

Annual Report 2018 through 2020



ABOUT US

GEO is a community of funders committed to transforming philanthropic culture and practice by connecting members to the resources and relationships needed to support thriving nonprofits and communities.

We envision courageous grantmakers working in service of nonprofits and communities to create a just, connected and inclusive society where we can all thrive.

That's the power of the GEO community. With more than 6,000 grantmakers across the globe, we work together to lift up the grantmaking practices that matter most to nonprofits and that truly improve philanthropy.

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Across the philanthropic sector, the last several years have been a clear period of transformation, marked by the recognition that business as usual is no longer feasible for the creation of a just, connected and inclusive society. For many, including us here at GEO, this transformation began organically with internal shifts and leadership changes that shaped the fabric of our work well before the pivotal year that 2020 turned out to be. While the ongoing global pandemic and heightened awareness of persistent, historical racial and economic injustices offered us opportunities to build a better future, they first demanded that we, as grantmakers, look inward and critically assess our roles as people with power and privilege.

The fact remains that institutional philanthropy has routinely prioritized expediency over relationships and status quo and efficiency over long-term equity. But none of these are sustainable in our charge to address multifaceted structural inequalities, let alone within solid relationships with those on the ground working in communities. Across our field, the fog has lifted, revealing that our mindset, policies and practices – and the systems that house them and cultures that perpetuate them – must change if we are to be successful in creating the world we want to see.

But change is just the starting line. The shift to be equity-centered and community-driven in our grantmaking practices is an ever-evolving process, demanding that we learn and pivot to meet the needs of those we serve. To reflect that shift, we are pleased to share GEO's new mission and vision, revised in 2020, that will drive our work.

Central to our new mission and vision is how interconnected we are, and that grantmaking is, at its core, about championing our collective humanity. When we center the communities we serve and equip change leaders with the tools they need, societal transformation follows.



In this report, we'll look back at a sampling of what we've accomplished together during this period of extraordinary change for our organization, the philanthropic field and the world from 2018 through 2020. We continue to extend our gratitude to our members, partners, supporters and staff who have facilitated, informed and led us to and through these years. We look forward to continuing on this path of transformation with all of you throughout the years to come.

Sincerely,

Hanh Cao Yu Chair, GEO Board of Directors Chief Learning Officer, California Endowment

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Marcus Walton President and CEO, GEO

VISION

We envision courageous grantmakers working in service of nonprofits and communities to create a just, connected and inclusive society where we can all thrive.

MISSION

GEO is a community of funders committed to transforming philanthropic culture and practice by connecting members to the resources and relationships needed to support thriving nonprofits and communities.

Reshaping the Fabric of GEO's Work

As grantmakers seeking to address persistent racial and economic injustices, we recognize the need to make big changes in how we approach our work, not just in grantmaking but across organizational policies, practices and culture. At GEO, we see transitions as an opportunity for transformational change – a way of reshaping the fabric of our work.

At the start of 2018, we introduced a new multiyear strategy. This strategic direction shaped both internal and external mechanisms that would help grantmakers cut through the noise and find clarity on which improvements made a difference for their grantees. But change isn't linear. As new truths emerged from the increasing awareness around racial inequities, we leveraged those moments of uncertainty – and, at times, uncomfortableness – to learn and readjust our priorities.

Central to these developmental moments was the recognition that we, at GEO and in our field, wouldn't always get things right. While there were places where we succeeded, there were others where we fell short. As is true with all learning, being able to sit and wrestle with incompleteness is a key piece of our work.

Another such transition was also a first. After 17 years of serving as GEO's founding CEO, Kathleen Enright said her farewell in 2018, marking a new chapter in GEO's history as an organization. Marcus Walton, a longtime GEO supporter, filled the role of president and CEO and brought with him his experiences as a community organizer, nonprofit practitioner and grantmaker to challenge us to think differently about who we need to be as an organization.

As new truths emerged from the increasing awareness around racial inequities, we leveraged those moments of uncertainty – and, at times, uncomfortableness – to learn and readjust our priorities.



By engaging grantmakers in programming that encouraged the adoption of smarter grantmaking practices, integrating racial equity into our vision of grantmaking and shedding outdated policies and practices that erode trust, our charge was to move past obstacles that had historically stood in the way of creating more equitable, inclusive communities.

However, we recognize that these practices take time. GEO continues to apply this change process internally as we work through outdated systems and ways of thinking within the organization. We are actively engaged in working to meet our aspirations for equity in all forms to ensure that our workplace reflects the work that we promote with our members.

