

Grant Oliphant*President, The Heinz Endowments*

Grant Oliphant has been President of The Heinz Endowments since 2014 and has been a positive force in philanthropy and public service for nearly three decades. A leading proponent of the idea that philanthropy must be vocal in the defense of its values, he has written and lectured extensively on issues of equity, race and social justice, and championed principles that address critical community and societal issues in Pittsburgh and beyond.

Following a six-year term as President of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Grant joined the Endowments where he reshaped the foundation's grantmaking around three key strategic areas based on the core ethos of a 'just community,' supporting commitments and initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all.

Under Grant's leadership, the Endowments refocused its work on advancing a sustainable and equitable future, locally and globally; creating equitable opportunities that benefit families and individuals, especially those living in vulnerable neighborhoods; and building a culture of engaged creativity for all citizens.

DeRay Mckesson*Co-founder, Campaign Zero*

DeRay Mckesson is a civil rights activist focused primarily on issues of innovation, equity and justice. Born and raised in Baltimore, he graduated from Bowdoin College and holds honorary doctorates from The New School and the Maryland Institute College of Art.

DeRay has advocated for issues related to children, youth, and families since he was a teen. As a leading voice in the Black Lives Matter Movement and a co-founder of Campaign Zero, DeRay has worked to connect individuals with knowledge and tools, and provide citizens and policy makers with commonsense policies that ensure equity. He has been praised by President Obama for his work as a community organizer, has advised officials at all levels of government and internationally, and continues to provide capacity to activists, organizers, and influencers to make an impact.

Spurred by the death of Mike Brown and the subsequent protests in Ferguson, Missouri, and beyond, DeRay has become a key player in the work to confront the systems and structures that have led to mass incarceration and police killings of black and other minority populations. He is also the host of the award-winning weekly podcast Pod Save The People - which creates space for conversation about the most important issues of the week related to justice, equity and identity.

Nicole Taylor

President and CEO, Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Nicole Taylor is president and CEO of Silicon Valley Community Foundation. She brings together a rich background in Bay Area philanthropy, nonprofit administration and fundraising with extensive experience in both the private and public sectors.

In joining SVCF in December 2018, Nicole returns to the Bay Area from Arizona, where she served as vice president of the ASU Foundation. She also previously served as deputy vice president and dean of students at Arizona State University. Prior to her time at ASU, Nicole was the associate vice provost of student affairs and dean of community engagement and diversity at Stanford University, after serving as president and CEO of Thrive Foundation for Youth in Silicon Valley.

Nicole also spent more than 15 years with the East Bay Community Foundation, eventually serving as its president and CEO for six years. Nicole received both her M.A. in Education and A.B. in Human Biology from Stanford University, and she began her career as an educator in Oakland public schools. She served on the board of the Federal Reserve of San Francisco for six years and is currently a board member for Common Sense Media.

Wasi Mohamed

Fellow, Forward Cities and former Director, Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

Wasiullah (Wasi) Mohamed is a life-long Pennsylvania resident. He was born in Harrisburg, raised in Enola, and moved to Pittsburgh in 2011 to attend the University of Pittsburgh.

During his time at the University of Pittsburgh, Wasi served in the leadership of many campus-wide organizations and initiatives, most notably he spent his four years helping to build the Office of PittServes, an arm of the Division of Student Affairs meant to ensure Pitt has a lasting positive impact on the local community while students grow from relationships and experiences with our neighbors.

After serving as the Director of Islamic Center of Pittsburgh Food Pantry for two years, Wasi was selected to be ICP's next Executive Director in 2015. In this position, Wasi worked to empower, educate, and unite the diverse community in Western PA through social services and outreach programs. Wasi currently is the Pittsburgh Director of Community Entrepreneurship at Forward Cities, national capacity-building and learning network working within and between cities and micropolitans to create more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem development. Wasi will be working with FC the next two years to make Pittsburgh a place that will no longer leave minority entrepreneurs under-resourced, under-connected, and under-represented.

Mohamed was recently named "40 under 40" by Pittsburgh Magazine and "Who's Next in Pittsburgh Politics?" by The Incline by The Incline, the youngest on both lists.



Rabbi Ron Symons

Senior Director of Jewish Life, Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh

Rabbi Ron Symons serves as the Sr. Director of Jewish Life of the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh. In that capacity, he is the Founding Director of the Center for Loving Kindness. Founded in 2017, the Center is designed to redefine 'neighbor' as a moral term while amplifying the long held values of 'Love your neighbor as yourself' and 'Do not stand idle while your neighbor bleeds'.

Essential to this work is Ron's organizing of a network hundreds of spiritual leaders across Southwest PA that fosters conversation, learning and relationship. Ron was ordained by the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (NY '94) and has studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbis Barbara and Ron are the proud parents of three emerging Jewish professionals poised to transform Jewish life for their generation.