



ABOUT AMB WEST

AMB West Philanthropies comprises the nonprofit interests of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in the Western United States, and includes West Creek Ranch, AMB West Community Fund, AMB West Conservation, AMB West Base Camp, and AMB West Challenge Course. Through grantmaking, convening, advocacy and in-kind programs, AMB West Philanthropies promotes positive change in peoples' lives, and builds and enhances the communities in which they live and work.

The associate-led AMB West Community Fund gives staff at Mountain Sky Guest Ranch and West Creek Ranch the opportunity to give back to their local communities through grantmaking focused on early childhood development, youth empowerment and development, community wellness, and youth suicide prevention. Since 2001, the associate-led AMB West Community Fund has granted \$8 million to improve quality of life in Montana, particularly in Park and Gallatin counties.

After purchasing West Creek Ranch in 2017, Arthur Blank transformed the property into an inspired space offered by invitation-only to select nonprofit organizations, business partners, and associates of The Blank Family of Businesses. The ranch provides the perfect setting for meetings, leadership development, social gatherings, recreation and inspiration.

We are committed to conservation in Montana—managing our property and associated businesses in a responsible and sustained manner as a valued neighbor and community member.

As the largest landowner in Park County with 27,000 acres, Arthur Blank is dedicated to maintaining easements on portions of West Creek Ranch, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch and Paradise Valley Ranch in order to protect the land for conservation. Respecting the traditions of ranching, AMB West is a leader in cattle operations, weed mitigation, water conservation, and producing hay for livestock. Respecting the importance

of the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, AMB West strives to protect native wildlife/vegetation and the health of the Yellowstone River, while also being good neighbors to the special public lands and communities around the ranches. Further, the AMB West Conservation Fund provides grant funding, thought leadership and convening to help nonprofit organizations improve the long-term health of the upper Yellowstone River watershed with grants focused on water quality, wildlife habitat and the ability for working landowners to remain on the land.

AMB West Basecamp, AMB West Challenge Course and Rising Sun Golf Course are offered at no cost to youth-serving and community organizations that use the outdoors and nature to educate, build trust and create connections among Montana children.

AMB
WEST





IMAGE BY BECCA FRUCHT



POWER, EQUITY AND DEMOCRACY

Through its Civic Engagement and Government program, the Ford Foundation convened an intimate and diverse group of scholars, lawyers, advocates, organizers, activists and artists to foster new relationships and inspire new and ambitious thinking about how to reframe and reclaim democratic participation as a fundamental American value. Attendees discussed how to harness grassroots energy that's both organic and intentional while building new relationships, expanding existing partnerships, and learning about diverse approaches to increase civic engagement.

“

I am so grateful for such an incredible and transformative space. It goes without saying that it is breathtakingly beautiful, but equally important was the care and nurturing that every single person felt while we were there. It was abundantly clear that the entire West Creek staff is committed to executing Mr. Blank's vision for the property. Within a few days, they knew our names, how we take our coffee, who were early risers and who preferred quiet mornings. And West Creek worked its magic—participants made new and important connections, deepened relationships and came up with big, bold ideas.

”

ERIKA WOOD
FORD FOUNDATION

ABOUT THE FORD FOUNDATION'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The Ford Foundation's work puts the people systematically excluded from government participation at the center of efforts to reform and protect democratic processes. They support a mix of grassroots, policy, and advocacy organizations led by people of color, women, immigrants, people with disabilities, youth, and the LGBTQ+ community. Ford targets communities that have traditionally been silenced to ensure every voice is heard.

Ford works with these communities to create more opportunities for civic leadership and participation. They focus on both the formal ways in which people are seen and heard—specifically a fair, accurate census and the right to vote—and the informal ways people can exercise civic leadership and collective power every day in pursuit of social justice.

Ford's work concentrates on four integrated areas:

- Building bridges between grassroots organizations and policy and legal advocates to become more effective in tackling critical issues and barriers to civic engagement
- Strengthening the power of grassroots organizations and organizing networks to ensure these important players are elevated as leaders and issue advocates
- Developing the next generation of civic leaders by supporting the growth of historically marginalized people, in particular young people and emerging leaders
- Fostering coordination and collaboration between philanthropy and organizations focused on civic engagement



FORDFOUNDATION

CONTACT

ERIKA WOOD
E.WOOD@FORDFOUNDATION.ORG

PARTICIPANTS

JEFF ARNOLD, SHARECARE
DAWN WHALEY, SHARECARE
DON BAYLOR, JR., THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION
REGINA BENJAMIN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 18TH SURGEON GENERAL
KRISTEN BERMAN, IRRATIONAL LABS
CC HUANG, IRRATIONAL LABS
ARTHUR BLANK, THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION
PENELOPE MCPHEE, THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION
LAUREN BLOCK, NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION
MAYA BRENNAN, URBAN INSTITUTE
TRACEY BROWN, AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION
DAN BUETTNER, BLUE ZONES
BEN LEEDLE, BLUE ZONES
BRIAN CASTRUCCI, DE BEAUMONT FOUNDATION
DANTE CHINNI, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
KEN COOPER, COOPER AEROBICS
JOE DALY, GALLUP
JAN-EMMANUEL DE NEVE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
AUDE-LINE DULIERE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DAVID FUKUZAWA, THE KRESGE FOUNDATION
NATALIE GILBERT, AMB WEST
TAWNYA RUPE, AMB WEST
TIMOTHY GOODLY, AMB GROUP
CAMARA JONES, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
RICHARD LAYARD, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
POONACHA MACHAIAH, CHOPRA CENTER FOR WELLBEING
JULIE MCCRAE, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
SARAH MILLIGAN-TOFFLER, CHILDREN AND NATURE NETWORK
TYLER NORRIS, WELL BEING TRUST
SUE POLIS, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES
MICHIEL RAUWS, X2 AI
JOHN RICH, DREXEL CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
LAURIE SANTOS, YALE UNIVERSITY
JAY SHETTY, JAY SHETTY, LLC
JESSAMYN STANLEY, JESSAMYN STANLEY, LLC
THOMAS VAN GILDER, WALMART STORES, INC.
ROBERT WALDINGER, HARVARD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

THE STATE OF WELL-BEING IN AMERICA: AN INNOVATION LAB

“The State of Well-Being in America: An Innovation Lab” brought together experts from key fields of research and leaders who control financial resources or policy agendas that shape outcomes for millions of Americans. Starting with a shared understanding of the current research on well-being, as well as what’s worked at the intervention level, the West Creek Ranch program stimulated innovation through one or more key sectors: philanthropy; local and state government; business; media and popular culture; and health and medicine.

“

This was a mind-altering week! You put together a group of people and a set of activities that coalesced into one of the most stimulating and energizing gatherings I have ever attended.

”

DR. ROBERT WALDINGER
HARVARD PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK
FAMILY FOUNDATION

CONTACT

JOHN BARE
JBARE@AMBFO.COM



With U.S. life expectancy on the decline for three years in a row—even before COVID-19—the *British Medical Journal* observed, “Something is amiss in the health of Americans.” Princeton professors point to “deaths of despair” in describing the rising number of deaths by suicide, drugs and alcohol.

In short, too many Americans are not well. And they are not happy.