While these moments of organizational transition can bring about uncertainty, GEO has reaffirmed our commitment to realizing the collective potential of our field in service of thriving nonprofits and communities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

From 2018 to 2020, our deep-dive workshops, partnerships, webinars, learning networks, conferences and publications gave grantmakers the space to explore new ideas and improve their practices in collaboration with peers.

The program highlights of this annual report are just the surface of GEO's resources, and we encourage you to visit our website to see all that GEO has to offer.



2018

Celebrating 20 Years at GEO's 2018 National Conference

GEO celebrated its 20th anniversary at the 2018 National Conference in San Francisco, California.

As advocates of practices once seen as outside of mainstream philanthropy, 2018's convening was a moment to reflect on our community's progress — and an opportunity to envision the future of grantmaking. Building on two decades of work deepening the power of our community, this conference asked participants to think critically — and collectively — about the shifts they could make in their own practices to support nonprofits and communities.

No one organization has the resources to address the world's most complex issues alone. We recognize and embrace this — being in community and learning alongside grantmakers committed to meaningful progress together is what helps us implement practices that have the most impact on nonprofits and communities. At the 2018 National Conference, we reaffirmed that it is not enough just to do better alone. When we leverage our voices and resources together, building off the lessons each of us has learned in collaborative spirit, we can achieve brighter and more equitable futures.

2018 – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AT GEO'S 2018 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

To celebrate 20 years of making meaningful progress together, we highlighted several core content areas including,

- addressing the historic and collective forces that suppress racial justice,
- building stronger and more inclusive organizations rooted in collaborative cultures,
- strengthening relationships with the nonprofits and communities we serve, and
- confronting existing power dynamics.

Underlying the three days of sessions, breakouts and plenaries was the critical reminder that considering and advancing equity in philanthropic work was not a nice-to-have, but a must-have if grantmakers want to be truly impactful in their work. GEO conferences are the best – really – I want to send you a love letter of appreciation. Your conferences fill me up and inspire me to double down on our current efforts to be more grantee-centric."

Conference Participant

Research and Publications

GEO's publications are driven by the issues we, as a community, care about.

In 2019, our piece *Learning in Philanthropy: A Guidebook* provided ideas and examples of how grantmakers could leverage learning to better understand both how we are doing in our work and how to improve.

Grantmakers committed to meaningful change know that in order to make lasting progress toward the goals we share with our nonprofit and community partners, we should be constantly learning for improvement. As a continuous and iterative process, learning functions to build shared knowledge, develop new strategies, identify paths forward and assess outcomes in conjunction with our partners.

Through case studies and practical action items, this publication encouraged readers to wrestle with fundamental questions and concepts related to learning and evaluation, as well as to shed outdated practices and policies that could be barriers to nonprofits and communities as they take on multifaceted issues.

- What's the best way to set up the learning function in our organization?
- How can we learn with communities and nonprofits?
- How can we do a better job of connecting learning and evaluation to strategy?
- What are the best ways to share learning with others so it drives real awareness and action?
- How can we support staff, boards and others to learn?

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We have used many GEO publications to educate our board and our grantees. I am not shy in telling other people that GEO provides me with links and information that help my foundation be transparent and transformative for the communities we serve.



2020

Pivoting in a Pandemic: Virtual Peer Learning

GEO's virtual peer learning opportunities provided a platform to continue conversations around building transformational change in the field of philanthropy – in times of crisis and beyond.

As grantmakers, we are charged with supporting movements, organizations and communities who are resolving our society's deepest inequities. This work is not easy and in moments of questioning, we remind ourselves that we don't have to go it alone. When the Covid-19 pandemic emerged and we all faced a new normal, GEO responded by leveraging our range of online peer learning and member networks to provide our community opportunities to learn and work together.

As a community, GEO creates space for grantmakers to learn with each other as well as with experts across the philanthropic and nonprofit sector. Now in its fifth year, the Change Leaders in Philanthropy Fellowship (CLIPF) exemplifies GEO's belief that being in community with other grantmakers is what helps us achieve meaningful change, ultimately strengthening the work of the nonprofits and communities we serve. The cohort program, which usually involves both remote and inperson elements, moved to an entirely virtual setting this year at the beginning of the pandemic.

"Part of transformative leadership is being in service of thriving communities," says Aerial Reese, former program manager at GEO. "And I see that connection spark at every cohort I've facilitated." Within these supportive cohorts, senior leaders in philanthropy have candid the conversations needed to lead change. They increase their own knowledge and efficacy for implementing organizational change and are then better equipped to create organizational conditions that lead to equity-centered and community-driven grantmaking.



