Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy’s (EPIP) 6th national conference, *EPIP in NOLA: Emerging Voices, Empowering Communities* was held May 12 – 14 in New Orleans, Louisiana. EPIP in NOLA marked EPIP’s first conference to be held in the Southern US.
EPIP IN NOLA: BY THE NUMBERS

EPIP in NOLA showcased EPIP’s diverse network, bringing 220 emerging philanthropic leaders, sector luminaries, and EPIP supporters to New Orleans from 23 states and the District of Columbia.

67% women

46% people of color

6% LGBTQ

25% <3 years in field

41% master’s degree

48% millenial
Plenaries

INSPIRING PARTICIPANTS TO CREATE PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY-LEVEL CHANGE THROUGH PHILANTHROPY
Rebuilding Equitable Communities

This plenary session opened with an excerpt from the choreo-poem Taken, which was inspired by the issue of absentee fathers in the African-American community, performed by Kesha McKey and Frederick “Hollywood” Delahoussaye.

Following the performance, the panel had a conversation on how to rebuild communities so that all voices are heard and recognized.

MODERATOR
Ashley Shelton, Director, One Voice Louisiana

PANELISTS
Flozell Daniels, Jr., CEO & President, Foundation for Louisiana
Ellen Lee, Director of Housing Policy and Community Development, City of New Orleans
Dr. Allison Plyer, Executive Director and Chief Demographer, The Data Center
Kristin Tracz, Gulf of Mexico Program Officer, Walton Family Foundation

QUOTES
“Facilitating access to opportunities is how we build greater equity in communities”
--Ellen Lee

“Demography is destiny. Equity as a growth strategy is only way the city will thrive.”
-- Dr. Allison Plyer

“Philanthropy ought to act the way it expects its grantees to act.”
--Flozell Daniels
Progressive Philanthropy in the South: Examining the Ecosystem for Social Justice

The plenary session began with the performance of Cry You One by Sean Larocca, Kathy Randles, Rebecca Mwase, Lisa Shatuck, Hannah Pepper Cunningham, Nick Slie and Jon Greene.

Following the performance, funders and public policy leaders came together to dispel some of the myths associated with the South and highlight structural change work in the region.

MODERATOR
Gladys Washington, Program Director, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation

PANELISTS
G. Albert Ruesga, President & CEO, Greater New Orleans Foundation
Bill Kopsky, Executive Director, Arkansas Public Policy Panel
Regan Gruber Moitt, J.D., Associate Vice President, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

QUOTES
“Justice is often an uncomfortable and scary word for funders in the South.”
-- Regan Moffitt

“Community foundations in the south cannot do business as usual.”
-- Albert Ruesga

“You cannot move a national policy without the South.”
-- Bill Kopsky
Building a Movement Mindset - Leading From Where You Are

EPIP in NOLA’s closing plenary brought together a diverse set of panelists to discuss why social movements matter and how each attendee could play a role supporting them.

The multigenerational panel of speakers delved into the different ways to engage with philanthropy and the role of the philanthropic sector in supporting movements on the ground.

**MODERATOR**

Adria Goodson, PhD, Director, Prime Movers and ARTWorks for Kids, Hunt Alternatives

**PANELISTS**

Aaron Dorfman, Executive Director, National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP)

Joyce Hobson Johnson, Beloved Community Center

Saket Soni, Executive Director, New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice

Cristina Jimenez, Managing Director, United We Dream

**QUOTES**

“If you really want a movement, you need to change power and systems.”

--Aaron Dorfman

“I freed Nelson Mandela. And so did 25,000,000 other people.”

--Saket Soni

“One of the best things I did as a Program Officer was listen.”

--Adria Goodson
Emerging Leader Salons

Emerging leader salons at EPIP in NOLA offered direct access to senior executives and thought leaders for focused small group discussions.

The salons were preceded by a performance by Poet-Artpreneur-Consultant Kelly Harris who performed “Post-Katrina Blues” and “For Mothers of Hashtags” and a brief panel discussion moderated by Rahsaan Harris, PhD, President & CEO of the Emma Bowen Foundation to introduce the thought leaders participating in the salons.