In response, a robust well-being movement has emerged, fueled by gurus, researchers, policy advocates, technology companies and media—all of whom understand that Americans are hungry for answers. The enthusiasm is evident in the millions of viewers seeking help via online experts, such as Jay Shetty, and the popularity of city and state rankings of the happiest places to live.

To stimulate experimentation and creative problem-solving on the state of well-being in America, Arthur Blank hosted an “innovation lab” at West Creek Ranch in 2019. Thirty of the world’s leading experts on well-being participated in the week-long program, exploring breakthrough solutions on well-being through health and medicine; media and popular culture; business; local and state government; philanthropy; and behavioral economics.

“I go to easily 75 conferences a year. None of them has this kind of maniacal focus on having an outcome. This is where it starts. What will come out of here will seed evidence-based, measured well-being programs that you’re going to look back at ten years from now and say, ‘How come we didn’t think of this before?’”

DAN BUETTNER
FOUNDER, BLUE ZONES

Of the more than two dozen ideas emerging from the lab, the Blank Family Foundation board awarded four grants in 2019. AMBFF will convene the grant partners in Fall 2020.

ALIVE AND WELL / UI VENTURES, LLC

PROJECT LEAD: DR. GALEN COLE, ATLANTA

\$400,000 for an 18-month demonstration project that will test scalable approaches for training for up to 135 therapists who will provide treatment to veterans, rural Georgia and military bases. ICON Media is a partner.

AMERICAN COMMUNITIES PROJECT

PROJECT LEAD: DANTE CHINNI, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

\$400,000 over two years for the American Communities Project to implement “Understanding the Geography of Deaths of Despair,” which will include original mapping, analytics, and stories featuring specific cases in Georgia and Montana.

LIFESPAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

DR. ROBERT WALDINGER, HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

\$600,000 over two years to design and test “Road Maps for Life Transitions,” which will assess the efficacy of providing mental health services to adults experiencing life’s most challenging changes, including becoming a parent and approaching retirement. For both life transition models—“Road Map for Transition to Parenthood” and “Road Map for Approaching Retirement”—Lifespan will test in-person, small group courses, as well as individual online delivery.

THE SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

DR. LAURIE SANTOS, YALE UNIVERSITY

\$1 million over five years to design, test and distribute new online courses on the science of happiness, with Course 1 aimed at students in grades 11-12 and Course 2 aimed at students in grades 6-10. AMBFF funds will focus on equity, ensuring that the courses are tested with and distributed to low-income urban schools and rural schools.



COMPLICATING THE NARRATIVE: NUANCED COVERAGE OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

What if journalists covered hot-button issues with more complexity and learned from those who work in fields of high conflict, like mediators, diplomats and religious leaders? Complicating the Narratives, a project launched by the Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) at West Creek, helps journalists to find new ways to report on controversial and polarizing problems.

“

There’s something incredibly powerful about being taken out of the daily work—liberated from the emails, the phone calls, the meetings—to reflect on the core of our work, the essential meaning and value that we are producing. We considered a project [Complicating the Narrative] that’s very new, untested, risky, and ambitious. Part of the value of a week like this is having permission to separate and reflect, which is insanely impactful. A true gift. Nominally, the Blank Foundation gave us a week at the ranch, but the underlying gift is that liberation.

”

KEITH HAMMONDS

PRESIDENT, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

PARTICIPANTS

SARA CATANIA, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

AMY CLARK, ASHOKA

SHAYNA ROSE TRIEBWASSER, THE WUNDERKINDER FOUNDATION

AMANDA RIPLEY, THE ATLANTIC & EMERSON COLLECTIVE

LIZA GROSS, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

EMILY KASRIEL, BBC

RICK THAMES, QUEENS UNIVERSITY

LEAH TODD, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

JULIA HOTZ, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

SARAH GUSTAVUS, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

MICHAEL DAVIS, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

CAROLYN ROBINSON, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

TINA ROSENBERG, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

MIKHAEL SIMMONDS, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

ALLEN ARTHUR, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

LINDA SHAW, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

ANNE HILLMAN, ALASKA PUBLIC MEDIA

HÉLÈNE BIANDUDI HOFER, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

NINA FASCIAUX, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

SHERRY PAULA WATKINS, NC HUMANITIES COUNCIL

GARY FRIEDMAN, CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING IN CONFLICT

CATHERINE CONNER, CENTER FOR UNDERSTANDING IN CONFLICT

EMMA GILCHRIST, THE NARWHAL

SAMANTHA MCCANN, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

BRYHER HERAK, FORMER MEDIATOR

KEITH HAMMONDS, SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

JOHN BLODGETT, BOULDER MONITOR

**SOLUTIONS
JOURNALISM
NETWORK**

CONTACT

SAMANTHA MCCANN
SAMANTHA@SOLUTIONSJOURNALISM.ORG

SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

The BBC's Emily Kasriel painted these wonderful watercolors during her time at West Creek for Solution Journalism's Complicating the Narrative (CTN) training retreat.



“The most important outcome of this initiative since our time at West Creek is that we were able to successfully translate research from the field of conflict mediation into a tangible set of tools, resources and trainings that have been tested and refined, and are now being used in exciting ways by journalists. At West Creek we asked the question: ‘What could CTN look like in the context of journalism?’ Now we know.”

HÉLÈNE BIANDUDI HOFER

MANAGER, COMPLICATING
THE NARRATIVES PROJECT

After West Creek, Emily led a fascinating panel discussion called “Media’s Role in Crossing Divides” during the U.N. General Assembly at the end of September 2019 in New York City. The focus of the discussion was the news media’s responsibility in challenging polarization and crossing divides in our society. Her guests included Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General/U.N. Department of Global Communications; Maria Exner, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *Zeit Online*; and Stephen Hawkins, Director of Research, More in Common.

COMPLICATING THE NARRATIVE: NUANCED COVERAGE OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

CTN project manager Hélène Biandudi Hofer has been hosting “CTN Zoom Parties” not only to keep the West Creek cohort connected, but also the growing network of supporters. CTN educational materials, like this infographic, have been developed to help engage journalists in the practice.



A GUIDE TO MORE COMPELLING STORIES ON DIVISIVE TOPICS

YOU'RE COMPLICATING THE NARRATIVES WHEN YOU...

J



1. LISTEN DIFFERENTLY

- **Double check** to ensure you understand your source's perspective so you can **build trust** and get more accurate answers.
- Listen for **clues** or **“signposts”** (words like “always” or “never”) and inquire when you hear them. That helps your source to **go deeper** and share more.



2. GO BENEATH THE PROBLEM

- Ask different types of questions that **go beneath** the issue to get to people's **deeper motivations**, not just their positions.
- **Keep it personal** with your questions so you get people **off their usual talking points**.



3. EMBRACE COMPLEXITY

- **Acknowledge the complexity** of a controversy. It makes audiences more **open to learning** about different viewpoints.
- Look at the same issue in a **different geographic location** or time in history. That helps your audience to broaden their understanding of the problem.



4. COUNTER CONFIRMATION BIAS

- Host **inclusive community convenings** for your audience. It's an opportunity to **build relationships across divides**.
- **Use graphics** to help explain facts connected to divisive issues so people are more likely to **consider information** they don't want to hear.

