



Seeding Knowledge: Harnessing Philanthropy to Cultivate Learning in Everyday Spaces

A CGLR Funder-to-Funder Conversation

May 21, 2024 | 12:30–2 pm ET/9:30–11 am PT

Panelist Bios

MODERATOR



Jane Park

Senior Content Strategist

Google Kids & Families

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Jane Park is a Senior Content Strategist at Google where she is leading efforts to create high-quality online experiences for children and families around the world. In her role, she drives content partnerships with product teams across Google, as well as with external partners to light up fun, engaging, and enriching experiences that meet the core developmental needs of children—while supporting parents and educators with tools to help kids navigate the online world safely and confidently.

She previously served as the Director of Too Small to Fail, the early childhood initiative of the Clinton Foundation, where she led partnerships with corporations, nonprofits, and associations to scale a national public awareness and action campaign designed to promote children’s early brain and language development. Through this role, Jane was passionate about forging innovative, cross-sector collaborations to create more equitable access to playful, inclusive, literacy-rich environments in the everyday spaces families visit. Prior to this role, Jane was the Associate Director of Content in the Education, Research, and Outreach department at Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street. She worked with a team to develop the whole child curriculum on which the television series is based and collaborated across the organization to integrate Sesame Street’s educational content through various platforms—including print, video, and web. Jane also wrote numerous publications to support parents/caregivers through challenging situations, including military deployment, natural disasters, and economic and food insecurity. Jane holds an M.A. in developmental psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University and a B.A. in communications from the University of California at San Diego. She is a child of first generation immigrants from Korea (who learned English watching Sesame Street), and a mom of two children and their sweet Poodle, Lucy.

PANELISTS



Amanda Charles

Program Officer

William Penn Foundation

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Amanda is a Program Officer in Great Learning at the William Penn Foundation with a grantmaking portfolio focused on building literacy rich environments for our youngest learners including opportunities for children to build literacy skills outside of schools and in early childhood education centers. Previously, Amanda worked as a child care specialist with the Arlington County Government in Virginia, balancing caseload management of child care facilities while working collaboratively to improve program quality.

Amanda holds a master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in education from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, where she majored in elementary and special education.



Perri Chinalai

**Managing Director, Program Strategy and Innovation, *Too Small to Fail*
The Clinton Foundation**

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Perri Chinalai is Managing Director of Program Strategy & Innovation at *Too Small to Fail*, the early childhood initiative of the Clinton Foundation. Perri oversees the Initiative's partnerships with locally based non-profits, state and government agencies, corporations, and national organizations. She also leads the scaling of *Too Small to Fail*'s "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" campaigns focused on providing parents and caregivers with information about children's early brain development. Before joining *Too Small to Fail*, Perri served as Managing Director at StoryCorps where she designed and implemented initiatives focused on serving culturally diverse communities. Perri holds a master's degree in media studies from The New School and a bachelor's degree in photography and art history from the Rhode Island School of Design.



Beth Duda

**Director, Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
The Patterson Foundation**

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Since May of 2015, Beth Duda has been one of the driving forces of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (SCGLR). SCGLR is a four-county effort in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties to help children from birth through 3rd grade, especially those from asset-limited families, succeed in life by ensuring they read on grade level. As the director of SCGLR, Beth works closely with local lead partners— Community Foundation of Sarasota County, United Way Suncoast, and United Way of Charlotte County—to drive progress in the region. To embed lasting change, the future-focused partners strive to collaborate with every sector: people, business, nonprofits, government, and the media. Multiple Pacesetter Honors from the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (annually since 2014) affirm the success of SCGLR's collaborative effort and its work. Pacesetter Honors highlight communities that make measurable progress on key indicators of early school success, including early literacy and school readiness, chronic absenteeism and its effects on reading progress, and mitigating summer



Eric Guckian

**President & CEO
United Way of the Greater Triangle**

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Eric Guckian is the CEO of United Way of the Greater Triangle, a nonprofit organization committed to investing in community driven solutions that advance racial and economic justice. Eric has served in this role for six years and led a dramatic turnaround in the organization's impact, relevance, and commitment to equity. He has helped to launch such innovative solutions as the Triangle 10 to Watch and the Triangle Rapid Response Fund. He has also secured national partnerships with McKenzie Scott and the Novo Foundation. Since the pandemic began, United Way has invested over \$25M into the Triangle, supporting hundreds of nonprofit and community organizations to help people millions of times over.

Guckian has spent his entire career bridging the gaps between public, private, and nonprofit entities to drive access and opportunity for children and families. He has served as the Executive Director of Teach for America – North Carolina, Executive Director of New Leaders (a development model for principals and school leaders), and has advised both North Carolina

Governor McCrory and Governor Hunt on educational issues. During his two years serving as the Senior Education Advisor for the state, he helped to facilitate the two highest teacher raises in the nation. In 2015, Eric was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civic honor, for his service.



Bryan Stokes, II

Director, Education Portfolio

Robert M. McCormick Foundation

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Bryan Stokes serves as Education Portfolio Director at the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. In this role he leads the foundation's investments in programs and initiatives serving families with children birth through kindergarten. Prior to joining McCormick, he most recently served as Chief of Early Childhood Education at Chicago Public Schools and worked to build a universal preschool system that ensures that every child in Chicago is ready for school success.

Bryan began his career as a classroom teacher at the Carole Robertson Center for Learning before spending six years leading early childhood and youth development programs at Gads Hill Center, which serves more than 4,500 children on Chicago's Southwest Side. His range of professional experience in the early childhood sector includes managing implementation of the state's Preschool Development Grant in the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development and serving as Vice President of Early Learning at Illinois Action for Children.

Bryan holds a Master's degree in English Literature from Penn State. Originally from Detroit, Michigan, he came to Chicago as a Teach for America corps member in 2007. He is a member of the Illinois Early Learning Council as well as a board member of the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) and the HighScope Educational Research Foundation.