PARTICIPANTS

• Richard Brown, Vice President, American Express Philanthropy
• Flozell Daniels, Jr, President and CEO, Foundation for Louisiana
• Linetta Gilbert, Managing Partner at Gilbert and Associates, LLC and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Foundation for Louisiana
• Rahsaan Harris, PhD, President & CEO, Emma Bowen Foundation
• Claire Peeps, Executive Director, The Durfee Foundation
Workshops

TAKING AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THREE KEY AREAS OF PHILANTHROPY
EPIP in NOLA featured workshops in three programming tracks, each tackling a different aspect of philanthropy — Place-Based Funding with an Eye on the South, The Intersection of Social Justice and The Arts/Culture, and Strategies for Collective Impact and Movement Building.

**PLACE-BASED FUNDING WITH AN EYE ON THE SOUTH**

This track explored what funders nationwide have learned from “place-based” funding and how that knowledge can be applied to the south.

**THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE ARTS/CULTURE**

Arts and culture is the foundation for many communities and must be sustained by bringing awareness to our historic roots and supporting the integration of arts and culture with new economic development. This track focused on showing how essential arts and culture are to communicating the inequities and injustices in our communities.

**STRATEGIES FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT AND MOVEMENT BUILDING**

This track explored different methods for funders, regional associations, and grassroots organizers to spark revolutions and build movements, using a range of strategies from traditional coalitions to new media.
PLACE-BASED FUNDING WITH AN EYE ON THE SOUTH

People, Place & Planning: Engaging Residents & Using Data in Revitalization

How can you create and sustain long-term neighborhood change that engages and energizes residents, leverages assets, and assesses whether you accomplished what you set out to do? This session featured a participatory neighborhood planning process through the eyes of a stakeholder to show first-hand how one community is revitalizing using a resident-driven plan.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Crystal Dundas
Program and Communications Officer, Wells Fargo Regional Foundation

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS

Lois Greco
Wells Fargo Regional Foundation

Paul Calistro
West End Neighborhood House

Transforming Communities: Funder-Supported Social Justice Models

This workshop highlighted three models in which funders have worked with local advocates as partners to advance social justice agendas in local places - Arkansas, California, and New Orleans.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Libby Lok
Frontline Solutions

Andrew Ford
Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

Ashley Shelton
One Voice Louisiana

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS

Marc Philpart
PolicyLink

Saket Soni
New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice
Community Change From The Inside Out

This interactive workshop drew participants into powerful conversations through a facilitated “ish-bowl” format and explored the contextual dynamics of place-based grantmaking and community change in the South. The session emphasized practical strategies for engagement and development, such as the use of a Community of Practice for the 12 organizations in the initiative.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Joann M. Ricci
Kellie Chavez Greene
Flint Mitchell
Jeffrey Glebocki

Greater New Orleans Foundation

Out in the South: Increasing Funding for LGBTQ Southern Communities

The South is home to more LGBTQ adults than any other region in the US, but it only receives 3-4 percent of domestic LGBTQ funding each year. This session dove deep into trends, opportunities and gaps in foundation funding for LGBTQ issues in the South using data on the state of foundation funding in the South.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Naa Hammond
Kristina Wertz
Lyle Matthew Kan

Funders for LGBTQ Issues

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS

Alfredo Cruz
Foundation for Louisiana

Wes Ware
BreakOUT!

Deon Haywood
Women With A Vision
Six Best Practices for Collaboration & Advocacy: Lessons from a Southern Case Study

In this hands-on workshop, participants learned about philanthropic collaboration and advocacy from both a national and a Southern perspective, focused on a case study of philanthropic advocacy collaboration in Alabama, and mapped out best practices for the future.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

LaTosha Brown
Project Director, Grantmakers for Southern Progress

Christine Reeves Strigaro
Associate Director of Foundation Programs, Alliance for Justice

Jera Stribling
Executive Director, Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation & Alabama Giving

Learning Together in Place: Enhancing Your Impact through Regional Associations and Other Member Networks

This workshop helped participants understand their place as place-based grantmakers through the value of regional associations, identify ways to further innovation, and show how impact can be enhanced by working and learning collectively with other key stakeholders.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Christopher Johnson
Florida Philanthropic Network

Will Kauffman
Southeastern Council of Foundations

Emily Wexler
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations
Empowering Communities through Arts and Music Education

This thoughtful and inclusive conversation on the importance of engaging with local communities through arts and music education included best practices in partnership development as well as discussion of creative opportunities for engagement with nonprofit partners.