Finally, more than 20 journalists and news leaders participated in a CTN training at the Solutions Journalism Summit (including folks from Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Sweden!). West Creek facilitators Gary and Catherine were the fearless leaders for the half-day event.

TOPLINE METRICS FOR COMPLICATING THE NARRATIVES SINCE WEST CREEK:

NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED IN-PERSON: **150**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED VIRTUALLY: **330**

NUMBER OF NEWSROOMS TRAINED: **15**



FUTURE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Capitalizing on the momentum of Village Capital's 2018 West Creek program and the creation of Blueprint Local, this summit partnered Blueprint Local with New Localism to continue developing innovative solutions that address a crucial challenge: How can investors invest in their own community sustainably while (1) creating wealth in distressed communities, and (2) avoiding displacement?

“

West Creek was an action-forcing event for Ross Baird and myself. It gave us a vehicle for codifying our work in a way that can motivate market investors, change public and philanthropic policy and practice, and drive transformative change by improving the quality of life in distressed neighborhoods while building wealth for low- and moderate-income residents. The impact of our preparation for West Creek and our time there is already apparent.

”

BRUCE KATZ

DREXEL NOWAK METRO FINANCE LAB

PARTICIPANTS

ROSS BAIRD, BLUEPRINT LOCAL

THOMAS BIRD, FARM FUND

TRACEY BIRD, FARM FUND

ALLIE BURNS, VILLAGE CAPITAL

MIKE DAVIS, OLIVE TREE RIDGE

WALTER DAVIS, PEACHTREE PROVIDENCE PARTNERS

JUSTIN DAWKINS, COLLAB

ANNA DRAGANOVA, MONITOR DELOITTE

DANIEL EDWARDS, NEIGHBORBUILT LLC

FRANK FERNANDEZ, ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

GREG FISCHER, CITY OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JONATHAN GOLDBERG, BBL COMMODITIES

RICK JACOBS, ACCELERATOR FOR AMERICA

MEREDITH JENKINS, TRINITY WALL STREET

BRUCE KATZ, NOWAK METRO FINANCE LAB

JIHAE LEE, HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

GRAHAM MACMILLAN, VISA FOUNDATION

HARRIET MCFADDEN, SLINGSHOT MEMPHIS

JAKE MCFADDEN, SLINGSHOT MEMPHIS

BRIAN MURRAY, SHIFT CAPITAL

LISA MURRAY, KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION

ALICE PAIK, BROWN ADVISORY

DAVID PAIK, CONSOLIDATED

DANIEL PALMER, BLUEPRINT LOCAL

DAVID ROBINSON, JR., BLUEPRINT LOCAL

DAVID ROBINSON, SR., ADMIRAL CAPITAL GROUP

ALEX SMITH, BROWN ADVISORY

KIM SMITH, ALEX AND KIM SMITH FAMILY FOUNDATION

MARY TREDWAY, NOWAK METRO FINANCE LAB

MICHAEL WALDEN, SEAVEST

ALEX WEST, CITI VENTURES

THE NEW
LOCALISM

BLUEPRINTLOCAL

CONTACT

ROSS BAIRD: ROSS@BLUEPRINT-LOCAL.COM

BRUCE KATZ: BRUCE.KATZ@THENEWLOCALISM.COM

Four of the attendees (Bruce Katz, Ross Baird, Daniel Palmer and Jihae Lee) had authored an October 2019 report, *Towards a New System of Community Wealth*, which inspired this week-long gathering. The report documents the shift from siloed community development toward emerging, innovative models of community wealth-building. Hosted by Blueprint Local, the gathering brought together philanthropists, community developers and social entrepreneurs to design and test new ways of building equitable wealth in American cities.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)

The West Creek results have been extraordinary. Blueprint Local has aggregated more than \$44 million for community wealth-oriented investments in Texas and Maryland. Blueprint has invested in mixed-income, multifamily housing, commercial infrastructure, and the adaptive reuse of historic landmarks including Penn Station in Baltimore. West Creek participants have played a key role in driving this success, both as members of the Blueprint team and as investors, advisors and champions.

Rick Jacobs and Accelerator for America, founded by LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, continue to convene practitioners and stakeholders in cities around the United States. Accelerator hosted the 2020 Local America Presidential Forum in Waterloo, Iowa in December 2019. The focus on local innovative strategies around community wealth is now a staple in federal policy proposals for national candidates.

The Nowak Metro Finance Lab's Bruce Katz continues to lead the country on Opportunity Zone Thought Leadership. The Lab, in partnership with Accelerator for America, guides cities on how best to use tax incentives to create partnerships and employ finance tools, such as the Investment Prospectus created by the Lab, to develop transformative projects in historically disadvantaged communities. Mayor Greg Fischer's focus on Louisville's efficient and innovative local leadership has led to his appointment as the next president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, starting in June 2020. Brian Murray of Shift Capital is building upon the Neighborhood Investment Trust in the Kensington section of Philadelphia, adding buildings, projects and job opportunities for its residents to grow and thrive as the neighborhood improves and develops.

In February 2020, the Kauffman and Rockefeller Foundations collectively invested \$600,000 into COLLAB, a venture led by West Creek attendee Justin Dawkins, to specifically focus investment on entrepreneurs of color on the west side of Atlanta, who are unable to access traditional sources of capital. The investment comes via the Capital Access Lab, which West Creek convener Ross Baird launched through a fellowship with the Kauffman Foundation. Kauffman CIO Lisa Murray, Justin Dawkins, and Ross Baird spent time at West Creek exploring the barriers entrepreneurs face, and this new investment represents positive progress towards addressing those barriers.

The New Localism-Blueprint Local guests were incredibly impressed by the West Creek staff, who made the experience unforgettable, as well as West Creek's integration with the greater community. In response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, this cohort decided to make a donation to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank in honor of the West Creek Ranch staff.





IMAGE BY EMILY GREEN

THE FEMINIST CLIMATE RENAISSANCE

The gathering cultivated a formidable network of women to collaboratively campaign for and advance climate solutions. The week was designed with four specific outcomes in mind: 1) connect and reinforce the network of women working toward drawdown; 2) expand that network strategically, across disciplines and sectors; 3) incubate the voice(s) of this network, creating space to reflect, share and create; and 4) seed collaboration across the network, to continue beyond the gathering.

“

We knew going in that women leading in this movement needed space to connect, share, collaborate and dream, but the need was even deeper than we had imagined. People arrived holding a great deal of grief, burnout and overwhelm—but hungry for community and to envision together. What you all have created at West Creek—and the unique dimension of time outdoors, connecting with one another, horses, nature—is truly magical and so unique. Thank you for including us in this season of gatherings. The ripples have only just begun.

