



Investing in the Future: Philanthropy's Role in Strategic Public Financing for Children

A CGLR Funder-to-Funder Conversation

March 19, 2024 | 12:30–2 pm ET/9:30–11 am PT

Panelist Bios

MODERATOR



Elizabeth Gaines
Founder and CEO
Children's Funding Project
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Elizabeth is the founder and chief executive officer of Children's Funding Project. Begun in 2018, Children's Funding Project is the response to Elizabeth's 25 year career in child advocacy that persistently led her to question whether adequate resources were being directed to children. Her career began with leading after-school and community-based youth programs at the Atwood Community Center in Madison, Wisconsin. She later served as youth policy analyst for Citizens for Missouri's Children, followed by 13 years at the Forum for Youth Investment, where she helped policy leaders develop tools and techniques to improve their use of data, increase their policy alignment, and more efficiently apply resources for greater impact. Elizabeth is also the executive director of Children's Funding Accelerator, the advocacy arm of Children's Funding Project.

As an expert on children's policy at the state and local level, Elizabeth has worked with communities in nearly all 50 states to establish children's cabinets, conduct fiscal maps, and pursue dedicated funding for youth. Her publications include: *The Adding It Up Guide to Mapping Public Resources for Children, Youth and Families*; the Forum for Youth Investment papers on state children's cabinets and councils; *How Public Policy Can Support Collective Impact*, co-authored with FSG; and a collaboration on *Funding Our Future: Generating State and Local Tax Revenue for Quality Early Care and Education*. Since 2018, Elizabeth has guided Children's Funding Project through over 40 projects with national networks, state and local governments, advocates, and youth leaders. A native of St. Louis, MO, Elizabeth attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently resides in Washington, D.C.

PRESENTERS



Todd A. Battiste
Senior Vice President, Education & Youth
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)

Todd Battiste serves as Senior Vice President for Education & Youth Initiatives with United Way of Southeast Louisiana (UWSELA), wherein he is responsible

for formulating, directing, and managing priorities, strategies, and implementation of initiatives within UWSELA's Education impact area. Todd prides himself on *Enhancing Programs, Engaging Philanthropy, and Enacting Policy*.

Todd is a native of New Orleans, graduated from Southern University at New Orleans with a bachelor's in Psychology, Xavier University at New Orleans with a master's in Business/Industry Counseling, and the University of New Orleans with a Master's in Public Administration and is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Todd is married to Caryn Rodgers-Battiste and the proud father of two sons, Todd II, and Dillon.



Heather Flaherty
Executive Director
Chuckanut Health Foundation
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Heather Flaherty joined as the fourth executive of the Chuckanut Health Foundation in January of 2019. Prior to the Chuckanut Health Foundation, Heather served as Director of the RiverStyx Foundation and Operations Director for the Raptor Group, managing Human Resources for several restaurants and food manufacturing companies in addition to managing strategic giving for the foundation. Starting her career at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center as the Executive Assistant to the CEO, she brings experience in healthcare administration, business management, and community health to the Chuckanut Health Foundation. Heather earned both her Bachelors of Science in Community Health and Masters in Business Administration from Western Washington University. When Heather is not working, you can find her spending time with her family and friends, hiking, and taking photos.



September Jarrett, M.P.P
Program Officer, Education
Heising-Simons Foundation
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Heising-Simons: [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

September Jarrett is a program officer for the Education program of the Heising-Simons Foundation, focusing on policy and systems change in California. Prior to her work at the Foundation, September served as executive director of San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education, as well as program director at the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund. Early in her career, she helped develop the Child Care Facilities Fund of the Low Income Investment Fund, an award-winning public-private partnership designed to expand the supply of high-quality early care and education facilities.



Trevor Storrs

President & CEO

Alaska Children's Trust

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Trevor Storrs is a distinguished leader in the nonprofit sector, with a rich history of advocacy, innovation, and community engagement spanning nearly three decades. Currently serving as the President & CEO of the Alaska Children's Trust (ACT), Trevor brings a wealth of experience and dedication to ensuring children and families have access to the knowledge, skills, support, and resources to thrive.

With a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Lethbridge and a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from Gallaudet University, Trevor's educational background provided a solid foundation for his career dedicated to serving underserved and underserved communities. Beginning his professional career in Alaska in 1997, Trevor quickly immersed himself in nonprofit work, eventually serving as the Director of Services for a leading nonprofit supporting individuals with physical and developmental disabilities.

In his subsequent role as Executive Director of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's), Trevor played a pivotal role in elevating the organization to statewide prominence, transforming it from a grassroots initiative into a medium-sized nonprofit recognized for its impactful contributions to the HIV/AIDS community.

Trevor's commitment to community service extends far beyond his professional endeavors. He is a dedicated volunteer for a variety of local, state, and national boards, including serving as a founding member and first President of the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. Additionally, Trevor has been actively involved in grassroots efforts advocating for equal rights and social justice.

Trevor Storrs's tenure at the Alaska Children's Trust has been marked by transformative leadership and a steadfast commitment to the organization's mission of preventing child abuse and neglect. As President & CEO, Trevor has spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at effecting lasting change in the lives of Alaska's children and families. Through his tireless advocacy and innovative strategies, Trevor has inspired a new era of collaboration and action in the fight against child abuse, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of child welfare in Alaska.