

Taking Action with Minnesota Philanthropy

2021 Annual Report



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON FOUNDATIONS

A Message From MCF President, Susie Brown September 2022



Ringin'g in 2021 was surreal. The first COVID vaccines had just been released for emergency use. The world awaited the trial of Derek Chauvin in our backyard. January 6th reminded us of the importance of protecting our democracy. The events of the world shaped the philanthropic community, and MCF itself.

Like many others, we were in a constant “when will we go back to the office?” conversation which eventually ended with the realization that we will never “go back” to the way it used to be. We had recently committed to becoming an anti-racist organization but had deep and on-going work to do to understand what that actually means in the day-to-day. We recognized that our democracy was deeply in peril but there was critical work needed to ensure a community-informed redistricting process in Minnesota. And we knew that Minnesota nonprofits continued to face unprecedented challenges and were in need of resources for myriad increased needs fueled by the extraordinary times. MCF and its members rose to the occasion of these challenges and met the moment, and yet many of them remain unresolved.

Perhaps most importantly, 2021 was the year that MCF and its members, in collaboration with the nonprofit community, updated our sector’s Principles for Philanthropy. This document serves to unify our sector around common principles, and to provide a tool for both individual foundations and the field of philanthropy to continue to learn and grow toward being the best possible partners to the community.

We thank our members for being with us in 2021—at times guiding us, and others following our lead. #WeAreMCF.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susie Brown', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

January 2021 was an interesting time to become board chair of the Minnesota Council on Foundations—many aspects of our world seemed to be both looking up and totally uncertain. So, what is a state association of foundations to do? We realized it was critical to continue to carry on with our important work and to invest time and resources in preparing for the future. We knew that this moment required us to ask and begin to answer some difficult questions - it was a smart time to revisit our strategic direction.

We hired The Giving Practice, a consultancy firm with unique experience working with foundations and Philanthropy Serving Organizations (PSOs) like MCF. We engaged them to listen deeply to you—MCF members—but also to nonprofits and our community partners. Working closely with staff and board, the Giving Practice helped MCF develop a well-informed, reflective, strategic framework which will be completed in 2022.

Throughout the year, we reminded ourselves—we can both keep focused on delivering excellent day-to-day work and look over the horizon to ensure that we are headed in the right strategic direction. We appreciate the MCF memberships’ thoughtful input to help us on the path toward our best future.

Aretha Green-Rupert, 2021 MCF Board Chair and Program Director at Carlson Family Foundation

A large, stylized blue quotation mark graphic, consisting of two curved lines facing each other.

Principles for Philanthropy

Making Philanthropy Better, Together

Since 1996, MCF’s Principles for Philanthropy have provided a vision to unite philanthropy through shared commitments. In 2021, MCF’s Philanthropy and Public Trust Task Force updated the principles, to rethink and redefine our collective work. The committee members, representing nonprofits and foundations, took into account a heightened focus on equity and anti-racism and new demands for transparency and engagement from community partners. The development of the principles included various opportunities for engagement and edits from MCF members, MCF board members, nonprofit partners and national allies.

The new and revised principles invite philanthropic institutions to engage in a developmental framework, whereby each organization has its own starting point. Each of the principles offers ways to understand the concept, to begin the work, and to aspire to do more. In 2022, hundreds of additional practice ideas will be released to provide more concrete steps for implementation.



The eight principles include the following concepts:

- ethical leadership
- stewardship
- values
- equity & justice
- community engagement
- public voice
- continuous learning
- transparency & accountability.

Learn more online at mcf.org/principles-practices



MCF Programming

Connecting and Strengthening the Sector

MCF’s 100% virtual programming in 2021 included 105 events attended by 3,253 participants. Events included member-initiated briefings, educational workshops, meetings of 14 peer networks and timely learning sessions.



Notable Highlights



Virtual Annual Conference

MCF’s 2021 annual conference, Critical Moment in Philanthropy, was offered as a marathon eight-week learning series. All told, 258 MCF members participated in the three keynotes and two-dozen peer-led workshops.



Responsive Programming

MCF offers timely programs through member-initiated briefings, peer-led conversations and other responsive programs. In 2021, engaging topics included the COVID-19 vaccine, the Derek Chauvin trial, return to office (RTO), discussions with the Minnesota Governor and President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women’s Task Force report, Afghan arrivee resettlement, the American Rescue Plan, community-informed redistricting, reparative racial equity, the state of Minnesota’s nonprofit sector, and other topical programs.



