



2024 Funder Summit: March 4-6, 2025, Sacramento, CA

AGENDA

PRE-SUMMIT: MONDAY, MARCH 4

6:30 **Smart Growth CA Leadership Dinner** (*Centro Cocina Mexicana 2730 J St.*)
Funders will be invited to gather before the Summit for a special dinner.

DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Sacramento (Sierra Health Foundation Conference and Education Center, 1321 Garden Hwy., Sacramento)

8:00am **Breakfast and Registration** (*Breakfast @ hotel; coffee/light fare @ SHF*)

9:00 **Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions**

- [Dion Cartwright](#), President and CEO, The Funders Network
- [Ron Milam](#), Director, Smart Growth California/The Funders Network
- [Kaying Hang](#), President, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation

9:15 **Welcome from Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento**

9:45 **Funder Introductions**

10:10 **Panel: The Climate is Speaking. What's our Answer?**

Storms, wildfires and weather extremes are an ongoing reminder of the urgency to reduce carbon emissions warming our planet. From Fresno to Humboldt, San Diego to Sacramento, regions have been tightening their carbon belts for the last decade-plus under the state's reduction laws, but the hardest lift lies ahead: In a few short years, carbon emissions must drop even more dramatically. Some say the goals are only achievable through such politically unpopular measures such as pricing roads and state control of land use. Join us for a

conversation with some of California's leading climate experts for a Q+A on the pathway forward, and its implications for equity and the environment.

- [Steve Cliff](#), Exec Officer, CARB (invited)
- [James Corless](#), Executive Director, SACOG (confirmed)
- [Nailah Pope-Harden](#), Executive Director, ClimatePlan (confirmed)
- [Susan Handy](#), Professor of Environmental Science & Policy, UC Davis (confirmed)
- [Mark Valentine](#), Principal, ReFrame It Consulting - moderator (confirmed)

11:10 Break

11:30 CA Highways Can't Grow Anymore - Now What?

During the pandemic, California enacted policies that could represent the most significant climate-change weapon yet: CAPTI. In putting the brakes on most highway expansions, the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure represents a radical shift. But old habits die hard, as evidenced by Fresno's recent bid to build a highway interchange. A coalition of grassroots groups is fighting the expansion using the new policy as a tool to demand more community-serving infrastructure. Similar efforts are brewing in San Bernardino. Join us to hear from the state's leading expert on CAPTI, and from advocates working to turn the no-new-highways moment into more equitable infrastructure options for communities throughout the state.

- [Darwin Moosavi](#), Environmental Policy and Housing Coordination at the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) (confirmed)
- [Hana Creger](#), Climate Equity Senior Program Manager, Greenlining (confirmed)
- [Jeanie Ward-Waller](#), Director of Transportation Advocacy, Fearless Advocacy, Inc. (confirmed)
- [Veronica Garabay or Phoebe Seaton](#), Co-Directors, Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability (invited)
- [Stuart Cohen](#), Resources Legacy Fund (confirmed)

12:30 pm Lunch: Roundtable conversations with Advocates

Since its founding, Smart Growth California has partnered with ClimatePlan to advance equitable, sustainable housing and transportation solutions for regions throughout California. Members active in ClimatePlan's leadership will join us for the morning through lunch.

1:40 Grounding in Place: Sacramento

- Artist Interlude/Video, Sacramento
- [Christine Tien](#), Senior Program Manager, The California Endowment

1:50 Power Building for Sustainable Communities

This panel will explore a handful of capacity-building programs that offer different models for building and sharing power. Join us to learn about the [Fund for an Inclusive California](#), in which grantees and funders jointly make funding decisions, and about a grassroots policy effort, [IHHEEL](#), that puts residents in the drivers' seat for funding directions, led by the Sierra Health Fund in Fresno, plus other models. What are the challenges of models like these? What are the pluses and minuses?

- [Bryan Osorio](#), Program Officer, Sierra Health Foundation
- [Jazmin Segura](#), Director, Fund for an Inclusive California, Common Counsel Foundation
- [Gisele Fong](#), Program Manager, The California Endowment

2:50pm Lightning Budget Briefing

Money is an expression of values. As state legislators scramble to fill a \$38 billion budget gap, join us for a tailored briefing on where negotiations stand. Which programs are on the block?