**SESSION ORGANIZERS**

**Mari Brennan Barrera**  
Hunt Alternatives

**Madeleine Steczynski**  
Wells Fargo Regional Foundation

**ADDITIONAL PRESENTER**

**Tanisha Garner**  
ARTWorks for Kids, a program of Hunt Alternatives

**SESSION ORGANIZERS**

**Julia Lata**  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

**Emma Leggat**  
StubHub

**Tricia Steele**  
Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation

**ADDITIONAL PRESENTER**

**Kristin Schillinger**  
The Roots of Music

“Build It. Fund It. Change It.’ - How to Successfully Fund Collaboration, Not Competition

Hunt Alternatives, a private operating foundation in Cambridge, provided grants and technical assistance to bring leaders from thirty youth arts organizations to collaborate in the ARTWorks for Kids coalition, netting over $8.1 million to increase public funds to support youth arts programs in Boston and across the state. This workshop explored how coalition members collaborated instead of competing for grant dollars and public recognition for their work.

**SESSION ORGANIZERS**

**Mari Brennan Barrera**  
Hunt Alternatives

**Madeleine Steczynski**  
Wells Fargo Regional Foundation

**ADDITIONAL PRESENTER**

**Tanisha Garner**  
ARTWorks for Kids, a program of Hunt Alternatives
THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE ARTS/CULTURE

Pop Culture Interventions: Why We Need More ‘Halal in the Family’

This workshop featured funders who use pop culture strategies to highlight inequity, including their experience collaborating on the development of “Halal in the Family”, a new web-series sitcom parody with Aasif Mandvi using satire to combat anti-Muslim bias.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Miriam Fogelson
Moore & Associates

Kashif Shaikh
Pillars Fund and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Community Revitalization in New Orleans: A Cross-Section of Economic Development & Arts

In this workshop, leaders representing arts-based community revitalization initiatives discussed the ways their projects seek to combat poverty while maintaining New Orleans’ rich history and arts and cultural scenes.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Ashley Bowden
Cool Culture

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS

Vaughn R. Fauria
NewCorp, Inc.

Brandan Odums
2-Cent Entertainment LLC

Jackie Harris
New Orleans Arts and Cultural Host Committee / Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp
Do No Harm: How Funders Can Support Movements and Sustainable Grassroots Organizations

This workshop explored how funding impacts campaign and coalition dynamics, how grassroots organizations can leverage their campaign experience to advance their mission, and how funders can support the long-term capacity of grassroots communities after the initial campaign is over.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Kate Locke
Deepti Sood
TCC Group

Christen Lee
Asian Immigrant Women Advocates

Structuring and Catalyzing a Social Movement: The Tools Funders Need for Large-Scale Systemic Impact

This workshop explored the strategies and tactics needed to accomplish large-scale systemic changes and social norms. Funders and grantees shared examples of movement building in action and highlighted the role of foundations in catalyzing social movements.

SESSION ORGANIZER

Matt Bond
DentaQuest Foundation

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS

Stacey Chazin
Center for Healthcare Strategies

Sarah Bedard Holland
Virginia Oral Health Coalition

Carrie Hepburn
Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative
Baking It In: Integrating a Talent Lens into Grantmaking & Fundraising

To build strong social movements, we must invest in our greatest assets - the people who do the work - yet funders only spend 1% of their grant dollars on leadership and staff development for nonprofits, often leading to low morale, high burnout, and mediocre performance. This workshop looked at ways to integrate talent-investment into grantmaking and fundraising to build a strong, well-supported, and diverse social change workforce.

