—green building spaces, robotics, artificial intelligence, and high-tech industries. Some of the technological solutions being developed by university researchers, businesses, and nonprofits in Pittsburgh are focused on food and agriculture system issues.

On this tour, we'll look at two very different spaces within the food system where technology is having an impact on sustainable food systems change in Pittsburgh and beyond. First, we'll visit a farm that uses cutting-edge robotic, monitoring, and sensing technology in production agriculture. We'll have a deep discussion about how this disruptive technology might be deployed at different scales and with smaller levels of investment. Then, we'll explore a solution that leverages technology, civic engagement, and public-private partnerships to connect retail food surplus to emergency and charitable food need—and is having a significant and measurable impact on hunger in Pittsburgh. We'll share a 'wasted food' lunch and explore how this app-based technology has had effects on both individual and community levels for donors, recipients, volunteers, and organizations involved. Join us as we explore what the new buzzword 'ag tech' really means, and dive deeply into several 'ag tech' solutions developed or deployed in Pittsburgh.

Host organizations include:

- Rivendale Farms
- 412 Food Rescue
- New Sun Rising
- Millvale Food + Energy Hub
- Strange Roots Experimental Ales

8:40 am-5 pm

Community-Led Change in the Homewood Neighborhood

Be inspired by a neighborhood that is finding ways to innovate, leverage tremendous community resources and assets, and meet local needs through coordinated community projects. Homewood is a predominantly African-American neighborhood in Pittsburgh, home to about 6,000 residents in nine square miles, that has historically been underserved and disinvested—but is home to a wealth of local knowledge, creativity, and resources. We'll spend the day walking from site to site to meet with a host of incredible community leaders and residents.

The programs that we will learn about support small-scale raised-bed vegetable gardens in backyards and vacant lots, urban farms that take up full city blocks, an outdoor learning lab with hydroponic and aquaponic growing systems developed in partnership between a church and local universities, and more. As is true in many disinvested communities, there is no grocery store in Homewood. We'll hear from community leaders and an investor working alongside them to transform opportunity and a vision of what's possible into a new community-led grocery store. Throughout the day, we'll hear stories of exciting and transformative community-led projects and collaborations, and learn from the stakeholders—community members, funders, and investors, and others—supporting them.

Community host organizations include:

- Black Urban Gardeners and Farmers Cooperative of Pittsburgh (BUGS FCP)
- The Oasis Project Farm and Fishery (a project of Bible Center Church)
- Phipps Homegrown Program
- Sankofa Village Community Garden

Additional partners include:

- Bridgeway Capital
- The Heinz Endowments
- ioby

8:40 am-5 pm

Supporting the Needs of New and Beginning Farmers

On this tour, we will learn about a variety of programs and organizations that are supporting new and beginning production farmers in Pittsburgh and the surrounding region. Although similar programs exist across the country, Pittsburgh is unique in hosting a range of opportunities, bolstered by deep and reciprocal working relationships between them, that support farmers no matter where they are in their learning and farm enterprise development. This means that whether they aspire to build skills in growing their own crops, develop their own small-scale organic urban farm enterprise, or lease farmland in order to produce at scale, local farmers can take a stepladder approach to a career in sustainable agriculture.

Participants will learn how an urban farm set against the backdrop of the last remaining steel mill in the Pittsburgh area is preparing young adults for future work in food and farming through hands-on apprenticeships. We'll see how a nonprofit, community-centered farm that is set to become the largest urban farm in the U.S. is developing a comprehensive workforce and business development program for new small-scale organic urban farm enterprises. And we'll hear how other partners are supporting graduates of these programs in acquiring farmland within and outside Pittsburgh in order to stabilize and expand their production agriculture businesses. Together we'll better understand how these farmer-development pieces fit together in practice—and hopefully get our hands a little dirty in the process.

Host organizations include:

- Braddock Farms, Grow Pittsburgh
- Hilltop Urban Farm
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Other partners include:

- Allegheny County Conservation District
- Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)
- National Young Farmers Coalition

6:15-7:15 pm

Introducing the Castanea Fellows! *(Knox and Yeager)*

Join your SAFSF colleagues on the Castanea Fellowship Steering Committee in meeting and welcoming the inaugural class of Castanea Fellows. Learn about how each Castanea Fellow is leading and activating change toward a healthier, more racially just, equitable, and sustainable food system. Leave inspired and connected to future leaders who will be instrumental designers, cultivators, and builders for the future of our food!