- [Chris Hoene](#), Executive Director, California Budget and Policy Center
- [Dave Weiskopf](#), Senior Policy Advisor, NextGen Policy Center

3:20 pm Networking/Walking Break

3:40 Empowering Communities Through Land

From San Francisco to San Bernardino, Visalia to Humboldt, a growing number of funders are supporting efforts to put control of land back in the hands of community members. Whether it's through community land trusts, agricultural coops, land back efforts or other models, these projects represent an effort to empower community groups to take some control over their destinies by acquiring tangible assets in the form of land or buildings. Join us for a panel that showcases some of these efforts and looks to lessons learned for growing the equitable land movement.

- [Craig Martinez](#), Program Manager, The California Endowment
- [Tamika L'Ecluse](#), Executive Director, Sacramento Community Land Trust

4:40 pm Closing Reflection/Announcements

5:00pm Adjourn

6:00pm **Reception @ Mulvaney's Building & Loan (1215 19th St.)**

7:00 **Dinner @ Mulvaney's Building & Loan (1215 19th St.)**

In addition to general networking and conversation, this will be an opportunity for funders active in various Smart Growth California and TFN groups to reconnect, including:

- TFN PLACES Cohort Members and Workgroups
- [Smart Growth California Working Groups](#): Statewide Steering Committee, San Joaquin Valley Funders Collaborative, Los Angeles Funders' Collaborative, Climate Funders' Collaborative (Baja/Imperial/San Diego Region), Rural Urban Interface Learning Group

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Location, Sacramento (The California Endowment, 1414 K St., Suite 500, Sacramento)

8:00am **Breakfast**

9:00am **Opening Comments**

- [Craig Martinez](#), Program Manager, The California Endowment

9:15am **How to Show Up in a Moment of Massive Money: Pulling Down the Funds**

There is both excitement and anxiety about how to ensure frontline communities receive their fair share of the historic infrastructure funding from programs such as the IJIA. This session will highlight examples of how funders and NGOs have successfully leveraged funding from the federal and state government and hear about lessons they are learning. This panel will tell the story of the Irvine-funded Edge Collaborative in Stockton, which recently won \$16 M in federal funds for EV car sharing for public housing with a workforce component; we'll hear from Resources Legacy Fund about a joint effort that succeeded in leveraging \$50 M from the EPA that will now be regranted throughout California, Arizona and Nevada; and we'll learn how the San Diego Community Foundation served as a regional hub, bringing together community partners who won \$26 M from the state's Transformative Climate Communities program.

- [Ann Wallace](#), Vice President, Programs and Partnerships, The Funders Network
- [Kirin Kumar](#), Director for Climate and Disaster Resilience, Nor Cal Grantmakers
- [Alfredo Gonzalez](#), Director, Southern California, Resources Legacy Fund (confirmed)
- [Liz Posey](#), Senior Program Officer, The James Irvine Foundation (invited)
- [Christiana DeBenedict](#), Director of Environmental Initiatives, San Diego

Community Foundation (confirmed)

10:15 Government Partner Check-in

Creating ways to communicate and collaborate with government partners is an essential part of funders' approach to equitable implementation of public funding. Join us for a dialogue with key leaders.

- [Lynn von Koch-Liebert](#), Executive Director, Strategic Growth Council (confirmed)
- [Elena Chavez Quezada](#), Senior Advisor for Social Innovation, Office of Gov. Gavin Newsom (confirmed)
- [Derek Kirk](#), Assistant Deputy Secretary of Climate Economy, CA Dept of Labor (invited)

10:35 Break/Short Walk

10:50 Building Capacity for the Long Haul

All the money in the world doesn't help if people, and communities, can't absorb it. This panel will highlight examples of how funders are building the capacity of networks, and in some cases helping to create coalitions, to leverage and implement government funding opportunities, especially for frontline communities. We'll hear the latest on the Community Economic Mobilization Initiative (CEMI,) which is the only capacity-building initiative of its kind, and we'll have a conversation about EJ Ready, an initiative of Liberty Hill and Resources Legacy Fund to equip organizations to leverage Justice 40.

- [Kendra Lewis](#), Managing Director of Community and Economic Development, Sierra Health Foundation (confirmed)
- [Angelo Logan](#), Senior Director, Environmental and Climate Justice, Liberty Hill Foundation (confirmed)
- [Max Vargas](#), Vice President of Economic Justice, Latino Community Foundation (invited)

11:45 Breakout Groups & Insight Sharing

12:15pm Networking Lunch: Integrating Issues and Synthesizing Learning

1:15pm Closing Reflections/Action Steps/Moving Forward

Our final session will provide a space to synthesize lessons learned, prioritize action steps and shape the activities of Smart Growth California for the year ahead. It will include time for individual reflection, small group discussion and a large group dialog.

2:00pm Adjourn/Informal Networking over Snacks