”

DR. KATHARINE WILKINSON

PROJECT DRAWDOWN & THE ALL WE CAN SAVE PROJECT

PARTICIPANTS

KATHARINE WILKINSON, PROJECT DRAWDOWN

AYANA ELIZABETH JOHNSON, OCEAN COLLECTIV & URBAN OCEAN LAB

AMY WESTERVELT, CRITICAL FREQUENCY

ANNA JANE JOYNER, THE GOOD ENERGY PROJECT

BINA VENKATARAMAN, THE BOSTON GLOBE

CHRISTINA HOLLENBACK, NEXUS & M. GLOVER CAPITAL

CHRISTINE ARENA, LET SCIENCE SPEAK & GENEROUS FILMS

CRYSTAL CHISSELL, PROJECT DRAWDOWN

ERIN BRIDGES, SUNRISE MOVEMENT

ERIN MEEZAN, INTERFACE

FAVIANNA RODRIGUEZ, CENTER FOR CULTURAL POWER

JACQUI PATTERSON, NAACP

JANE ZELIKOVA, 500 WOMEN SCIENTISTS & CARBON 180

JULIA WALSH, FRACK ACTION

KATE MARVEL, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

LAUREL GRAEFE, FEDERAL RESERVE

LINDSAY BAKER, SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIST

MARTHA JEFFRIES, FILMMAKER

MARY ANNE HITT, SIERRA CLUB

MARY HEGLAR, NRDC

MIRIAM GOLDSTEIN, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

NATHALIE MOLINA NIÑO, O³

RANIA BATRICE, ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE

RENEE LERTZMAN, PROJECT INSIDEOUT

RHIANA GUNN-WRIGHT, GREEN NEW DEAL POLICY

SARAH EAGLE HEART, RETURN TO THE HEART FOUNDATION

SARAH MYHRE, ROWAN INSTITUTE

SARAH STILLMAN, THE NEW YORKER & GLOBAL MIGRATION PROJECT

SHAHZEEN ATTARI, INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

TAMARA TOLES O'LAUGHLIN, 350.ORG

**PROJECT
DRAWDOWN**

CONTACT

KATHARINE WILKINSON

KATHARINE.WILKINSON@GMAIL.COM

PROJECT DRAWDOWN

While at West Creek, the Feminist Climate Renaissance created **Women Lead Climate**, a two-minute manifesto film released online and across social media to highlight the equity conversation during Climate Week NYC 2019.

WATCH THE FILM

Women Lead Climate asserts: “The climate movement cannot succeed without an urgent upsurge in women’s leadership across both the Global South and Global North. Women and girls are already boldly leading on climate justice, by addressing the climate crisis in ways that heal, rather than deepen, systemic injustices. Yet, these voices are often under-represented and efforts inadequately supported.

Now is the moment to recognize the wisdom and leadership of women and girls. Now is the moment to grow in number and build power. We invite all of our sisters to rise and to lead on climate justice, and for those with relative power and privilege to make space for and support others.”

The Feminist Climate Renaissance week also inspired the best-selling anthology *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, (One World, 2020), edited by facilitators Katharine Wilkinson and Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and featuring essays from 10 West Creek participants. Celebrity activists Jane Fonda, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, America Ferrera, Janet Mock and additional well-known women are part of a star-studded lineup set to narrate the audiobook version. A new nonprofit, The All We Can Save Project, has been launched to carry forward the work of supporting women climate leaders and nurturing the feminist climate renaissance.

The Feminist Climate Renaissance cohort also successfully amplified their thought leadership since West Creek with major op-eds, interviews and features in *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Bloomberg*, *Newsweek*, *TIME*, *People*, *The Nation*, *Grist*, *Scientific American*, *Washington Post*, *New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, and *WIRED*.

“I came into this retreat on the edge of burnout and I left re-inspired and recommitted to my work, thanks to the support of a powerful new network of collaborators and friends.”

FEMINIST CLIMATE RENAISSANCE PARTICIPANT

THE FEMINIST CLIMATE RENAISSANCE

“It is a rare and incredibly important thing to be given space to gather, refuel and dream together. For women who are working to break barriers, to push for climate action from the margins into a space where we are not represented or welcome, is action that is more needed than we realized.”

FEMINIST CLIMATE RENAISSANCE PARTICIPANT



“This gathering was a valuable chance to step out of the daily scramble we’re all in, and to build a community of women who are committed to tackling the climate crisis over the long haul: sharing tangible strategies across disciplines; finding points of intersection as we work to build more inclusive and urgent responses; generating collaborations that would otherwise not have been possible.”

FEMINIST CLIMATE RENAISSANCE PARTICIPANT



IMAGE BY CJ GOULDING

EMPOWERING CROSS-CULTURAL LEADERS

At West Creek, the center hosted a train-the-trainer summit for its Fresh Tracks program—a cross-cultural network using nature as a platform for healing, leadership development, and civic action. The program brings together diverse young leaders from indigenous, rural and urban communities for regional trainings in inspiring natural settings. They form a peer-to-peer mentorship and support system, relying on the transformative power of the land to build confidence and further develop their leadership skills—a perfect complement to the West Creek ethos.

“

I'm struck by the sense of belonging that the West Creek team created for a group of diverse young people. We've done so many gatherings and often the first thing we have to deal with is the labeling, microaggressions, or mistrust that comes from facility staff judging young people in other places. At West Creek, there was none of that, just a total sense of trust and belonging and no pre-judging. There's really no shortcut for building trust except maybe sharing in the outdoors. Change happens at the speed of trust, and that accelerates when you retreat intentionally outdoors. We saw that at West Creek.

”

STEVE PATRICK

VICE PRESIDENT, THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FORUM FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

PARTICIPANTS

JAMIEL ALEXANDER, THE ASPEN INSTITUTE FORUM FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

TASHIA ARNOLD, CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

KENDRA BECENTI, FRESH TRACKS & CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

MARC BEREJKA, REI CO-OP

TRENTON CASILLAS-BAKEBERG, FRESH TRACKS & GENERATION INDIGENOUS AMBASSADOR

DEVIN EDWARDS, FRESH TRACKS & MY BROTHER'S KEEPER BOSTON

CJ GOULDING, FRESH TRACKS & THE CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK

BONNIE HOWARD, ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

MARTIN LEBLANC, LBC ACTION

SHARONI LITTLE, FRESH TRACKS & USC RACE AND EQUITY CENTER

DEBORAH LOVE, RESOURCE LEGACY FUND

JUAN D. MARTINEZ, FRESH TRACKS

SARAH MILLIGAN-TOFFLER, THE CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK

STEVE PATRICK, THE ASPEN INSTITUTE FORUM FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

JENNIFER PEACOCK, CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

KIMBERLY PIKOK, FRESH TRACKS

JAREN SAVAGE, FRESH TRACKS & MY BROTHER'S KEEPER COMPTON

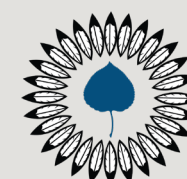
ERIK R. STEGMAN, CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

MARY STRANAHAN, GOODWORKS VENTURES

HEIDI WALLACE, EMPOWER MONTANA

CYNTHIA WEAVER, ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

DAVID WEINSTEIN, OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



**CENTER FOR NATIVE
AMERICAN YOUTH**
AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

CONTACT

JUAN MARTINEZ
JUAN.MARTINEZ@ASPENINSTITUTE.ORG



TOWARD A FAIR AND JUST RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE

This summit explored the intersection of gun violence prevention, and criminal justice reform, with the goal of developing an agenda for research, policy and practice, which advances a more holistic approach to public safety. The goal was to align around a new paradigm for how the justice system responds to gun violence—one that heals communities, builds trust, and enhances safety.

“

Total paradigm shift. Transformative. This week has blown my mind and changed the way I see our work—the way we’ve been approaching criminal justice and gun violence prevention in silos is harmful. I did not realize how problematic it is to prosecute certain people with gun violations due to the discrepancy in the justice system and racial inequity.