Engaging Nonprofit Partners

MCF is walking the path with philanthropy toward greater engagement and power sharing with community members. In 2021, nonprofit partners were active members of various MCF committees, provided key input into MCF planning, and participated in various programs including a series called CEO Chats where foundation leaders engage in conversation with nonprofit partners.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In 2021, MCF spent much of the year focusing its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts on the critical work of self-awareness, learning and continuous improvement. This followed our 2020 commitment to become an anti-racist organization and asking ourselves “how are we doing as an organization, as a team, and an employer?”. Using the Transforming Organizational Culture Assessment, we looked in the mirror, so to speak, and gained feedback from staff, the MCF board and committee members. We reviewed and updated our employee policies with DEI at the forefront. And we engaged in a months-long staff learning process about the history of racism in the U.S. and its impact on communities of color.

We know one thing with certainty: we cannot deliver effective DEI programs and services to MCF members without doing hard, self-reflective, improvement-oriented work ourselves. We must confront our own systems, policies, practices and culture which were born of and perpetuate systemic racism and other inequities. We strive to be an anti-racist organization that demonstrates authentic and successful diversity, equity and inclusion. We’re glad to be on this journey and know we will never be finished.



Public Policy

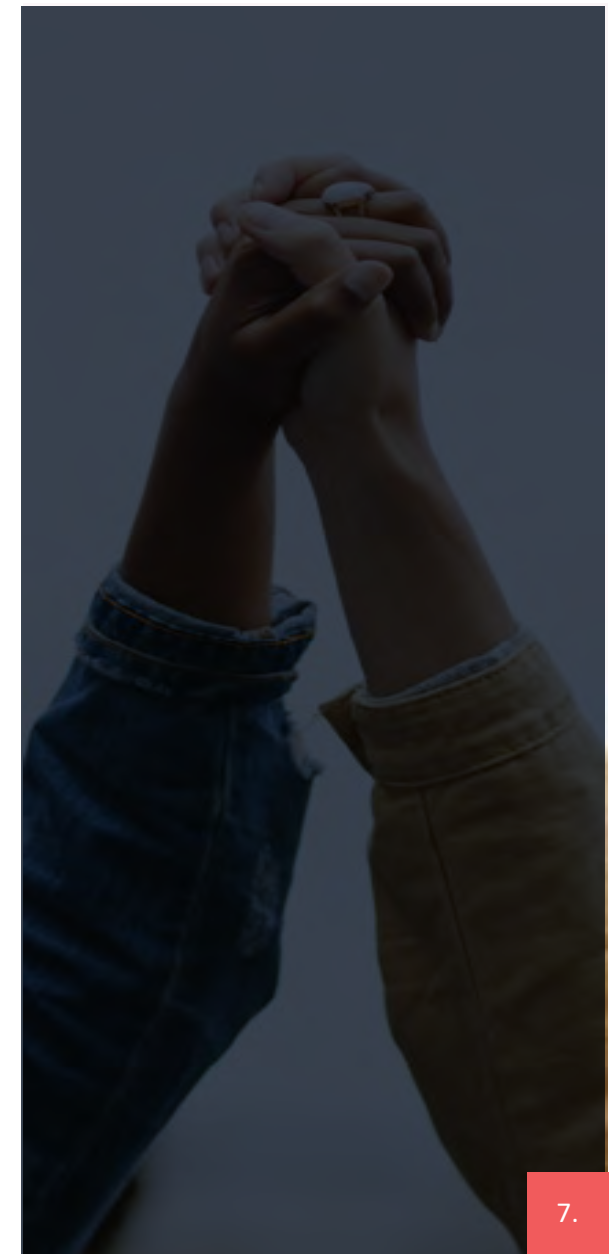
Supporting the Philanthropic Sector and Democracy Efforts

In 2021, MCF worked to promote charitable giving and a strong charitable sector, strengthen democratic systems and civic participation, and support equitable economic and disaster recovery. MCF staff and members represented Minnesota philanthropy at a virtual Foundations on the Hill in March, advocating for enhanced charitable giving incentives and for the charitable sector to be prioritized and included in federal COVID-19 recovery efforts. In June 2021, the Accelerating Charitable Efforts (ACE) Act was introduced at the federal level. MCF conducted significant member engagement on philanthropic practices and the impacts of potential reform, and MCF staff joined United Philanthropy Forum’s Reforms Working Group to consider how to strengthen and improve the sector at the federal level.

