

The New York Community Trust

MEDIA KIT

The Trust offers journalists access to a knowledgeable team of experts on topics such as affordable housing, criminal justice, education, urban environment, health, and workforce development. For reporters interested in philanthropy, our community foundation has specialists who can talk about trends in giving. We can also connect you to nonprofits in New York City, Westchester County, and Long Island that are working on the ground to address our region's most pressing issues.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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NEWS RELEASES AND PUBLICATIONS

- **NEWS RELEASES:** Contact Courtney Biggs to get email announcements and news releases from The Trust. You can also access our full archive of releases on our Press page.
- **GRANTS NEWS:** Sign up receive our newsletters, published several times a year, providing insights from staff and donors, along with reports about how our funding makes a difference.

ABOUT THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST

The Trust is the community foundation for New York City, Westchester, and Long Island. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, families, and businesses—and the guidance of their professional advisors—we are one of the largest funders of local nonprofits.

We support programs and projects to improve the lives of all New Yorkers, with an emphasis on promoting healthy lives, promising futures, and thriving communities. Our

competitive grants are made possible by funds set up by donor bequests and wills and are announced five times a year. See most recent announcement [here](#). The Trust has many living donors who suggest grants from donor-advised funds. Also, several funder collaboratives are housed at The Trust, they combine the thinking and resources of several foundations and make grants throughout the year.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

You can find updated financial statements in the About section of our website.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In 1924, The New York Community Trust was formed by 11 banks to make grants more effectively from charitable trusts they held. Though it was one of the first community foundations, today, it is one of more than 700 throughout the country.
- In 1931, The Trust created the first donor-advised fund. William Barstow wanted to actively give back during his lifetime but didn't want to create a private foundation; he also wanted to leave a permanent legacy. The Trust created the first donor-advised fund for him.
- To make sure nonprofit organizations serving our contiguous suburbs flourish, The New York Community Trust created offices in Westchester County in 1975 and Long Island in 1978.

OUR EXPERTS

ARTS EDUCATION | Leigh Ross

CENSUS | Eve Stotland

CHARITABLE NEW YORKERS | John Oddy and Marie D'Costa

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | Chantella Mitchell

DISABILITIES | Rachel Pardoe

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS | John Oddy

EDUCATION – K-12 | Eve Stotland

EDUCATION REFORM | Barbara Taveras

ENVIRONMENT | Arturo Garcia-Costas

GRANTMAKING | Shawn Morehead

HEALTH – MEDICAL | Irfan Hasan

HEALTH - BEHAVIORIAL/MENTAL HEALTH | Irfan Hasan

HOUSING | Chantella Mitchell

HUMAN SERVICES | Chantella Mitchell

IMMIGRATION | Eve Stotland

LEGAL ISSUES (Estate Planning, Wills, Charitable Giving) | Carrie Trowbridge

LEGAL SERVICES | Eve Stotland

LONG ISLAND | David Okorn

OLDER ADULTS | Rachel Pardoe

PHILANTHROPY (General) | Amy Freitag

SOLID WASTE | Arturo Garcia-Costas

VOTING | Eve Stotland

WESTCHESTER COUNTY | Laura Rossi

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | Roderick Jenkins

YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS | Leigh Ross

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT | Roderick Jenkins

BIOGRAPHIES

Marie D’Costa – Vice President and Chief Development Officer

Marie works with donors to create personalized philanthropic legacies and oversees The Trust’s marketing initiatives. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Philanthropic Planning Group of Greater New York, Women in Development, and the Advancement Network. She has a B.A. in public relations and advertising and an M.A. in international relations, both from the City College of New York, CUNY. She serves on the board of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation and served on the board of BronxWorks.

Amy Freitag – President

Amy Freitag became president of The New York Community Trust in July 2022. For the prior eight years, she was executive director of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, a 75-year-old family foundation based in New York City. During her tenure, she initiated the J.M.K. Innovation Prize and led grantmaking in criminal justice reform, climate change, democracy, and historical conservation, including several Civil Rights sites.

Freitag previously was executive director of the New York Restoration Project, which led a private effort to plant one million new trees in New York City. Prior to that, she was the U.S. program director for the World Monuments Fund and deputy commissioner for

capital projects with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. She served on the NYC Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers and currently sits on the boards of Philanthropy New York and the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation.

Freitag was raised in Akron, Ohio, and holds an A.B. from Smith College and master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

Arturo Garcia-Costas – Senior Program Officer, Local, National, and International Environment

Arturo manages The Trust's national and New York City environmental grantmaking program as well as our Appalachia grantmaking. He serves on the board of Friends of the Earth-US. He has a B.A. in International Affairs and Theater from the City University of New York, a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where he focused on international and environmental law, and an M.S. in Urban Policy and Leadership from Hunter College.