7-9 pm **Dinner and Fare-Thee-Well to Our Non-Funder Partners** *(Grand Ballroom)*

Tonight's dinner at the Fairmont Hotel will allow you to share stories and pictures from the day; huddle with non-funder colleagues before they depart; or simply get some food, head to your room, and get some rest. We'll take a moment to recognize and thank the non-funder speaker partners and Food System Partners who have joined us over the past two days. No other programming tonight—just relax and enjoy!

8:30-10 pm **Gather Film Pre-Release Screening** *(Ryan's Court)*

Kindly join the First Nations Development Institute and director Sanjay Rawal (Food Chains) for an exclusive screening of the rough cut of the upcoming feature length documentary GATHER. Gather is a film celebrating ancestral foodways of Native people and looks intimately at issues tied with regrowing ancestral food systems in Native communities. We would be thrilled for your presence and feedback as we are in a critical stage of post-production.

Thursday, June 20 – Funders-Only Day

7:30-9 am **Breakfast** *(Grand Ballroom)*

9:00-11:00 am **In-Depth Sessions**

These facilitated in-depth sessions are designed to let funders share stories and best practices based on your own experiences, bring forth challenges you are facing, and hear your peers' thoughts and strategies for impactful engagement. Choose from one of the themes listed below, and join with other funders interested in advancing the conversation. Come ready to share!

Core Competencies for Food Investors *(Ryan's Court)*

Sponsored by Thread Fund and Philanthropy Northwest

This session is for funders who understand why they'd like to add investing to their work, but need to know more about how. Bring your questions about finding the right deals, how to decide whether to invest, and what is involved in managing an investment over time. We'll organize things with a light "operations framework," but the focus is funders talking to funders to understand the core functions of an investing program, especially for those taking the first steps.

Facilitators:

Tim Crosby, principal, Thread Fund, WA

Dawn McGee, CEO, Good Works Ventures; president, High Stakes Foundation, MT

Rosalie Sheehy Cates, senior advisor, the giving practice and impact investing catalyst fellow, Philanthropy Northwest, MO

Investing in Food: Using an Integrated Capital Approach to Catalyze Change In the Food System *(Grand Ballroom South)*

Sponsored by RSF Social Finance

Transforming our food system will require massive shifts in how and where capital flows. Grants are not the only tool, nor are they always the right tool to tackle these challenges. Foundations have a unique opportunity to blend multiple forms of capital (financial and non-financial) to best serve the needs of entrepreneurs and organizations fighting for a better food system. This session will highlight integrated capital examples where funders have coordinated the use of grants, loans, and investments in support of an enterprise and/or collaborated with others on an integrated capital strategy. We want to create a space for open dialogue and will ask the audience to share learnings and challenges to this approach. This session is geared to those already involved in investing and interested in digging into the details.

Facilitator:

Meredith Storton, *lending manager, Food and Agriculture, RSF Social Finance, CA*

Speakers:

Avery C. Anderson Sponholtz, *directing philanthropy for the Globetrotter Foundation and the #NoRegrets Initiative, NM*

Erin Axelrod, *co-founder, Force for Good, CA*

David LeZaks, *lead, Regenerative Food Systems, Delta Institute, WI*

Leveraging Philanthropic Capital Under New Farm Bill Policies to Build Regional Food Economies *(Yeager)*

The 2018 farm bill includes a new local and regional food provision that focuses on building partnerships across multiple stakeholders to develop regional food economies. This new partnership provision seeks to leverage federal investments with private capital. The goal for this session will be to share our collective knowledge, experience, and best practices with USDA regarding partnerships that build successful, equitable, and inclusive regional food economies.

Facilitator:

Stacey Barbas, *senior program officer, The Kresge Foundation, MI*

Soil Health, Climate Change Mitigation, and Regenerative Agriculture *(Grand Ballroom North)*

A 'soil health' movement is spreading rapidly in farm country as producers face depleted soils, climate change-driven floods and droughts, and shrinking margins. Join us for a discussion about promoting life in the soil, extended growing seasons, drought prevention, soil carbon sequestration, and regenerative agriculture. Funders interested in nutrition, health, water quality, grazing, and climate change will share how and why they are supporting this work.