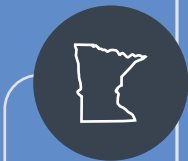
In April 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau released state-level population counts from the 2020 Census, revealing that Minnesota had kept its Eighth Congressional seat by the slim margin of 26 people. MCF and many of the same partners engaged in Minnesota Census Mobilization. Partners came together to work on fair representation in redistricting in 2021 through the Our Maps MN Campaign. MCF served as the Campaign Manager for the Campaign and approached this as a logical extension of the Census effort – working to ensure the full count Census partners worked so hard collectively to achieve would turn into real representation, influence, and policy results for historically undercounted communities. As a part of that effort, MCF provided financial resources and technical assistance to 12 BIPOC-led/serving nonprofits to support deep community engagement in the redistricting process and to advocate for community-informed redistricting maps.

Community Engagement and Fair Representation in Redistricting

A cohort of 12 organizations, with support from MCF, came together to do redistricting community awareness work and community of interest mapping sessions, and to jointly produce a statewide Congressional and legislative unity map that reflected the interests of BIPOC communities. The cohort did over 100 hours of community mapping with more than 400 community participants, producing 40 community of interest maps. The statewide unity map became the Corrie plaintiffs map that was brought before the Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel. The Corrie plaintiffs, representing historically underrepresented BIPOC community voices, were one of four plaintiffs that were able to formally present maps and make their case to the panel of judges charged with drawing the state’s redistricting maps.



Mobilizing Funds



Vaccine Outreach

In early 2021, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, MCF mobilized members to provide \$2.5 million in funding to vaccine outreach efforts designed to reduce COVID-19 disparities. These funds supported mostly small, diverse nonprofits throughout the state, all working toward the goal of reaching Minnesotans who have been hard to reach with public health messages and have low vaccination rates.



Operation Allies Welcome

In fall 2021 MCF pooled over \$1.5 million in philanthropic funds to support Operation Allies Welcome, a fund created to assist new arrivals to MN from Afghanistan. In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, with leadership from the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota, this infusion of resources helped fill gaps in public funds that are designed to support immigrants and refugees, and helped Minnesota increase the number of people who could rebuild their lives here in our state.



Integrated Capital

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shutdowns led to vast economic and social devastation across Minnesota. This required a swift, bold and impactful response from philanthropy. From April 2020 through December 2021, MCF led the Integrated Capital Recovery Program (ICRP) to encourage foundations to provide patient capital in the form of loans, Program Related Investments (PRIs) and grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). ICRP delivered \$44.7 million in funding to BIPOC centered priorities, affordable housing, small business development and other innovative community-focused solutions.

2021 Financial Snapshot

In 2021, MCF staff and members partnered to create excellent programming for our philanthropic community. Plus, the MCF network stepped up in significant ways to meet critical community needs. The 2021 MCF financial picture looks different from many recent years because of significant grant funds that MCF pooled and delivered to nonprofits, community groups and intermediaries across the state, as explained on page 8.

As a statewide network, MCF’s greatest resource is its people. The dollar amounts on this page represent the hard work of 11 staff, 21 board members, 150 active member organizations and over 2,000 MCF member staff and volunteers.

We ended 2021 energized to continue mobilizing philanthropy through ongoing programs and new opportunities. We are grateful for those who supported our organization, and for every investment that helped us build a stronger network for the greater good within the philanthropic community.

Revenue: \$7,239,516

\$5,786,737	Grants and Sponsorships Received
\$1,209,177	Membership Dues
\$194,500	PPP Loan Forgiveness
\$45,525	Conference and Education Programs
\$3,577	Other Revenue



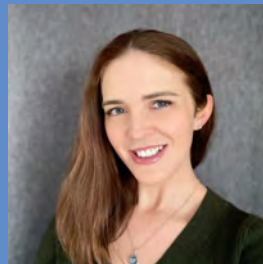
Expenses: \$6,960,628

\$5,704,798	Grants Paid MCF pooled philanthropic dollars for three statewide funds, described on page 8.
\$675,968	Member Services and Public Policy MCF Member Services lead the way by prioritizing member-focused events that were relevant and timely to the sector.
\$374,903	Management and Fundraising MCF staff provided organizational strength and stability, raised resources to support community organizations, and offered contracted services to engage members for purposeful action.
\$204,959	Communications and Research We mobilized communication and research strategies to ensure topics, issues and data were front and center.