2020 – PIVOTING IN A PANDEMIC: VIRTUAL PEER LEARNING

200+ cohorts, conferences, member calls, member networks, webinars, workshops

GEO's Remote Learning Series, which, by design, takes place online, brought grantmakers together to surface challenges and co-create solutions in an interactive, resource-rich forum filled with peer insights, support and advice from fellow practitioners. Significantly, the Remote Learning Series "created an organic space for grantmakers to come to terms with the pandemic and the respective effects of the pandemic on job responsibilities, fear of the future, and how to lean in and become better partners for the long haul," said the series manager, Jaser Alsharhan. This focused attention on shifting philanthropic practice in times of crisis – and beyond – helped participants come to terms with shedding outdated practices and requirements that hinder nonprofit success.

For both programs, and many of the other peer learning opportunities that GEO offers, members were able to take advantage of the existing infrastructure in place as an opportunity for uninterrupted connection and support during a time of need, as many were quickly pivoting to respond to community needs around the pandemic and racial tension.

"

The insights I gained were not just about philanthropy as a sector, but about myself as a leader, a listener, a thought-partner, a change manager and organization executive. I learned how to listen, the art of patience, and numerous techniques for obtaining meaningful input and approaching major projects."

Program Participant

2018 – 2020 Volunteers and Committees

2018

National Conference Planning Committee

Grace Hou, Woods Fund Chicago (co-chair) Stacy Van Gorp, R. J. McElroy Trust (co-chair) Gillian Darlow, Polk Bros. Foundation Erika Seth Davies, formerly of Baltimore Community Foundation Christina Garcia, consultant; formerly of The James Irvine Foundation Neel Hajra, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Curtis Holloman, Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg Hanh Le, Weissberg Foundation Daniela Pineda, First 5 LA Phuong Quach, Northern California Grantmakers Chera Reid, The Kresge Foundation Jacqueline Erickson Russell, The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Gage Weekes, Hollingsworth Funds, Inc. Tim Wilmot, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Hanh Cao Yu, The California Endowment



National Conference Host Committee

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Learning Conference Planning Committee

Ify Mora, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (chair) Nadia Alia, The Tow Foundation Stephen Chan, The Boston Foundation Tracy Costigan, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Lori Fuller, The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust Raquel Gutierrez, Hispanics in Philanthropy R. Mimi lijima, Pennsylvania Humanities Council Arani Kajenthira, Walton Family Foundation Solomé Lemma, Thousand Currents Cheryl Milloy, Marguerite Casey Foundation Anjana Pandey, Philanthropy Northwest Cindy Rizzo, Arcus Foundation Dimitra Tasiouras, Circle of Service Foundation Stephanie Teleki, California Health Care Foundation Erik Torch, Northland Foundation

Learning Conference Host Committee

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Participation, Partnership and Power Conference Planning Committee

Janée Woods, William Casper Graustein Memorial Foundation (chair) Gwyn Barley, The Colorado Trust Laila Bell, The Duke Endowment Kelly Chopus, Robins Foundation Jeanné Isler, National Center for Responsive Philanthropy Surina Khan, The Women's Foundation of California Yi-Ching Lin, Philanthropy New York Rickke Mananzala, Borealis Philanthropy David McGhee, Skillman Foundation Letitia Peguero, The Nathan Cummings Foundation Trilby Smith, Vancouver Foundation Keith Timko, Support Center for Nonprofit Management Mailee Walker, Claneil Foundation Rebecca Wisotsky, Funders for LGBTQ Issues

Participation, Partnership and Power Conference Host Committee

Hilary Pennington, Ford Foundation (co-chair) Kyung Yoon, Korean American Community Foundation (co-chair) Ingrid Benedict, The Daphne Foundation Lori Bezahler, Edward W. Hazen Foundation **Richard Brown, American Express** Ronna Brown, Philanthropy New York Don Chen, Surdna Foundation Donald Crocker, Support Center for Nonprofit Management | Partnership in Philanthropy Stephanie Cuskley, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust Rehana Farrell, Youth INC **Desiree Flores, Arcus Foundation** Sarah Troup Geisenheimer, 100Kin10 Stephen Heintz, Rockefeller Brothers Fund Amy Holmes, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Philip Li, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation Jason McGill, Arcus Foundation Mike Pratt, The Scherman Foundation, Inc. Elizabeth Sak, The Cricket Island Foundation Pamela Shifman, NoVo Foundation Pat Swann, The New York Community Trust Sheena Wright, United Way of New York City