”

SENIOR RABBI PETER BERG
THE TEMPLE

PARTICIPANTS

- RABBI PETER BERG, THE TEMPLE: THE HEBREW BENEVOLENT CONGREGATION
- JULIE BIEHL, NORTHWESTERN PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW
- EDDIE BOCANEGRA, HEARTLAND ALLIANCE
- DEVONE BOGGAN, ADVANCE PEACE
- JOHN CHISHOLM, MILWAUKEE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
- ED CHUNG, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS
- JERRY CLAYTON, WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF
- ERIC CUMBERBATCH, NYC MAYOR’S OFFICE TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE
- TIM DALY, THE JOYCE FOUNDATION
- LYNDA GARCIA, LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- ERIC GONZALEZ, BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY
- KEVIN HALL, TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
- JOSH HORWITZ, EDUCATIONAL FUND TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE
- DAVID HUREAU, UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY-SUNY
- ALISE MARSHALL, PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION
- MICHAEL MCBRIDE, FAITH IN ACTION
- SOLEDAD MCGRATH, THE JOYCE FOUNDATION
- SHARONE MITCHELL, ILLINOIS JUSTICE PROJECT
- SCOTT MOYER, JACOB AND VALERIA LANGELOTH FOUNDATION
- DAVE OLSON, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
- ANDREW PAPACHRISTOS, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
- CHELSEA PARSONS, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS
- NICK SUPLINA, EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY
- NINA VINIK, THE JOYCE FOUNDATION
- DANIEL WEBSTER, JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
- BRUCE WESTERN, THE JUSTICE LAB AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
- LYNNE WIORA, THE JOYCE FOUNDATION

TheJoyceFoundation

CONTACT

NINA VINIK
NVINIK@JOYCEFDN.ORG

Q&A with Nina Vinik, Director, Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform Program

Q: What are some of the major developments coming out of your week at West Creek?

A: Much of this became final at the end of 2019, and we're thrilled about this next phase of the work. The Joyce Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation and Langeloth Foundation are joining together to support a series of planning grants for members of our West Creek cohort for projects that will build on the work we did together, and that are aligned with the group's agreed-upon shared values. Our three foundations identified these projects through a streamlined, collaborative RFP and approval process. The projects approved for funding are:

I. ADVANCE PEACE: A convening to be held in the summer of 2020 with Offices of Violence Prevention and other similar public agencies that work in partnership with communities to reduce and interrupt community violence. The goals are facilitating professional development, sharing best practices, and building a national network of these relatively recently created offices. (Public Welfare Foundation)

II. CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS (CAP): A two-part research study that will provide a blueprint for re-envisioning how the federal government allocates funding to address violent crime and gun violence in communities around the country. CAP will develop a framework for: (a) overhauling the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) grant-making strategy to incentivize the implementation of holistic approaches to preventing and reducing violence, strengthening communities, and reducing overreliance on incarceration; and (b) realigning the resources of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) better to meet its primary mission responsibility of regulating the gun industry. The project will take a deliberately intersectional approach and provide much needed thought leadership for federal policy makers who control significant

resources that can be better deployed to advance public safety without contributing to over-incarceration. (Joyce Foundation)

III. EDUCATIONAL FUND TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE: A project to study the need for and feasibility of creating a training program to assist state gun violence prevention groups with the development of racial equity processes to help inform their policy development and enforcement decisions. (Langeloth Foundation)

IV. LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE EDUCATION FUND: Develop and test non-police responses that more effectively address public health and social issues inherent in violent crime. The Leadership Conference Policing Campaign will develop alternative approaches to policing, to better address gun violence. This will in turn increase community trust and police legitimacy by engaging the very communities affected by gun and police violence in the co-creation of public safety. The Leadership Conference will work with subject matter experts and groups in the policing and reform/criminal legal system reform ecosystem, including



organizations from the Leadership Conference coalition, community/grassroots organizers and groups, law enforcement officials, and academics, with the goal of developing at least one pilot initiative. (Joyce Foundation)

V. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: Expand and advance the Blueprint for a Safer Chicago coalition. The Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law Children and Family Justice Center will partner with other West Creek participants from Chicago: Illinois Justice Project; Northwestern Neighborhoods and Networks Initiative; and READI Chicago at Heartland Alliance, to develop a broader coalition that would include practitioners, survivors, researchers, community-based advocacy groups, public health experts, and allies in the areas of gun violence prevention and intervention, gun policy, and criminal justice reform; and develop recommendations for a truly comprehensive gun violence prevention strategy capable of improving safety outcomes in the City of Chicago and beyond, without relying on incarceration-based responses. (Joyce Foundation)

VI. CITY OF NEW YORK - KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: Create a national working group focused on implementing a new paradigm for responding to gun violence, which includes the voices of those most impacted by gun violence. In addition to hosting the follow-up West Creek gathering on April 6, District Attorney Eric Gonzalez will add a second day (April 7) that will serve as a planning meeting for the creation of a national working group on gun violence. The planning meeting would include a



wider range of stakeholders, including those most impacted by gun violence, and use community insight and national comparisons to add nuanced details to the statistics on gun violence, policy analysis, and strategy development. (Joyce Foundation)

Q: Impressive! What are next steps for this group?

A: We are virtually reconvening the West Creek cohort in October 2020 to hear about progress on the planning grants and learn about other work taking place around the country, as well as revisit and discuss our key themes in today's context of increasing gun violence, police distrust, and the COVID pandemic. The work is more important than ever, as are the connections and partnerships formed at West Creek.

We're also thrilled that the final report from our gathering is complete. Our team worked closely with Professor Andrew Papachristos on the report, and we circulated a draft to all the participants for their feedback so we can be assured the document reflects the group's consensus.

**READ THE TOWARD A FAIR AND JUST
RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE FINAL REPORT**

I genuinely believe this progress would not have been possible without the West Creek experience. Thank you again for the opportunity.





ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation (AMBFF), in partnership with Babson College, offered a unique leadership development program for high-potential nonprofit and social sector executives, primarily from Georgia and Montana, whose organizations are facing critical moments of transition or growth opportunities. At this retreat, a customized experiential learning program helped participants identify and accelerate growth opportunities, reframe challenges to create new paths for action, and connect to personal and organizational resources for leadership.



To say that it was transformational would not be an overstatement. I spent a lot of time soaking in the surroundings as well as challenging myself physically in ways I'd never imagine—like climbing a mountain through bear country on a horse. I understand Arthur's insistence on the 50/50 ethos, and I feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn that lesson firsthand. The work of ADL has been in high gear in a year marked by mass, hate-filled attacks against marginalized communities. "The Cheryls" did an awesome job of guiding us through this, and it was an incredibly productive week that I think will have long-term, reverberating impacts on ADL. We are presenting our work from West Creek to our board, and we have already begun conversations with our teams on ways to take the ideas generated in Montana and move forward in bold ways.



