



COUNCIL *on* FOUNDATIONS

Council on Foundations • 2121 Crystal Drive, Suite 700, Arlington, Va. 22202 • T: 703-879-0600 F: 703-879-0800 • www.cof.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Laurie R. Glenn
773-704-7246
lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com

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PRESS RELEASE

BOLD IDEAS FOR GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY FEATURED AT COUNCIL ON FOUNDATIONS 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE *Over 1,000 Diverse International Philanthropic and Foundation Leaders Attend Chicago Conference*

CHICAGO -- More than 1,000 leaders of the nation's philanthropic and grantmaking community have come together in **Chicago** as the "City of Big Shoulders" hosts the **Council on Foundations Annual Conference** entitled **Vision & Action, Sunday, April 7th through Tuesday, April 9th, 2013**, to connect a diverse group of leaders with opportunities and best practices to fulfill the instrumental role of philanthropy in meeting societal challenges, particularly for communities hit hardest by cuts to government programs.

"During this time of fiscal austerity throughout our country and the world, communities are faced with daunting and escalating societal issues, including joblessness and increased violence, which cannot be addressed through public sector resources alone," said **Vikki Spruill, president and CEO, Council on Foundations**. "Underscoring the vision of the Council on Foundations (COF) to serve as a hub for research and thought leadership, the goal of the COF *Annual Conference* is to provide the philanthropic community with the tools needed to step up and bring about innovative and creative solutions that can best address and impact complex societal challenges."

Beginning today, a range of sessions offer philanthropic leaders insights, opportunities, and examples of where the private sector can intersect and collaborate with the public sector for at-risk areas. Featured sessions specifically highlight creating sustainable solutions to address a range of issues, including risk taking, health and education. Off-site sessions provide an up-close look at philanthropic investments addressing a range of community issues.

FOCUS ON BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES

As issues of violence, joblessness, and poverty continue to escalate in communities across the country, the *Annual Conference* provides a platform for more than 1,000 of the nation's philanthropic and grantmaking leaders to convene on growing issues threatening the safety of our communities.

During the opening plenary session ***Building Safe Communities***, on Sunday, April 7, **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle** share their perspectives on the societal challenges they face in their major urban communities.

Additional sessions focus on issues impacting safety in our communities including violence, joblessness, poverty, mental health, disconnected youth, inequities in criminal justice, and bullying. Sessions examine root causes for problems, identify opportunities for addressing systemic issues, and explore the ability of cross-sector partnerships to achieve lasting impact.

Looking toward the future of issues impacting the strength of our communities, challenges and opportunities must be considered to prepare our communities to meet the needs of an aging society. **The Honorable Henry G. Cisneros**, former secretary of Housing and Urban Development and former mayor of San Antonio accompanies **Mudai Mukenge**, program officer for Sub-Saharan Africa, lead the Monday, April 8, afternoon session, ***Creating Communities to Grow Up and Grow Old: Meeting the Global Challenge of Aging***, on the challenges and innovative solutions being offered to create age-friendly cities as our country's baby boomers approach retirement.

IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ON THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

As an extension of building safe communities, the *Annual Conference* examines the direct impact of the global environment and the sustainability of environmental infrastructure on our ability to fortify and protect the future of our communities, across the country and the globe.

In Monday's breakfast plenary session, ***Food Justice: An Issue for All***, **His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales**, shares his perspective via video presentation on the global challenges of food insecurity, malnourishment, and obesity, and the impact of non-sustainable approaches to farming and productions on the future of our society.

Other environmental and sustainability topics during the *Annual Conference* include a look at food security as the foundation for strengthening our communities, climate justice to provide sustainable energy access for all, and transformation of food systems to address racial and economic inequalities. Each session assesses the impact of current challenges and shares latest practices and innovations in creating effective, long-term solutions.

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MEDIA'S ROLE SERVES TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE COMMUNITIES

The media continues to play a crucial role in delivering communications and connecting stakeholders around issues impacting our communities. The plenary session on Monday, April 8, ***The Art of Listening***, features WBEZ's "*This American Life*" host **Ira Glass**, along with **Joe Richman** of Radio Diaries, Inc. and **Julie Shapiro** with Third Coast International Audio Festival, review of radio's role as the world's most accessible and popular information source and its ability to provide global access and serve as a messenger of some of the greatest issues of our time.

During Tuesday morning's ***Models for Broadband Adoption and Use: Tales from Three Cities*** on April 9, community leaders and funders from three cities discuss the important role of broadband connections to the global future of our communities and share strategies for overcoming barriers and providing critical global access to resources and communications.

In a simultaneous plenary, ***Media and Democracy: A New Look at Media Foundations***, former FCC Commissioner **Michael Copps** will lead a discussion on major communications policy challenges and choices that are now facing our country.

RISK TAKING AND ACTIVISM KEY TO TACKLING TOUGH CHALLENGES

The Annual Conference concludes on Tuesday, April 9 with the nation's philanthropic and grantmaking leaders turning their eye toward the future to evaluate key components necessary to foster innovation and to turn vision into action to ensure a strong outlook for our communities.

The concluding breakfast plenary session, ***Risk Taking, Robert L. Gallucci, President, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Judith Rodin, President, The Rockefeller Foundation***, along with foundation leaders, impart their perspectives on combining leadership and organizational culture to elevate philanthropy's role and effectiveness in supporting and enhancing our communities.

Eve Ensler from V-Day Foundation and **Paul Farmer from Partners in Health**, lead an intimate discussion with visionaries who have changed the world through bold actions and tenacity to tackle the toughest problems facing our planet including disease, disaster, and violence, in the closing lunch plenary, ***Activist Philanthropy: Challenging the Status-Quo—Change the Questions, Change the World*** -- inspiring philanthropy, public and private sectors to collaborate on creative solutions that can achieve lasting impact throughout our communities.

The Council on Foundations (www.cof.org), formed in 1949, is a nonprofit membership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations. Members of the Council include more than 1,700 independent, operating, community, public, and company-sponsored foundations, and corporate giving programs in the United States and abroad. The Council's mission is to provide the opportunity, leadership, and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance, and sustain their ability to advance the common good.

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