MCF Staff



Susie Brown
President



Jill Chi
Communications and
Membership Specialist



Camille Cyprian
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Director
(left MCF Jan. 2022)



Kristen Cullen
Director of
Membership and
Communications



Susan Hammel
Executive in Residence



Brianna Kocka
Governance and
Operations Manager



Paul Masiarchin
Vice President and
Director of Member
Services



Erin Jordan
Marketing and
Communications Director
(left MCF Jan. 2022)



Katina Mortensen
Public Policy Director



Pablo Obregon
Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Director



Chris Oien
Communications and
Research Specialist



**Patricia Starks-
Faggett**
Finance and
Administration
Manager



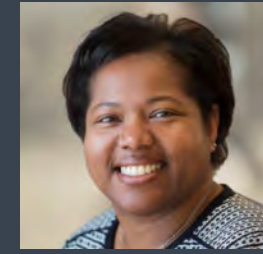
Josh Vang
Member Services Manager



May Yang
Public Policy Manager

2021 MCF Board of Directors

Officers



Aretha Green-Rupert, *Chair*
Program Director,
Carlson Family Foundation



Katy E. Friesz, *Vice Chair*
Executive Director,
Winnebago Industries
Foundation

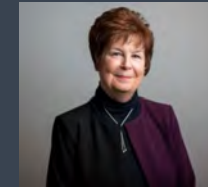


Erik Torch, *Secretary*
Director of Grantmaking,
Northland Foundation

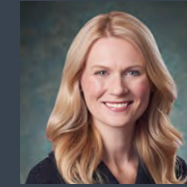


Matt Stowell, *Treasurer*
Controller,
Northwest Area Foundation

Directors



Diana Anderson,
President and CEO
Southwest Initiative
Foundation



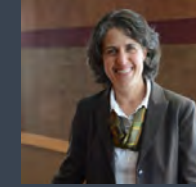
**Catie Bitzan
Amundsen**
Chair of the Board
of Trustees,
Lathrop GPM
Foundation



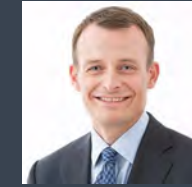
Kim Borton,
Director of Grants
and Donor Services,
InFaith Community
Foundation



Ben Cameron,
President and CEO,
The Jerome
Foundation



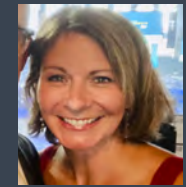
Jaci David,
Public Policy
Program Officer
Blandin Foundation



**Michael
Dominowski**,
President and CEO,
Thrivent
Foundation



Ambar Hanson,
Community
Relationship Officer
Mortenson Family
Foundation



Jennifer Higgins,
Director of
Corporate
Responsibility,
Target Foundation



Jenny Johnson,
Director, Family
Philanthropy
Resource Center
The Minneapolis
Foundation



Mai-Anh Tran,
Associate Vice
President of
Philanthropic
Services, Saint Paul
and Minnesota
Foundation



Carolyn Link,
President,
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Minnesota
Foundation



Denise Mayotte,
Executive
Director,
Sheltering Arms
Foundation



Repa Mekha,
President and CEO,
Nexux Community
Partners



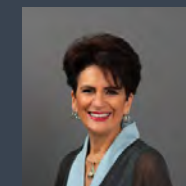
Lulete Mola,
Vice President of
Community Impact
Women's
Foundation of
Minnesota



Marcus Pope,
Vice President,
YouthPrise



Kate Seng,
Senior Director,
GHR Foundation



Nancy Zallek,
President and CEO,
Mankato Area
Foundation



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#WeAreMCF

Anti-racism is the active process of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably.

MCF is committed to becoming an anti-racist organization while applying our values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Principles for Philanthropy and working in community to advance prosperity and equity in the state of Minnesota and beyond.

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