ALLISON PADILLA-GOODMAN
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

PARTICIPANTS

- WALT ANDERSON, REFUGE COFFEE CO.
- LANDER BACHERT, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GALLATIN COUNTY
- ANNIE BEAVER, PARK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- GAVIN CLARK, PARK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- CHERYL CURRY, ONE MONTANA
- JUDITH HEILMAN, THE MONTANA RACIAL EQUITY PROJECT
- ANDREW LADD, GEORGIA ORGANICS
- MCKENZIE TREINEN-LANGNER, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GALLATIN COUNTY
- ANNA LEE, WORKING FILMS
- KERYL MCCORD, WORKING FILMS
- SHELTON MCELROY, THE BAIL PROJECT
- DAVID METTER, BEARINGS BIKE SHOP
- AISHA MOODY, ATLANTA MUSIC PROJECT
- KATIE MOYER, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GALLATIN COUNTY
- MARIA MULVAUGH, LIVEWELL49
- TIM O'MARA, BEARINGS BIKE SHOP
- ALLISON PADILLA-GOODMAN, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
- CHANTELLE PLAUCHE, LIVEWELL49
- DANTES RAMEAU, ATLANTA MUSIC PROJECT
- ALICE ROLLS, GEORGIA ORGANICS
- PHIL RUBIN, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
- ROBIN STEINBERG, THE BAIL PROJECT
- SARAH TILT, ONE MONTANA
- RANDY WALTON, REFUGE COFFEE CO.



CONTACT
CHERYL KISER
CKISER@BABSON.EDU



LOCAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS INSTITUTE

The idea for the Local Housing Solutions Institute started with a question at an Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation board meeting: Why aren't American cities making faster progress in meeting their affordable housing challenges? Founder Arthur Blank suggested West Creek Ranch as the perfect spot to test the proposition that team-building and facilitated peer-to-peer learning will yield dividends in cooperation and collaboration to solve housing concerns. The institute was a five-day intensive program of seminars, strategic consultation, and team-building funded by the Blank Foundation to help certain selected city delegations refine and strengthen their housing strategies and better meet their affordability challenges.

“

It was truly an extraordinary week! Each of the delegations made real progress in strengthening the interpersonal bonds that are necessary for them to make progress on their housing challenges. One delegation had been working with an outside consultant for two years to bridge divisions across their agencies and felt they made more progress in three days at West Creek than they had in the past two years.

”

JEFFREY LUBELL

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES,
ABT ASSOCIATES

PARTICIPANTS

GREGORY HELLER, PHILADELPHIA REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ELEANOR SHARPE, PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

MELISSA LONG, PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, PHILADELPHIA LAND BANK

LIZ HERSH, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

KYLE FLOOD, PHILADELPHIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

VERONICA R. SOTO, SAN ANTONIO NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TIMOTHY ALCOTT, SAN ANTONIO HOUSING AUTHORITY

LORI HOUSTON, CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

RUDY NINO, SAN ANTONIO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

LOURDES CASTRO-RAMIREZ, SAN ANTONIO UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION

VICTORIA GONZALEZ, SAN ANTONIO MAYOR'S OFFICE

ANDREA INOUE, OFFICE OF MINNEAPOLIS MAYOR JACOB FREY

ANDREA BRENNAN, MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HEATHER WORTHINGTON, MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KYLE HANSON, MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

DANI HANS, MINNEAPOLIS WARD 5, OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JEREMIAH ELLISON

PETER EBNET, OFFICE OF MINNEAPOLIS MAYOR JACOB FREY

TERRI M. LEE, ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JANIDE SIDIFALL, ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

TRISH O'CONNELL, ATLANTA HOUSING AUTHORITY

DWAYNE VAUGHN, ATLANTA BELTLINE, INC.

CHRIS NORMAN, FULTON COUNTY/CITY OF ATLANTA LAND BANK AUTHORITY, INC.

ALAN FERGUSON, INVEST ATLANTA

MARK WILLIS, NYU FURMAN CENTER

INGRID GOULD ELLEN, NYU FURMAN CENTER

JEFFREY LUBELL, ABT ASSOCIATES

STEPHEN WHITLOW, ABT ASSOCIATES



Local Housing Solutions

CONTACT

MARK WILLIS | MARK.WILLIS@NYU.EDU
JEFFREY LUBELL | JEFFREY_LUBELL@ABTASSOC.COM



ACCELERATING WELL-BEING IN GEORGIA

The State of Georgia is working with Sharecare to demonstrably improve the collective and individual health and well-being of its residents over the next five years, as measured by the Community Well-Being Index. Sharecare’s West Creek summit convened leaders across public and private sectors to discuss how these stakeholders can join forces to create a movement toward better health for all Georgians.

“

The synergy and passion from the group! The level of engagement was inspiring. I have been to hundreds of conferences and summits but this may have been the most engaging. Thanks to the AMBFF for the wonderful opportunity to spend the week with our state health and wellness leaders to create and enhance key relationships that will certainly help Georgia in many ways going forward.

”

DAVE WILKINSON

PRESIDENT & CEO, ATLANTA POLICE
FOUNDATION

PARTICIPANTS

- MICHAEL ACKER, BLUE ZONES PROJECT
- JEFF ARNOLD, SHARECARE
- COMMISSIONER FRANK BERRY, GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
- TRACEY BROWN, AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION
- RODNEY BULLARD, CHICK-FIL-A
- DAN CATHY, CHICK-FIL-A
- JOHN CHADWICK, CLARITAS CAPITAL
- ELIZABETH COLYER, COMMUNITY WELL-BEING INDEX
- MARSHA DAVIS, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
- DR. CHARLES DESHAZER, HIGHMARK
- DR. KIM DUKES, BOSTON UNIVERSITY
- LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR GEOFF DUNCAN, STATE OF GEORGIA
- COMMISSIONER JUDY FITZGERALD, GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
- JEN MARTIN HALL, SHARECARE
- DR. WADE HORN, DELOITTE
- ANDREW JOHNSON, SHARECARE
- GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP, STATE OF GEORGIA
- LOWINN KIBBEY, J & J HUMAN PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE
- BRENT LAYTON, CENTENE
- JAMES LEWIS, EMORY HEALTHCARE INNOVATION HUB
- RYAN LOKE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, STATE OF GEORGIA
- RYAN MILLER, ANTHEM
- MATTHEW MOORE, HUMANA
- RALPH MUCERINO, AIG
- DR. MEHMET OZ, NEW YORK-PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL
- VALERIE MONGTOMERY RICE, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
- DR. MIKE ROIZEN, CLEVELAND CLINIC
- RAJEEV RONANKI, ANTHEM
- PAM SHIPLEY, CENTENE
- NEIL SPRACKLING, SWISS RE
- DR. TOM VAN GILDER, WALMART
- PARIS WALLACE, OVIA HEALTH
- DR. ALLEN WEISS, BLUE ZONES PROJECT
- DAWN WHALEY, SHARECARE
- JEFF WILCOXON, NATIONWIDE
- DR. VONDA WRIGHT, NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL
- DAVE WILKINSON, ATLANTA POLICE FOUNDATION



CONTACT

DAWN WHALEY
DAWN@SHARECARE.COM



ADVANCING THERAPY FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

The Marcus Institute for Brain Health (MIBH) was founded in January 2017 and has been on a rapid growth trajectory in the past two years. As MIBH seeks to treat more veterans with traumatic brain injuries, the clinicians and administrators that support this work also need to invest in their own resiliency. West Creek provided an opportunity for MIBH to tackle a two-fold agenda of strategic planning and team building.

