



PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS, UNLIKELY ALLIES: BRIDGING DIVIDES IN HUMAN RIGHTS GRANTMAKING THROUGH INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

JULY 11, 2011
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
VANDERBILT HALL

INSTITUTE OBJECTIVES

During the institute, participants will:

- Gain an understanding of why forging partnerships between “unlikely allies” is a useful advocacy strategy.
- Take away examples of how building coalitions among stakeholders that have traditionally been pitted against each other can help secure campaign successes.
- Learn about different models of funder collaboration to support social justice and human rights work.
- Explore opportunities for funders and advocates to partner together to improve their effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes.

AGENDA

8:30-9:00 am	Breakfast and Registration
9:00-9:30 am	Welcome, Introductions, and Orientation Shari Silberstein, Executive Director, Equal Justice USA <i>What do we mean by “unlikely allies”? How can working together across divides contribute to lasting change? When do we decide that the pitfalls are too great for movement-building, and when do we decide it is worth the risks?</i>

AGENDA (continued)

9:30-10:00 am	<p>Building Coalitions with Unlikely Allies: Experiences on the Ground David Rogers, Executive Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice Shari Silberstein, Executive Director, Equal Justice USA</p> <p><i>Participants will take off their “funder hat” and think about a movement on which they focus most. Who are the “unlikely allies”? What are the benefits to working together? What are the barriers?</i></p>
10:00-10:30 am	<p>Case Study: Partnerships for Safety and Justice David Rogers, Executive Director, Partnership for Safety and Justice</p> <p><i>Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ) works with all those most impacted by crime, violence, and the criminal justice system. The current system regularly pits the rights of “victims” against people charged with and convicted of a crime. By shifting issue frames and re-thinking its actual vision for change, PSJ is forging a coherent and effective approach to advocate for a system that better meets the needs of all impacted people.</i></p>
10:30-10:45 am	Break
10:45-11:15 am	<p>Case Study: Equal Justice USA Shari Silberstein, Executive Director, Equal Justice USA</p> <p><i>Equal Justice USA is a national leader in the movement to end the death penalty, building bridges across diverse stakeholder communities that don't often work together. This case example will share lessons and strategies for authentic collaboration with victims' families and law enforcement and how these partnerships have led to both paradigm shifts and concrete policy change.</i></p>
11:15 am-12:15 pm	<p>Discussion: Strategies for Effective Movement-Building</p> <p><i>What principles and lessons from the case studies are critical to apply in the movements with which you work? How do advocates decide that the pitfalls of working with unlikely allies are too great, and when it is worth the risks? What kind of organizational, individual, and movement capacities are needed to effectively advance deeper partnerships despite differences?</i></p>
12:15-1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15-1:45 pm	<p>Collaboration Among Funders: Models and Strategies Sue Simon, Director, U.S. Human Rights Fund</p> <p><i>Participants will share their own experiences with funder collaborations, including obstacles, opportunities, and aspirations.</i></p>

AGENDA (continued)

1:45-3:00 pm	<p>Case Study and Discussion: Funders for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (FADP) Kica Matos, Programme Executive and Head, U.S. Reconciliation & Human Rights Programme, The Atlantic Philanthropies Martha Toll, Executive Director, Butler Family Fund</p> <p><i>The objective of the FADP is to abolish the death penalty in the United States. It is a funder collaborative, with pooled and non-pooled funds, and is comprised of small and large funders. This network works closely with grantees and has established a continual information loop on which funders base strategic decisions. Participants will glean from this case study the best practices to apply and pitfalls to avoid in their own funder collaboration models.</i></p>
3:00-3:15 pm	Break
3:15-4:30 pm	<p>Case Study and Discussion: Juvenile Life Without Parole (JLWOP) Kirsten Livingston, Program Officer, Justice Sector Reform, Ford Foundation Martha Toll, Executive Director, Butler Family Fund Sue Simon, Director, U.S. Human Rights Fund</p> <p><i>A collaborative fund was created to support efforts aimed at ending “life without parole” sentences for juveniles. Like FADP, the JLWOP fund also partners with advocates. With the imminent “sunsetting” of the fund, stakeholders ponder how they can maintain momentum on the issue and sustainability of the litigation and advocacy field. Participants will glean from this case study the best practices to apply and pitfalls to avoid in their own funder collaboration models.</i></p>
4:30-5:00 pm	<p>Reflection, Evaluation, and Closing Sue Simon, Director, U.S. Human Rights Fund</p> <p><i>So, after hearing from your peers about movement-building, the inherent challenges therein, and some of ways to address those challenges, do you think it’s all worth the risks?</i></p>

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