2020

National Conference Planning Committee

Mailee Walker, Claneil Foundation (chair) Lori Bezahler, Edward Hazen Foundation Michelle Foster, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation Raymond Foxworth, First Nations Development Institute Gladys Hairston, John Rex Endowment Michael Ibrahim, Massachusetts Cultural Council Susan Johnson, Lumina Foundation Wendy Lewis, McCune Charitable Foundation Jamaica Maxwell, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation Alex McCray, Philanthropy Massachusetts Karla Miller, Northwest Area Foundation Nwando Obele, TSNE Mission Works Lindsay Ryder, Neighborhood Funders Group

National Conference Host Committee

James Canales, Barr Foundation (co-chair) David Moy, The Hyams Foundation, Inc. (co-chair) Miki C. Akimoto, Bank of America Elizabeth Barajas-Roman, formerly of Solidago Foundation Lydia Bergen, Fidelity Foundation Nicholas Donohue, Nellie Mae Education Foundation Kathryn Everett, The Lynch Foundation Elizabeth Francis, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Paul Grogan, The Boston Foundation Barbara Harman, Harman Family Foundation Aimee Hendrigan, The Melville Charitable Trust Marianna Islam, The Schott Foundation for Public Education Joanna Jacobson, One8 Foundation Jay Kim, Foundation for MetroWest Liana Krupp, The Krupp Family Foundation Melissa Luna, GreenLight Fund Elizabeth Lynn, van Beuren Charitable Foundation Inc. Kirsten Martin, Red Sox Foundation Laura McCargar, Perrin Family Foundation Mike Monopoli, DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement Elaine Ng, TSNE MissionWorks Hanna Shaul Bar Nissim, Ruderman Family Foundation Amanda Northrop, State Street Foundation Kelly Nowlin, Surdna Foundation Christopher O'Keeffe, Greater Worcester Community Foundation Kim Philbrick McCabe, The Klarman Family Foundation Anne Phillips, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Mary Phillips, GMA Foundations Jeffrey Poulos, Philanthropy Massachusetts Geeta Pradhan, Cambridge Community Foundation Dian Quinn, Doree Taylor Charitable Foundation Jay Ruderman, Ruderman Family Foundation Bekah Salwasser, Red Sox Foundation Diana Samarasan, Disability Rights Fund Audrey Shelto, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Inc. Peter Taylor, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation John Vasconcellos, Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts **Charlotte Wagner, Wagner Foundation** Mary Walachy, Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation Tim Wilmot, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Andrew Wolk, Root Cause Katie Zobel, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts



2018 - 2020 Supporters

Akonadi Foundation The Angell Foundation The Annie E. Casey Foundation Anonymous Ashoka US **Barr Foundation Bigglesworth Family Foundation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Inc. Blue Shield of California Foundation **Borealis Philanthropy** The Boston Foundation **Bush Foundation** The California Endowment California Health Care Foundation The California Wellness Foundation **Campion Advocacy Fund Casey Family Programs Cedarmere Foundation Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies Claneil Foundation Inc.** The Cleveland Foundation **College Futures Foundation** The Colorado Health Foundation The Columbus Foundation **Communities Foundation of Texas Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts Community Memorial Foundation** Conrad N. Hilton Foundation The Cricket Island Foundation

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2018 - 2020 Financial Reports

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2018 and 2017

	2018	2017
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,780,372	\$ 2,992,154
Grants and Contributions Receivable	2,057,647	527,546
Other Receivables	1,544	2,620
Investments	1,425,375	1,405,602
Prepaid Expenses	27,519	79,221
Deposits	53,286	37,736
Property and Equipment, Net	 907,895	 223,529
Total Assets	\$ 7,253,638	\$ 5,268,408
Liabilities and Net Assets	 	
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 70,444	\$ 45,338
Accrued Leave	45,139	66,987
Capital Lease Payable	21,958	23,923
Deferred Rent	 734,862	52,376
Total Liabilities	 872,403	188,624
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	1,956,126	1,917,843
Board Designated	1,535,000	1,475,000
Total Without Donor Restrictions	 3,491,126	 3,392,843
With Donor Restrictions	 2,890,109	2,890,109
Total Net Assets	 6,381,235	5,079,784
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,253,638	\$ 5,268,408

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the year ended December 31, 2018





