

Building Broader Communities in the Americas (BBCA)

Summer 2020
Newsletter

Things certainly have changed since our last newsletter in February! The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted that our lives are interconnected, our communities transcend borders, and our work should do the same.

In this newsletter, we welcome our new Project Director for BBCA, share some reflections and resources from the past few months, and provide an update on our recently-completed strategic planning process that we conducted with the Public Equity Group.

Welcome Lisa Schalla!



We are happy to announce our new **BBCA Project Director**, Lisa Schalla!

Lisa was formerly the Executive Director at Fundación Punta

de Mita, a community foundation in the state of Nayarit, western Mexico. After a career in international education and finishing a doctorate in Educational Policy and Leadership from the University of Minnesota, Lisa entered the nonprofit sector in Mexico.

She has served on the board of Comunalía for the past two years. She is particularly passionate about family and community assets and in the role of participatory evaluation in moving programs forward.

Lisa has just moved back to Minneapolis this summer after having lived abroad for 32 years. Her son Sebastian will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, in the fall and she looks forward to being closer to family and engaging in music and outdoor activities during the seasons.

Lisa is excited to be able to support BBCA and the alliances between community foundations and transnational communities in all of North America.

COVID-19 Reflections and Resources

We hope everyone in our extended BBCA family is staying safe and healthy during these turbulent times. Below, we share links to reflections and resources that CFLeads, Community Foundations of Canada and Comunalía have published over the last few months while working with their respective community foundation networks to respond to this ongoing public health crisis.

From CFLeads:

- [Connecting with community foundation peers during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Stepping up](#)
- [CFLeads investors share their vision for a better future](#)

From Community Foundations of Canada:

- [Dealing with COVID-19 as a community foundation](#)
- [Ensuring no one is left behind: Putting equity and inclusion at the heart of our emergency response](#)

- [Leading in a time of crisis: An interview with our President and CEO](#)
- [Five tips for community foundations on responding to COVID-19](#)
- [A Global Movement: 10 Examples of How Community Foundations are Responding to COVID-19 Around the World](#)

From Comunalia:

- [10 social actions to face COVID-19 in Mexico](#)
- [In Comunalia, we do it for you and for Mexico](#)
- [How do non-profits adapt to COVID-19?](#)

BBCA's New Strategic Plan and Structure

We have completed our work with the Public Equity Group on BBCA's new strategic plan and structure.

This strategic planning process led to a commitment for BBCA to continue deepening the impact of the groundbreaking work that it has already started. Together, we will continue to strengthen relationships with transnational communities within our own communities and build relationships across borders.

As part of this work, BBCA has a new governance structure. Our new Steering Committee (previously called the Coordination Team) is made up of funders and community foundation networks in Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

BBCA will also continue to seek the advice and input of a Planning Team comprised of community foundation representatives, researchers, funders, philanthropy serving organizations and others committed to BBCA's mission to build stronger, smarter and more resilient communities throughout the Americas by enhancing the effectiveness of community foundations' responsiveness to them.

BBCA Steering Committee

- Gabriela Boyer, Inter-American Foundation
- Nick Deychakiwsky, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Andrea Dicks, Community Foundations of Canada
- Deborah Ellwood, CFLeads
- Caroline Merenda, CFLeads
- Mariana Sandoval Ulloa, Comunalia
- Lisa Schalla, BBCA Project Director

Other Updates and Changes

- Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, all in-person conferences we were planning to participate in have been cancelled. We will continue to explore ways to share the work of BBCA virtually this year.
- We will be issuing a **Request for Proposals** in August to help those community foundations participating in mapping projects further deepen their relationships with transnational communities locally and across borders.
- We will be adding completed mapping reports to the [BBCA website](#) and having all BBCA materials translated in both English and Spanish – stay tuned!

As we move forward with BBCA, we are excited about the partnerships that are developing and deepening, both with our local transnational communities and between community foundations. With a new strategic plan in place and added energy, we are excited to hear how BBCA can help to drive your foundations forward!

If you have any questions about BBCA, please contact Lisa Schalla, Project Director at lschalla@cfleads.org.