Kadisha Gordon – Program Officer for Education and Scholarships

Kadisha manages grantmaking in New York City public education in addition to The Trust's scholarships, awards, and fellowships. She also oversees projects and grants to ensure that the city's public schools provide all students with the opportunity to reach their full potential, and to graduate- prepared for college and work. Kadisha is passionate about equity, education, and social justice and is excited about the opportunity to strategically align the Trust's philanthropic goals with New York City's needs.

With over 10 years of experience in education and the nonprofit sector, Kadisha holds her B.A. in public justice and journalism from SUNY Oswego and her M.A. in school and guidance counseling from NYU. In her most recent role, she served as the director of college and academic services at University Settlement Society of New York.

Irfan Hasan – Vice President for Grants

Irfan directs the Healthy Lives grantmaking program at The Trust, and oversees health, behavioral health, and biomedical research grants. Irfan also oversees \$12 million of grants to organizations nationally designated as grantees through donor bequests. He serves on the boards of Philanthropy New York and Grantmakers In Health. Irfan is a member of Philanthropy New York's Health Working Group, co-chair of the American Public Health Association's Public Health Funder Network, an elected fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, a member of the North American chapter of the Global Leadership Exchange, and a member of the governance committee of the Substance Use Funders Collaborative. Irfan has a B.Sc. from Northeastern University and a Master's in Public Administration from New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Roderick Jenkins – Program Director, Promising Futures

Roderick manages The Trust's grantmaking for youth and workforce development. He leads our work to reform criminal justice and to increase youth employment and help

disconnected youth. Roderick is chair of the New York City Youth Funders Network and a board member of Advocates for Children. He earned his undergraduate degree from LIU Global College (formerly Friends World College) and a master's in social work from Hunter College.

Chantella Mitchell – Program Officer, Community Development, Housing and Human Services

Chantella is The New York Community Trust's Program Officer for Community Development, Housing and Human Services. Prior to joining The Trust, she served as an executive director in the Office of Development at the NYC Department of Housing Preservation. Chantella has a long track record in public service positions, including stints as a director of operations at HPD and a senior budget analyst for the Housing and Economic Development Taskforce at the NYC Mayor's Office of Management and Budget. She has a M.S. in social work from Columbia University and B.A. from Vanderbilt University and is a former Trust Fellow.

Shawn Morehead – Vice President, Grantmaking

Shawn oversees The Trust's competitive grantmaking program, which distributes approximately \$50 million annually. Prior to this position, she served as The Trust's program director for human justice and education grantmaking. She received a B.A. from Columbia University and a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

John Oddy – Vice President, Donor Relations

John works directly with donors to help them deepen the impact of their philanthropy and identify the most effective strategies for their giving. He is a frequent speaker on donor trends, the philanthropic landscape, and has a special interest in the arts and humanities. John is a graduate of Bard College and has a M.A. in Urban Planning from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

David M. Okorn – Executive Director, Long Island Office

David has been executive director for Long Island since 2010. He began his career at The Trust in 2008 as director of advancement and donor relations. Previously, he was senior vice president of development and external relations at Abilities, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of adults and children with disabilities. David has also held positions as director of community relations at KeySpan and executive director of the KeySpan Foundation. He serves on the Long Island State Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commission.

Rachel Pardoe – Senior Program Officer, Older Adults, People with Disabilities, Animal Welfare

Rachel oversees The Trust's grantmaking for older adults, people with disabilities, including the blind and those with visual impairments, and animal welfare. She has a B.A. in psychology from New York University and a master's in public administration from

New York University's Wagner School of Public Service.

Leigh Ross – Program Officer, Girls & Young Women, Arts Education

Leigh manages The Trust's grantmaking for arts education and girls and young women. Leigh received a B.F.A. from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and an M.A. from Columbia University's Teachers College.

Laura Rossi – Executive Director, Westchester Office

Laura leads The Trust's efforts in Westchester County by bringing together donors, funders, nonprofit leaders, and other partners to understand the root causes of persistent challenges and emerging needs and developing a shared approach to improving the quality of life in Westchester. She began her career at The Trust in 2007 as a program officer. She holds a J.D. from New York Law School and a B.A. from St. John's College in New Mexico.

Eve Stotland – Senior Program Officer, Education, Human Justice

Eve manages education and human justice grantmaking for The Trust. She received a B.A. from Brown University and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

Barbara Taveras – Special Projects Officer

Barbara administers several Trust initiatives, including grantmaking from the Brooke Astor Fund for New York City Education. She has a B.A. from Pace University and an M.A. in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University. She was a Revson Fellow at Columbia University.

Carrie Trowbridge – General Counsel

Carrie advises charitable New Yorkers and their professional advisors on creating funds in The Trust and on other charitable matters. She is also responsible for a broad range of legal issues for The Trust. Prior to joining The Trust, Carrie served as associate general counsel and director of nonprofit practice at New York University. Previously, she was an associate in the tax-exempt organizations practice group at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, which she joined after serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Charles S. Haight, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Carrie received a B.A. from Yale University, a doctorate in English Literature from Oxford University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

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