“

Our team became a family. We have so much gratitude that the Blank Foundation saw the value in our mission and wanted to provide us with this opportunity. At home, we can get so wrapped up in our intense work and disappear into our offices. West Creek’s 50/50 helped us show up inspired, refreshed and engaged. Folks who rarely speak up came out of their shells. Beyond thankful for this opportunity.

”

SPENCER MILO

DIRECTOR OF VETERAN PROGRAMS, COMMUNICATIONS,
AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT; RETIRED STAFF
SERGEANT US ARMY AND PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

PARTICIPANTS

- MARK BABCOCK, SOCIAL WORKER
- MEGHAN BLAZEWICZ, CASE MANAGER
- ASHLEY BLUBAUGH, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT
- HILARY DIEFENBACH, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
- KIMBERLY DUNN, CLINICAL COORDINATOR
- GAYLA ELLIOTT, ART THERAPY PROGRAM MANAGER
- TINA FANELLO, CLINICAL NAVIGATOR
- DR. CHRISTOPHER FILLEY, SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR
- HALEY GALVIN, INTAKE COORDINATOR
- KATHRYN HARDIN, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
- LEAH HARGRAVES, CASE MANAGER
- JEFFREY HEBERT, PHYSICAL THERAPIST
- MELODY JOHNSON, ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR
- CATHARINE JOHNSTON-BROOKS, NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST
- DR. JAMES KELLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- ANGELA KIRKPATRICK, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM MANAGER
- LAURA LISKA, AVALON PROGRAM MANAGER
- ANDREA LUCIE, INTEGRATIVE THERAPIES PROGRAM MANAGER
- ASHLEY MCCANN, PHYSICAL THERAPIST
- SPENCER MILO, DIRECTOR, VETERANS PROGRAMS
- CARLY NELSON, BUSINESS SERVICES PROFESSIONAL
- WENDI PETRO, DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
- DAVID SHOUP, COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM COORDINATOR
- IRMA SMITH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL OPERATIONS
- KEVIN TRAYLOR, HEALTHCARE FINANCE SPECIALIST
- JUDITH VANDERRYN, PSYCHOLOGIST
- AMBER VELARDE, MEDICAL ASSISTANT
- DANIEL WILKERSON, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS
- DR. DAVID WILLIAMSON, MEDICAL DIRECTOR

MARCUS INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN HEALTH
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 4



Marcus Institute for Brain Health
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

CONTACT

ANGELA KIRKPATRICK
ANGELA.KIRKPATRICK@CUANSCHUTZ.EDU



IMAGE BY BECCA FRUCHT

COMMON GROUND: CREATING A SHARED VISION FOR CONSERVATION

To understand how conservation can be more inclusive, responsive and relevant to people across the country, the Land Trust Alliance launched Common Ground: Creating a Shared Vision for Conservation. This listening and learning initiative culminated at West Creek with key participants from businesses, land trusts, agencies and NGOs working in the health, education, outdoor recreation, and community sectors. These leaders convened to develop recommendations that ensure all citizens have equitable access to the benefits of conserved land.

“

I heard laughter as people danced, and awe-inspired gasps when folks saw Montana wildlife for the first time. I watched a woman who had never shot a gun hit her mark and dance with joy. I watched anglers laugh as they landed fish, and saw a man from downtown Chicago handle a lariat for the first time. We left better and stronger than when we arrived. I can't wait to see how far the winds of West Creek carry us. Land is a powerful connector that allows us to bridge differences. The beauty of West Creek, the activities, the food and the staff resulted in camaraderie, smiles and happiness that carried us through the difficult conversations. It also sparked innovative ideas on how diverse organizations could partner with land trusts for outdoor activities in communities across America. West Creek has a special magic that unites people and allows us to move forward together.

”

WENDY JACKSON

FORMER EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

PARTICIPANTS

COURTNEY ABER, YMCA
SUZANNE APPLE, BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION
ALAN BELL, CHARITY & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
ANDREW BOWMAN, LAND TRUST ALLIANCE
TAYLOR COOPER, CLARUS CONSULTING
ELIZABETH DOMENECH, AMB WEST
THOMAS EASLEY, YALE SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT
MAVIS GRAGG, AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION
TODD GRAHAM, RANCH ADVISORY PARTNERS
SUZI GUARDIA, BLUE STAR FAMILIES
REV. SUSAN HENDERSHOT, INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT
WENDY JACKSON, LAND TRUST ALLIANCE
RACHEL JUEL, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
KAY KORNMEIER, CLARUS CONSULTING
BONNIE LEWKOWICZ, ACCESS NORTHERN CA
KARENA MAHUNG, INDUFOR NORTH AMERICA
SARA O'BRIEN, WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP
NIKKI PITRE, CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH
MICHAEL POLEMIS, LAND TRUST ALLIANCE
AMY RAUWORTH, LAKESHORE FOUNDATION & NATIONAL CENTER
ON HEALTH, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & DISABILITY
ISABEL WATKINS RUBIO, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LATINO COMMUNITY ASSET BUILDERS
VASU SOJITRA, EAGLE MOUNT BOZEMAN
GALE D. SPEARS, CITY OF FAIRFIELD/ SOLANO LAND TRUST
LUCAS ST. CLAIR, ELLIOTSVILLE FOUNDATION
GABE VASQUEZ, NUESTRA TIERRA CONSERVATION PROJECT
ELIZABETH WARD, LAND TRUST ALLIANCE
MIKE WATSON, AARP
BRAIDAN WEEKS, UTE LAND TRUST



CONTACT

ANDREW BOWMAN
ABOWMAN@LTA.ORG

The Common Ground team and the Land Trust Alliance used the West Creek gathering to inform a new community conservation campaign called Common Ground: Creating a Shared Vision for Conservation. West Creek provided the safe space and opportunity to delve deeply into both the issues faced by communities, and the possibilities that land and equitable access to it could offer as part of the solution to those issues.

Through these discussions—which were intense and personal at times—several themes and opportunities have emerged:

“[My biggest takeaway from West Creek was that] the friendships and the fire in so many people’s hearts and bellies are real. There are so many of us working for the conservation of land, culture and tradition and we’re all willing to take an extra risk to be bolder and more effective.”

**COMMON GROUND:
CREATING A SHARED
VISION FOR CONSERVATION
PARTICIPANT**

1. There is a lack of understanding of land trusts and community conservation. In fact, the majority of new audiences lack knowledge of conservation, land trusts and/or the Alliance. Yet, once they become familiar with the work of land trusts, new audiences and partners have an openness and interest in exploring land as a solution to community needs and priorities.

With the leadership of West Creek participant Mike Watson, Senior Advisor to AARP’s Mayoral Outreach & Livable Communities Program, the Alliance and AARP have already launched an initiative to encourage land trusts to apply for AARP’s Community Challenge grants. The Alliance has promoted the grants program to its members through its blog, its national and regional eNews and in the spring issue of its quarterly magazine, *Saving Land*.

2. Land trusts need to learn to avoid jargon and insider language. Insistence on a distinction between public and private lands, for example, has no meaning to those not inside the conservation community. Land trusts and the Alliance need to speak less

about what they do and how they do it, and more about why their work is tied to the many values people attribute to conserved land across the country.

