Media Kit

We are happy to connect journalists with our program officers, who are experts on a range of topics—from affordable housing to criminal justice, from education to the urban environment. We’ve listed their fields of expertise below. Also, for reporters interested in philanthropy, our community foundation has specialists who can talk about trends in giving. Plus we can connect you to thoughtful NYC nonprofits and the people they serve.

PRESS INQUIRIES

Marty Lipp – (917) 774-8159; mbl@nyct-cfi.org

Amy Wolf – Office: (646) 214-1004; During COVID-19 Remote Access: (845) 676-6180 aw@nyct-cfi.org

NEWS RELEASES AND PUBLICATIONS

• **NEWS RELEASES:** E-mail Amy Wolf above to receive releases via email announcing recent grants and other topics. You can also read them in our Newsroom.

• **GRANTS NEWS:** Sign up to receive our newsletters, published several times a year, providing insights from staff and donors, along with reports about how our funding makes a difference.

• **PROFESSIONAL TAX AND ESTATE PLANNING NOTES:** Sign up to receive this newsletter for attorneys and wealth advisors, published three times a year. It covers topics ranging from timing of charitable contributions to IRS efforts to improve nonprofit governance.

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, such as the Donors’ Education Collaborative. 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 more effectively make grants 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.


OUR EXPERTS

ISSUES (See staff bios at bottom)

ARTS & CULTURE

Salem Tsegaye

ARTS EDUCATION

Leigh Ross

CENSUS

Pat Swann

CHILD WELFARE

Natasha Lifton

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Pat Swann

DISABILITIES

Rachel Pardoe

DONORS

Gay Young

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Gay Young

EDUCATION – K-12

Eve Stotland

EDUCATION – EARLY CHILDHOOD

Natasha Lifton

EDUCATION REFORM
Arturo Garcia-Costas – 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.

Irfan Hassan – Program Director, Health and Behavioral Health

Irfan directs the Healthy Lives grantmaking program at The Trust, and oversees health, behavioral health, and biomedical grants. He serves on the board of Governance Matters/CharitySTRONG. He is a member of Philanthropy New York’s Health Policy Working Group, a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and a member of the American Public Health Association. Irfan has a B.Sc. in sociology from Northeastern University and a master’s in public administration from New York University’s Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Roderick Jenkins – Senior Program Officer, Youth and Workforce Development

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.

**Natasha Lifton – Senior Program Officer, Human Services**

Natasha manages The Trust’s grants that address human services, including child welfare, early childhood, hunger, and homelessness. She is co-chair of The Trust’s Early Childhood Partners NYC Fund and oversees the Foster Care Excellence Fund. She is a graduate of Notre Dame University, and has master’s degrees from New York University and Hunter College.

**Kerry McCarthy – Vice President, Philanthropic Initiatives**

Kerry designs donor services that make best use of the expertise in our competitive grants program. She is co-chair of The Trust’s Mosaic Network and Fund. She also is on the board of Women’s Studio Workshop; a member of the City Department of Education’s arts education committee; and a former vice chair of Grantmakers in the Arts. Kerry has a B.A. from Sewanee: The University of the South, and an M.A. in Folk Art Studies from New York University.

**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.

**Rachel Pardoe – 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.

**Lorie Slutsky - President**

Lorie is the president of The Trust, where she began her career in 1977 as a grantmaker. She was named executive vice president in 1987. Lorie received her B.A. from Colgate University, where she served for nine years as a trustee and chairman of the budget committee, and her M.A. from The New School, where she also was a trustee. She sits on the Chief Judge’s Permanent Commission to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York State. Lorie is a former board chairman of the Council on Foundations and BoardSource, and vice chairman of The Foundation Center. She was a member of the board of Independent Sector and co-chaired its Panel on the Nonprofit Sector. She also was a director of two for-profit companies: AllianceBernstein Capital Management and AXA Equitable.

**Eve Stotland – 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.

**Pat Swann – Senior Program Officer, Civic Affairs, Community Development, Technical Assistance**

Patricia manages The Trust’s grantmaking for community development, affordable housing, civic affairs, and technical assistance. She is a board member of Philanthropy New York, and serves on the advisory boards of Brooklyn Workforce Innovations and the New York City office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. She has a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and a master’s from Pratt Institute’s Graduate School of Architecture and Planning. She was a Revson Fellow at Columbia University.
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.

Salem Tsegaye – Program Officer, Arts & Culture
Salem oversees grantmaking in arts, culture, and historic preservation. She also manages the Mosaic Fund. Salem has a B.A. from Duke University and an M.A. from The New School.

Jane Wilton – General Counsel
Jane 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. She writes The Trust’s Professional Notes, a series of publications for attorneys and other advisors working in estate and financial planning. She received a B.A. from Michigan State University, a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, and an LL.M in taxation from New York University School of Law.

Gay Young – Vice President, Donor Services
Gay works with donors to identify their charitable objectives, and organizes events to inform and cultivate donors and advisors. Gay majored in political science and history at Wellesley College and graduated from New York University School of Law. She serves on the boards of Hudson Guild and the New York Foundation.