SESSION ORGANIZER
Rusty Stahl
Talent Philanthropy Project

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS
Claire Peeps
The Durfee Foundation

Giving Beyond the Grant - How Human Capital Can Drive Philanthropy Forward

Resource-constrained nonprofits have greater access than ever before to talented people and networks. This workshop highlighted how Catchafire builds partnerships that deepen relationships between foundations and grantees while driving capacity building resources to participating nonprofits.

SESSION ORGANIZER
Ella Foshay-Rothfeld
Director of Strategic Partnerships, Catchafire
#Revolution - Building a Digital Grassroots Movement (the freemium model)

This workshop simulated the launch of an on-the-ground initiative using new media. The session included taking existing messaging and transforming it for online action, creating visuals and media using only a smartphone or tablet, and choosing networks to maximize engagement.

SESSION ORGANIZERS

Francesca Dulce Larson
Vanessa Byrem-Tangy

Mosaic Strategies Group
Learning Tours
Seeing Philanthropy in Action
Arts & Culture Tour

New Orleans is world-renowned for its vibrant and original culture, from the food to the music to the Mardi Gras Indian tradition. But what happens when that culture is threatened by natural disaster, gentrification and the need to monetize arts and culture for tourism? How do artists and culture-bearers survive and how is philanthropy supporting the evolving cultural economy?

This tour brought together representatives from New Orleans vibrant arts and cultural community to discuss how art and culture has shaped the city and how the changing city is shaping the future of art and culture in New Orleans.

SPEAKERS
Shaka Zulu, Golden Feather Mardi Gras Indian Restaurant and Gallery
Stephanie McKee, Junebug Productions
Education Tour

While New Orleans has been touted by many as a model for new educational systems and methods, others feel like the charter school movement is undermining public accountability and local control.

This tour began with a history of school desegregation in New Orleans, visiting Akili Academy at the William Frantz School Campus, made famous as the school desegregated by Ruby Bridges, and continued with a “school choice” simulation and discussion led by youth advocates from Kids ReThink New Orleans.

SPEAKERS
The Youth Members of Kids ReThink New Orleans
Aesha Rasheed, New Orleans Parent’s Guide
Community Resistance & Reclamation Tour

What does it mean to be a young person in New Orleans post-Katrina? What does it mean to be young and Black, young and immigrant, and/or young and queer?

This tour, led by organizers of VAYLA New Orleans, let EPIP members participate in a teach-in on the issues young people of color and immigrant youth in New Orleans face post-Katrina and what they are doing to address it.

SPEAKERS The Youth Members of VAYLA
In Their Own Words
EPIP in NOLA was a resounding success - 98% of post-conference survey respondents said that their experience was above average or excellent, 100% felt that they had expanded their network, and 96% would recommend the conference to their peers.

#EPIP2015 thx for putting people, place, culture + community back at center of philanthropy. Congrats on a tremendous learning experience!  
@rustystahl

Best conference ever! Real conversations. Real connections. Leaving w/a full soul & hunger 4 more. #EPIP2015  
@MsSkonieski
Thank you for organizing one of the best conferences I’ve been a part of. I felt like I was at home with 200 or so friends. Every conversation was interesting and engaging...it’s a powerful group.

I was amazed by the quality of the sessions, the diversity of the speakers, and the enthusiasm of the attendees....Now we’ll have to take the lessons learned to the next level and apply them in our work and volunteering!
The conference was amazing...I’m already talking to other staff members at my organization about some of the sessions I attended and figuring out ways to incorporate the learning into our work.

Feeling grateful for the #EPIP2015 cohort in NOLA this week. I’m reminded that #thefutureisbright & appreciate the shared learning. Salud!

@FlozellDaniels

Sad to be leaving #NOLA after an amazing & memorable #EPIP2015. Feeling the love from this amazing city and remarkable community!

@cwegstweet

I cannot underestimate how much I needed to attend...I needed the energy and enthusiasm of the conference, but also the strategies and ideas. I gained both momentum and also tangible ideas on how to move some issues forward at the foundation.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Baptist Community Ministries

Prime Movers

A Program of Hunt Alternatives

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

The Walton Family Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation