About the Program

About the 7th Annual Meeting: This year’s conference theme – Common Wealth: Kentucky’s Path to Shared Progress – reflects an agenda focused on the future of our state and philanthropy’s role in the years ahead. After site visits highlighting the forward-thinking projects that have revitalized businesses and neighborhoods in Lexington, we will turn to sessions and speakers that will shed light on the latest policy developments in Washington and in the Commonwealth, as well as a look at what’s ahead on issues of particular interest to grantmakers.

About Grantmakers of Kentucky: Grantmakers of Kentucky was created to help foster connections and cooperation among foundations and between funders and policy makers, as well as to inform grantmakers about the possibilities – and potential challenges – that lie ahead in our state. Through our programming, grantmakers have the opportunity to connect with their fellow Kentucky colleagues, share best practices, discover new resources and increase the state’s grantmaking impact.

About the Southeastern Council of Foundations: The Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF) is one of the nation’s largest regional associations of grantmakers, serving more than 330 of the most dynamic foundations and corporate giving programs in the South. SECF works in partnership with members in 11 Southeastern states to serve, strengthen, promote and champion the South’s philanthropic voice and infrastructure through engaging programming, leadership development training, access to unique resources and invaluable connections. By encouraging insightful philanthropic collaboration, SECF creates opportunities to increase the region’s grantmaking impact and empower transformational community change.

Statement of Intent & Code of Conduct


SECF’s Statement of Intent: The Southeastern Council of Foundations strives to support Members and grantmakers with access to education, resources and networking by serving as a convener and facilitator, offering a diverse range of voices and perspectives. We do not endorse colleague organization views, but rather aim to provide access to a broad range of information and resources to increase grantmaking impact and develop philanthropic leaders throughout the region.

SECF’s Code of Conduct: The Southeastern Council of Foundations is composed of a broad and diverse membership of grantmakers. At our core, we are a community of grantmakers connecting with each other to improve the practice of grantmaking in the Southeast.

At our meetings and events, we also welcome visitors from other organizations – which are not members – that participate as presenters or participants. SECF strives to create a comfortable place for all Members, visitors, and others engaged in philanthropy to exchange experiences and ideas and engage in conversations that are welcoming and of benefit to all participants. As such, SECF is not a venue for grant seekers, fundraisers, or other types of charitable solicitations during any of its meetings, events or through its publications nor is it an appropriate venue to conduct political activities. We ask that our Members and visitors not solicit at SECF-sponsored events or programs and that Members and visitors not use information obtained through their SECF membership or participation in SECF events for charitable, business or other solicitations outside of those events.
Welcome Kentucky Grantmakers

Fellow Kentucky Grantmakers,

We are so excited to welcome you to the Seventh Annual Conference for the Grantmakers of Kentucky – and to return to Lexington, which has seen tremendous growth and change since we last gathered here in 2012.

This year’s meeting is focused on the Commonwealth’s path to shared progress. As we look to the future, many questions face us: What lies ahead for our state, its communities and its people? How will policies crafted in Washington and Frankfort affect our work as grantmakers? What is the role of philanthropy in an uncertain political environment?

The leaders and experts we’ve assembled here will help us answer these questions – and point us in the right direction as we forge our own path, one that will lead us to excellence in our own work and prosperity for those we seek to help.

How much change is truly possible? Look no further than our host city, which has continued to innovate and evolve in the five years since we last met here. We hope this year’s site visits demonstrate the kinds of improvements that are possible in only a short period of time.

We also hope you walk away from this meeting inspired – not only by our speakers and site visits, but also by each other. Thank you for joining us on this journey – and thank you for supporting the Grantmakers of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Jen Algire
The Greater Clark Foundation

Mason Rummel
James Graham Brown Foundation

2017 Planning Committee

Jen Algire · The Greater Clark Foundation (Co-chair)
Mason Rummel · James Graham Brown Foundation (Co-chair)
Lisa Adkins · Blue Grass Community Foundation
Kristin Collins · Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
Trisha Finnegan · Community Foundation of Louisville
Kathy Knotts · Gheens Foundation
Alyssa Manning · Felix E. Martin Jr. Foundation
Gerry Roll · Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky

Planning for Future Success

We want to hear your feedback – please check your e-mail the day following this event to participate in a brief survey on the 2017 Grantmakers of Kentucky Annual Conference.

Your responses help ensure the continued success of this event!
Program Agenda

Please note: all sessions on Thursday, August 3 will be held in the Main Gallery on the second floor of the 21c Museum Hotel.

Wednesday, August 2

11:30am Optional lunch at Smithtown Seafood in The Bread Box (501 West Sixth Street, Lexington, KY 40508)

Note: For those not providing their own transportation, a bus will leave from the 21c Museum Hotel for The Bread Box at 11:15am. Attendees will cover the cost of lunch.

1:00pm Tours of businesses in The Bread Box: The Plantory, Broke Spoke and West Sixth Brewing

3:30pm Walking tour of Lexington’s Northside neighborhood

5:00pm Return to 21c Museum Hotel via bus

5:30pm Reception at Mayor Jim Gray’s residence

Note: The mayor’s residence is a short walk from the hotel, though bus transportation will be provided to and from the reception for those who prefer not to walk.

Thursday, August 3

8:00am Registration & Breakfast

8:30am Welcome & Opening Remarks, featuring:
· Mayor Jim Gray, City of Lexington

9:00am Legislative & Regulatory Update, featuring:
· Sandra Swirski, Partner, Urban Swirski & Associates
· Executive Director, Alliance for Charitable Reform

10:00am Panel Discussion: What’s Coming Up for Kentucky?, featuring:
· Christen Boone, President and CEO, Fund for the Arts
· Ben Chandler, President & CEO, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
· Perry Papka, Senior Policy Director, Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence
· Kevin Smith, President & CEO, Community Ventures
· Moderator: Pete Bird, President & CEO, Frist Foundation

11:00am Break

11:15am State Policies Affecting Nonprofits, featuring:
· Danielle Clore, Executive Director, Kentucky Nonprofit Network

12:00pm Lunch & Local Philanthropist Interview, featuring:
· Griffin VanMeter, Partner, Bullhorn Creative
· Moderator: Jen Algire, President & CEO, The Greater Clark Foundation

1:00pm Break

1:15pm (Grantmakers of) Kentucky Derby The fastest 2 minutes in philanthropy!

1:45pm Closing Keynote, featuring:
· Chris Gates, Senior Advisor, Bridge Alliance USA

2:45pm Wrap-up

3:00pm Adjourn
**Speaker Profiles**

**Pete Bird · President and CEO, The Frist Foundation**
Pete Bird has served as chief executive officer of The Frist Foundation since 2002. He has been with the foundation since 1983, serving as senior program officer before assuming the top job. Originally from Indianapolis, Bird holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism and did post-graduate study at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business. In the 1970s, he served as city editor of The Jackson Sun newspaper in West Tennessee before becoming business news editor of the Nashville Banner, where he worked from 1976 to 1981. He then served as senior vice president of Commerce Union Corporation (now Bank of America), where he handled strategic planning and communications, before joining The Frist Foundation. With more than $300 million in assets, The Frist Foundation is the largest private foundation in Middle Tennessee. The foundation is a place-based grantmaker, awarding $10 million in grants in 2014, the largest of which went to Nashville Zoo and the Frist Center for the Visual Arts.

**Christen Boone · President and CEO, Fund for the Arts**
Christen McDonough Boone is the President & CEO of the Fund for the Arts, one of our country’s oldest and most successful united arts funds. Each year, the Fund for the Arts, based in Louisville, raises more than $8 million from over 20,000 donors and supports 25 cultural partners and programs throughout the region. Christen is deeply committed to helping build a stronger and more vibrant Louisville. Throughout her career, Christen has been active as a community connector, social entrepreneur and a sought-after consultant in nonprofit development and strategic philanthropy. She serves on the national Private Sector Council for the Americans for the Arts, and locally on the board of the Governors Scholars Program and Foundation. She was recognized as a 40 Under 40 leader by Business First, and as Volunteer of the Year by SafePlace Services.

**Ben Chandler · President and CEO, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky**
Named President and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky in 2016, Ben Chandler has returned to lead the foundation he helped bring about. As Kentucky Attorney General, Ben won a $45 million settlement from one of Kentucky's largest insurance companies; that funding was used to create the foundation in 2001. Ben practiced law with Brown, Todd & Heyburn, and later with Reeves & Graddy before beginning a career in public service. His state service included one term as Kentucky State Auditor (1992-1995), and two terms as Attorney General (1995-2003). In February 2004, Ben was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served Kentucky’s 6th Congressional District until the 112th Congress adjourned in January 2013. He was Executive Director of the Kentucky Humanities Council from 2013 to 2016. Ben earned a bachelor’s degree in history, graduating with distinction from the University of Kentucky, and a J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

**Danielle Clore · Executive Director/CEO, Kentucky Nonprofit Network**
Danielle Tharp Clore is the executive director of Kentucky Nonprofit Network. In this role, Danielle provides overall leadership for the network and also specializes in consulting in the areas of board governance, strategic planning and fundraising. Danielle held leadership positions at the Commonwealth Fund for KET, Eastern Kentucky University, Special Olympics Kentucky and Christian Care Communities prior to her position with KNN. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Transylvania University and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Administration. She is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Kentucky. She is a native of Bardstown, grew up in Pineville and now resides in Lexington with her husband and two children.

**Chris Gates · Senior Advisor, Bridge Alliance USA**
Gates is a senior advisor to the Bridge Alliance and advises a variety of other philanthropic and nonprofit organizations. He is also an elected Fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration. He has previously served as a Fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and a Senior Fellow at California Forward, where he led the effort to create the “50 State Solution,” a new platform designed to encourage and support state-based political reform. Gates previously served as the leader of three national organizations in the democracy and philanthropy fields, as President of the Sunlight Foundation; the first Executive Director of Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement; and as President of the National Civic League.
Speaker Profiles

Jim Gray · Mayor, City of Lexington
Jim Gray is in his second term as mayor of a vibrant university city of 305,000 people surrounded by the most beautiful horse farms in the world. In 2016, Lexington was named the sixth best-run city in the country. During his time in office, Gray significantly reduced the city’s annual health insurance costs while improving employee satisfaction through an on-site medical clinic and pharmacy. His reform of the police and fire pension system preserved the retirements of more than 1,000 retirees while saving the city millions. A national actuarial firm labeled it the “most effective pension reform in the country.” Those savings allowed the mayor to invest in public safety, including hiring more police officers and replacing outdated equipment. Today Lexington is the safest city of its size anywhere in the country. Now in his second term, Mayor Gray continues to focus on his three core themes: creating jobs, running government efficiently and building a great American City.

Perry Papka · Senior Policy Director, Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence
Perry joined the staff of the committee in August 2015. Previously, he served as senior analyst and staff administrator on the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission’s Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, where he provided oversight for more than $1 billion in appropriations. He has held research positions at the Council on Developmental Disabilities at University of Kentucky, Center for Science in the Public Interest and Alaska Seafood International. He is a graduate of Centre College and has a master’s degree in Public Policy from University of Kentucky Martin School.

Kevin Smith · President & CEO, Community Ventures
Since 1993, Kevin has led Community Ventures from a staff of one with $450,000 in assets to today’s 70-member team in five regional offices managing over $121 million in assets. Kevin has over 22 years experience in designing, implementing and capitalizing nonprofit programs. He received a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, with completed studies in economics from the University of London in London, England.

Sandra G. Swirski · Partner, Urban Swirski & Associates
Sandra Swirski is an attorney with almost three decades of public policy experience. Swirski advised two senior U.S. senators, was an executive at a Fortune 10 company, counseled multinational clients at a premier professional services company and founded two government affairs firms in Washington, D.C., including Urban Swirski & Associates. Her practice focuses on advising Fortune 500 executives and leaders of nonprofit organizations on federal, state and local advocacy, strategic positioning, crisis communications advice, and political strategy direction. She is a frequent guest speaker both nationally and internationally on public policy and political strategy, and is a regular contributor to Wealth Management’s online publication. Swirski holds law degrees from Georgetown University and George Washington University and an undergraduate degree from Emory University.

Griffin VanMeter · Partner, Bullhorn Creative
Called “the ambassador of North Limestone” by the Lexington Herald-Leader, Griffin VanMeter keeps busy through multiple projects. He is a partner at Bullhorn Creative, a branding and design firm where, he writes, “we do good work for good people.” That means he and his team “partner with organizations that contribute significantly to the world around them.” Thoughtfully, with an eye towards positive growth,” Griffin also runs Kentucky for Kentucky, which designs and sells offbeat apparel and other merchandise to fulfill its mission: “engage and inform the world by promoting Kentucky people, places, and products.” He served as vice president of the North Limestone Neighborhood Association and lives in the neighborhood with his wife and two children.