



# GLR WEEK 2021 JULY 26-30

*Bright Spots and Silver Linings*

## The CARE Fund: A Philanthropic Initiative to Meet the Moment A GLR Learning Tuesdays Funder-to-Funder Conversation

July 29, 2021 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

### *Panelist Bios*

#### MODERATOR



**Melissa A. Berman, Ph.D.**  
**President & CEO**  
**Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**  
**@RockPhilanth**

Melissa Berman is the founding President and CEO of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc., an innovative nonprofit philanthropy service launched by the Rockefeller family in 2002, whose mission is to help donors create thoughtful, effective philanthropy throughout the world. RPA provides services in planning, research, foundation management, donor collaboratives, regrants and fiscal sponsorship. RPA also publishes, convenes and speaks about innovations in thoughtful, effective philanthropy.

Melissa has led Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors since its inception, building it into one of the world's leading philanthropy services. An adjunct Professor at Columbia University's Business School, Melissa is also a director/trustee of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, the Adrian Brinkerhoff Foundation and Candid, formerly the Foundation Center and Guidestar. She serves on the Advisory Boards of the Marshall Center for Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship at the London School of Economics and the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia University. Melissa holds a B.A. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from Stanford University.

#### INTRODUCTIONS



**Traci Slater-Rigaud**  
**Director of Member Engagement & Partnerships**  
**United Philanthropy Forum**  
**@unitedphilforum**

Traci Slater-Rigaud is the Director of Member Engagement & Partnerships at the United Philanthropy Forum. Prior to coming to the Forum, Traci served as the Director of the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for over 12 years, under the Bush and the Obama administrations. She is the former Program Coordinator for Arts in Education with the National PTA where she managed the

Reflections Program. Before the National PTA, Traci was the Curator of Education at Miami Art Museum. Her background also includes the role of Public Programs Manager at the Baltimore Museum of Art. She currently serves on the board for the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center (SEEC) as well as a member of the Arts & Advocacy Curatorial Committee for the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE).

At the core of every endeavor throughout her career is catalyzing racial equity and social justice through the arts and philanthropy. Traci holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Science and a Masters of Arts in Art Education, both from the University of Cincinnati.

## PRESENTERS



**Barbara Chow**  
**Education Program Director**  
**Heising-Simons Foundation**  
**@HSFdn | @BarbaraAChow**

Barbara Chow is the director of the Education program at the Heising-Simons Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, she completed an eight-year term as the director of the Education program for the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Before that, Barbara was the policy director of the House Budget Committee and the executive director of the National Geographic Education Foundation. During the Clinton administration, she served as deputy director of the Domestic Policy Council, associate director for Education, Income Maintenance, and Labor programs at the Office of Management and Budget, and special assistant to the president for White House Legislative Affairs. Previously, she also worked for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee and the Senate Budget Committee. Barbara earned a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in government from Pomona College.



**Erin Currier**  
**Program Officer, Family Economic Security**  
**W.K. Kellogg Foundation**  
**@WK\_Kellogg\_Fdn | @CurrierErin**

Erin Currier is a program officer for Family Economic Security at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan, and is co-chair of the CARE Fund.

As a member of the Family Economic Security team, Erin is responsible for identifying and nurturing opportunities for affecting positive systemic change within communities, and executing programming efforts that align with the foundation's strategic plan. She and the team advance grantmaking designed to further workforce mobility and financial stability for low-income families. She works closely with staff across the foundation to ensure integration and coordination of efforts; maintains strong relationships with grantees, grantseekers and partners; and provides leadership and oversight for on-the-ground execution of foundation investments.

Prior to joining the foundation, Erin served as director of the Financial Security and Mobility Project with The Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C. In this role, Erin was responsible for supervising and managing all aspects of the \$5 million project, spearheading fundraising, and leading a targeted national communications strategy to amplify the program, serving as a spokesperson. She cultivated and

maintained partnerships with diverse stakeholders, as seen by her work to build the first-ever bipartisan Economic Mobility Caucus in the United States Senate.

Prior to this, Erin served as acting CEO with Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment. In this role, she was responsible for oversight of the organization's operating budget and finances, program and policy agenda, and fundraising efforts. She developed and implemented special grant projects within the national office and in coordination with state and local members with the purpose of delivering education and job training to low-income women. Erin has also served as public relations and outreach lead with Science Applications International Corporation and technical writer/program analyst at the Federal Aviation Administration with Subsystem Technologies, Inc., both in Washington, DC.

Erin has served as a volunteer board member with Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment and the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, both in Washington, D.C. She holds a master's degree in public policy and women's studies from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a bachelor's degree in English and sociology from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



**Anna Wadia**  
**Senior Program Officer, Future of Work(ers)**  
**Ford Foundation**  
**@FordFoundation**

Anna Shireen Wadia is a senior program officer in the foundation's Future of Work(ers) program, which seeks to ensure that there is a meaningful future of work that places workers and their well-being at the center. She also serves as co-chair of the CARE Fund. Anna has been with Ford since 2009 where her grant making has focused on improving economic security and the quality of jobs for low-wage workers and their families by supporting efforts to raise the minimum wage, guarantee paid sick days, and develop new paid family and medical leave programs.

Anna was previously a consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Ms. Foundation for Women, the National Council for Research on Women, and MDRC. Prior to launching her consulting business, she was co-director of programs for the Ms. Foundation for Women, where she managed a funder collaborative focused on women's economic development. Earlier in her career, she carried out community and economic development programming for the Ford Foundation and Catholic Relief Services in Africa. Anna co-authored *Kitchen Table Entrepreneurs: How Eleven Women Escaped Poverty and Became Their Own Bosses* (Westview, 2002), as well as several reports on best practices in grant making and women's economic empowerment.

Anna holds a master's degree in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree from Yale University.