Facilitators:

Greg Horner, *senior program officer, Cedar Tree Foundation, MA*

Brad Leibov, *president & CEO, Liberty Prairie Foundation, IL*

Un-Circling the Wagons: How Some Funders are Manifesting an Alternate Destiny by Investing in Native Communities and their Food Systems *(Knox)*

Sponsored by First Nations Development Institute

Building on the momentum and the lessons learned at the 2018 SAFSF Forum in Spokane, Washington, this in-depth session looks beyond the 'what' or 'how,' to address 'why' innovative funders find investing in Indian country projects important to the larger food system movement. Discover their reasons for funding these projects, whether it's an appreciation for millennia-old practices that parallel restorative ranching; an understanding that Tribal practice and policy govern millions of acres of land and the water rights at the heart of agricultural production; or an interest in advocating for land protections for some of our nation's untouched lands.

Recent research demonstrates that less than 23/100ths of 1% of private philanthropic funding goes to Indian-controlled projects. Who are these funders treading where others are not? What are they finding that adds value to the rest of their portfolio? And why should others care? Join them to hear about their voyages of discovery.

Facilitator:

Carol Pickering, *associate partner, Dietel Partners, ME*

Speakers:

Karla Miller, *program director, The Northwest Area Foundation, WI*

Chris Georgacas, *consultant, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, MN*

Linda Jo Doctor, *program officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, MI*

11-11:30 am Break and Snacks

11:30 am-12:30 pm SAFSF Network Update *(Grand Ballroom)*

Learn more about who we—and you—are as a network today, and what the future holds for SAFSF in our new status as an independent nonprofit. We'll talk about our short- and long-term plans, and leave plenty of time to hear from you about your engagement and expectations with SAFSF.

Speakers:

Virginia Clarke, *executive director, SAFSF, CA*

Jen Zuckerman, *director of strategic initiatives, World Food Policy Center, Duke University, NC*

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch *(Grand Ballroom)*

1:45-3:15 pm Ad Hoc Sessions

We know there are many burning issues we could not fit into our Forum agenda. Ad hoc sessions present an opportunity for you to host or join a conversation on a topic we missed, to go deeper on a discussion started earlier in the week, or to build out a new collaboration. Check the mobile guide for information about the conversation topics that have been proposed, or to add to the mix of topics as a host. Meeting spaces for ad hoc sessions will be announced in the mobile guide.

3:15-3:45 pm

Break

3:45-5:00 pm

Closing Plenary

Storytelling to Inspire Transformational Philanthropy *(Grand Ballroom)*

“When we deny our stories, they define us. When we run from struggle, we are never free. So we turn toward truth and look it in the eye.” –Brené Brown

To achieve transformation in ourselves, our work, and our world, we must “turn toward truth” and listen to our individual and collective stories. Stories are how we integrate and make meaning of facts and events. Some stories we tell pave over painful histories with what author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie describes as “single stories,” simplistic narratives that erase our shared humanity with stereotypes and prejudice. Other stories—ones where we share vulnerability, emotion, and laughter; make meaning of failures and mistakes; and admit and own our histories—can connect and unite us by touching our hearts.

As we close out the 2019 SAFSF Forum, we come together in the hopes of turning back to our own work inspired, with a deeper sense of connection and support with one another and in this community, and with a renewed willingness and even eagerness to continually question whether our approaches are really deconstructing power and privilege and achieving a more just society—or whether we are helping maintain an unjust status quo. Join us to hear three personal stories that will challenge and inspire us to use the power and capital we each have and hold—be it financial, social, or other—to cultivate justice, approach our work with intention and innovation, and achieve social change.

Moderator:

Jen Zuckerman, *director of strategic initiatives, World Food Policy Center, Duke University, NC*

Speakers:

Nephi Craig, *executive chef and founder, The Native American Culinary Association, NM*

Wildstyle Paschall, *roving listener, The Learning Tree, OH*

Rev. Dr. Fatimah Salleh, *founder, A Certain Work, NC*

5-6 pm

Break

6-9 pm

Party at the Ballpark

(Jim Beam Left Field Lounge, PNC Park, 115 Federal St, Pittsburgh – meet in lobby to join groups walking over at 5:45, 6, and 6:15 pm.)

Come celebrate all that we’ve shared and learned during the past three days at the Forum. Enjoy delicious food and libations, live music, engaging conversation, and plenty of fun during our closing party at PNC Park, home to the Pittsburgh Pirates, while taking in scenic views of Pittsburgh’s skyline and riverfront.