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 – Office: (212) 889-3963; Cell: (917) 774-8159  mbl@nyct-cfi.org
Amy Wolf – Office: (646) 214-1004; Cell: (917) 847-4992  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 below)
- ARTS & CULTURE | Salem Tsegaye
- ARTS EDUCATION | Leigh Ross
- CENSUS | Pat Swann
- CHARITABLE NEW YORKERS | John Oddy and Marie D’Costa
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | Pat Swann
- DISABILITIES | Rachel Pardoe
- DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS | John Oddy
- EDUCATION – K-12 | Eve Stotland
- EDUCATION REFORM | Barbara Taveras
- ENVIRONMENT | Arturo Garcia-Costas

GRANTMAKING | Shawn Morehead
- HEALTH – MEDICAL | Irfan Hasan
- HEALTH - BEHAVIORAL/MENTAL HEALTH | Irfan Hasan
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION | Salem Tsegaye
- HUMAN SERVICES | Irfan Hasan
- IMMIGRATION | Eve Stotland
- LEGAL ISSUES (Estate Planning, Wills, Charitable Giving) | Carrie Trowbridge
- LEGAL SERVICES | Eve Stotland
- OLDER ADULTS | Rachel Pardoe
- PHILANTHROPY (General) | Amy Freitag
**Marie D’Costa – Chief Development and Marketing Officer**

Marie works with donors to create personalized philanthropic legacies and oversees The Trust’s marketing initiatives. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Philanthropic Planning Group of Greater New York, Women in Development, and the Advancement Network. She has a B.A. in public relations and advertising and an M.A. in international relations, both from the City College of New York, CUNY. She serves on the board of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation and served on the board of BronxWorks.

**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 Hasan – 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.

**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.

**John Oddy – Vice President, Donor Relations**

John works directly with donors to help them deepen the impact of their philanthropy and identify the most effective strategies for their giving. He is a frequent speaker on donor trends, the philanthropic landscape, and has a special interest in the arts and humanities. John is a graduate of Bard College and has a M.A. in Urban Planning from New York University’s Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

**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.

**Amy Freitag – President**

Amy Freitag became president of The New York Community Trust in July 2022.

For the prior eight years, she was executive director of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, a 75-year-old family foundation based in New York City. During her tenure, she initiated the J.M.K. Innovation Prize and led grantmaking in criminal justice reform, climate change, democracy, and historical conservation, including several Civil Rights sites.

Freitag previously was executive director of the New York Restoration Project, which led a private effort to plant one million new trees in New York City. Prior to that, she was the U.S. program director for the World Monuments Fund and deputy commissioner for capital projects with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

She served on the NYC Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers and currently sits on the boards of Philanthropy New York and the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation.

Freitag was raised in Akron, Ohio, and holds an A.B. from Smith College and master’s degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

**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.

**Carrie Trowbridge – General Counsel**

Carrie 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. Prior to joining The Trust, Carrie served as associate general counsel and director of nonprofit practice at New York University. Previously, she was an associate in the tax-exempt organizations practice group at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, which she joined after serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Charles S. Haight, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Carrie received a B.A. from Yale University, a doctorate in English Literature from Oxford University, and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

**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.