Program Services: \$2,968,453

- **\$1,162,396** Conferences
- **\$271,958** Communications
- **\$1,024,024** Member Programs
- **\$510,075** Research and Learning

Supporting Services: \$2,079,299

- **\$1,801,745** Management and General
- **\$277,554** Fundraising





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,199,703	\$ 2,780,372
Grants and Contributions Receivable	1,057,819	2,057,647
Other Receivables	7,292	1,544
Investments	1,481,876	1,425,375
Prepaid Expenses	64,794	27,519
Deposits	31,550	53,286
Property and Equipment, Net	 733,488	 907,895
Total Assets	\$ 6,576,522	\$ 7,253,638
Liabilities and Net Assets	 	
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 124,001	\$ 70,444
Accrued Leave	44,568	45,139
Capital Lease Payable	7,843	21,958
Deferred Rent	 962,722	 734,862
Total Liabilities	 1,139,134	 872,403
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	2,259,992	1,956,126
Board Designated	 1,535,000	 1,535,000
Total Without Donor Restrictions	 3,794,992	 3,491,126
With Donor Restrictions	1,642,396	2,890,109
Total Net Assets	 5,437,388	6,381,235

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the year ended December 31, 2019





- **\$645,525** Conferences
- **\$228,019** Communications
- **\$928,774** Member Programs
- **\$317,437** Research and Learning

Supporting Services: \$2,635,906

- **\$2,381,545** Management and General
- **\$254,361** Fundraising





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2020 and 2019

	2020	2019
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,815,042	\$ 3,199,703
Grants and Contributions Receivable	1,149,793	1,021,419
Membership Receivable	30,340	36,400
Other Receivables	4,492	7,292
Investments	1,545,163	1,481,876
Prepaid Expenses	21,111	64,794
Deposits	31,550	31,550
Property and Equipment, Net	 626,170	 733,488
Total Assets	\$ 8,223,661	\$ 6,576,522
Liabilities and Net Assets	 	
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 200,994	\$ 124,001
Accrued Leave	124,780	44,568
Capital Lease Payable	5,313	7,843
Deferred Rent	865,595	962,722
Deferred Seminar Registration Revenue	83,500	_
PPP Refundable Advance	444,800	_
Total Liabilities	 1,724,982	 1,139,134
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	2,536,265	2,259,992
Board Designated	 1,535,000	 1,535,000
Total Without Donor Restrictions	 4,071,265	3,794,992
With Donor Restrictions	 2,427,414	1,642,396
Total Net Assets	 6,498,679	5,437,388
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 8,223,661	\$ 6,576,522

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the year ended December 31, 2020



Program Services: \$2,054,614

- **\$365,992** Conferences
- **\$190,518** Communications
- **\$943,886** Member Programs
- **\$554,218** Research and Learning

Supporting Services: \$2,414,718

- **\$2,318,328** Management and General
- **\$96,390** Fundraising





2018 – 2020 Members of the GEO Board

Deborah Aubert Thomas Philanthropy Ohio (2020-Current)

Carrie Avery The Durfee Foundation (2013-2020, Governance Committee Chair 2016-2020)

Don Crocker Support Center for Nonprofit Management | Partnership in Philanthropy (2014-2019)

Lisa Eisen Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies (2017-2021)

Neel Hajra Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (2020-Current)

Sidney Hargro (2012-2018, Treasurer 2015-2017)

Annie Hernandez Rodriguez The Conflict Transformation Fund (2017-Current , Governance Committee Chair 2020- Current)

Mae Hong Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (2010-2018, Chair 2015-2017, Vice Chair 2013-2014)

Daniel Lee Levi Strauss Foundation (2018-2021)

Philip Li Robert Sterling Clark Foundation (2018- Current, Treasurer 2019-Current) **Peter Long** Blue Shield of California Foundation (2014-2019, Treasurer 2017-2019)

Kelly Nowlin Surdna Foundation (2016-Current)

Carrie Pickett-Erway Kalamazoo Community Foundation (2017-Current)

Kathy Reich Ford Foundation (2012-2021, Vice Chair 2017-2019, Chair 2019-2021)

LaTida Smith Moses Taylor Foundation (2011-2019, Governance Committee Chair 2013-2017, Chair 2017-2019)

Brenda Solórzano Headwaters Foundation (2019-Current)

Denise St. Omer Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (2019- Current, Vice Chair 2021-Current)

Starsky Wilson Deaconess Foundation (Missouri) (2015-2021)

Hanh Cao Yu The California Endowment (2018-Current, Vice Chair 2019-2020, Chair 2021-Current)



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