3. Health and wellness in particular emerged as an opportunity for partnership, ranging from food security to physical fitness and mental health, and from children’s health to connecting people of all abilities with nature. The retreat is already bearing fruit. As a result of conversations begun at West Creek, the Lakeshore Foundation is providing a Partnership for Inclusive Health grant to the Land Trust Alliance, which will support a partnership among the Alliance, the Lakeshore Foundation and the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability, to help land trusts adopt inclusive practices that specifically benefit people with disabilities.

4. The relationships forged in Montana have the potential to be impactful. West Creek participants offered the Land Trust Alliance significant gifts of both their time and their trust: These people have blazed a trail through the wilderness on behalf of the Alliance. In order to honor those gifts, the Alliance must maintain and invest in those relationships—authentically and with humility.

5. The Land Trust Alliance must assume a leadership role as a change maker by empowering land trusts to move beyond just maintaining the land trust community to embracing their potential to enrich communities.

“West Creek Ranch provided participants the opportunity for authentic connections where lived experiences and the disabled community were welcomed and valued. At Lakeshore Foundation we believe that sustainable change starts in partnership. From our time at West Creek Ranch, new partnerships formed as a direct result, which allowed for accelerated inclusion initiatives that will create a better world for everyone.”

AMY RAUWORTH
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
LAKESHORE FOUNDATION

“It’s strange to think that we needed to travel all the way to Montana to become a stronger team, but it’s true. We made major programmatic strides that we arguably had been trying to make for years—achieved in just two afternoons.”

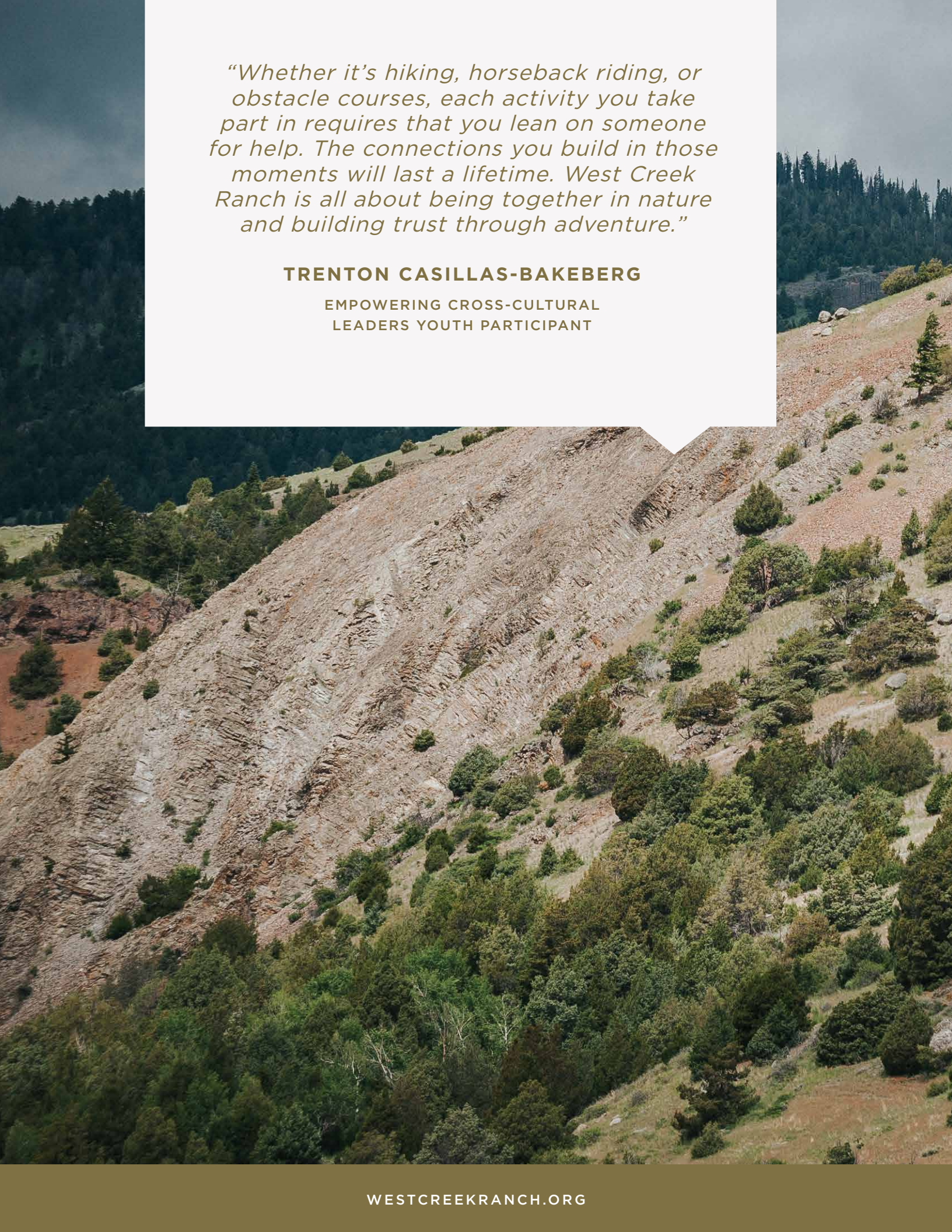
**LOCAL HOUSING
INSTITUTE PARTICIPANT**

“I walked away with more trust and clarity of vision for our sector than nearly any other meeting I’ve attended recently. I think this will be the foundation that helps us elevate our work for decades to come.”

**POWER, EQUITY AND
DEMOCRACY PARTICIPANT**

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	BLANK FAMILY OF BUSINESSES EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM	JUNE 3-7
WEEK 2	BLANK FAMILY OF BUSINESSES ASSOCIATES	JUNE 10-14
WEEK 3	FORD FOUNDATION	JUNE 17-21
WEEK 4	ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION	JUNE 24-28
WEEK 5	MONTANA NONPROFIT PROGRAMMING	JULY 1-5
WEEK 6	AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	JULY 8-12
WEEK 7	SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK	JULY 15-19
WEEK 8	AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	JULY 22-26
WEEK 9	AMB SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	JULY 29-AUG 2
WEEK 10	BLUEPRINT LOCAL AND NEW LOCALISM	AUG 5-9
WEEK 11	PROJECT DRAWDOWN	AUG 12-16
WEEK 12	ASPEN INSTITUTE CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH	AUG 19-23
WEEK 13	BLANK FAMILY OF BUSINESSES ASSOCIATES	AUG 26-30
WEEK 14	THE JOYCE FOUNDATION	SEPT 2-6
WEEK 15	BABSON COLLEGE EXECUTIVE EDUCATION	SEPT 9-13
WEEK 16	THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL HOUSING POLICY	SEPT 16-20
WEEK 17	SHARECARE	SEPT 23-27
WEEK 18	MARCUS INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN HEALTH	SEPT 30-OCT 4
WEEK 19	LAND TRUST ALLIANCE	OCT 7-11



“Whether it’s hiking, horseback riding, or obstacle courses, each activity you take part in requires that you lean on someone for help. The connections you build in those moments will last a lifetime. West Creek Ranch is all about being together in nature and building trust through adventure.”

TRENTON CASILLAS-BAKEBERG

EMPOWERING CROSS-CULTURAL
LEADERS YOUTH PARTICIPANT