CFSA Appoints Jenny Flynn as Chief Executive Officer and Mark Montoya as Chief Operating Officer

After a six-month national search, we are pleased to share that CFSA’s Board of Trustees has appointed Jenny Flynn as the Foundation’s President and CEO. Jenny will be joining the CFSA team on August 30, 2021.

CFSA is also pleased to announce that Mark Montoya, currently serving as Interim President and CEO for the Foundation, has been appointed Chief Operating Officer.

CFSA Board Chair Jan Lesher shared, “The Foundation’s Board of Trustees was impressed with Jenny’s commitment to inclusive philanthropy and her success in increasing philanthropic giving at the University of Arizona. We are excited to welcome her to the CFSA team.”

Lesher continued, “Jenny’s expertise and Mark’s relationships with CFSA’s donors and partners will make them a dynamic team. The board is confident that these talented leaders will position the Foundation for exceptional growth and impact in the years ahead.”

Since 2001, Flynn has served Southern Arizona through various leadership positions at the University of Arizona Foundation. Working with a broad array of national and local partner foundations, she has raised more than $100 million for the university. She most recently served as Senior Vice President for Development Services and as a member of the University of Arizona Alumni and Development Program executive team. Flynn is also a current board trustee for the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Flynn shared, “Having raised my family and grown my career here in Southern Arizona, I am struck by the richness, diversity, and resilience of our community. As our region navigates through and out of the pandemic, I am also aware of the many challenges and opportunities in front of us. I could not be more thrilled to join the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona’s talented staff, many partners, and dedicated board to serve a community I love and have been part of for more than twenty years.”

She continued, “My goal is to engage our community and build upon the Foundation’s forty-one years of impact to elevate the power of philanthropy and accelerate CFSA’s contributions towards an equitable and vibrant community for all Southern Arizonans.”

For nearly a decade, Mark Montoya has led CFSA’s operations. He also provides staff leadership to the Santa Cruz Community Foundation, CFSA’s geographic affiliate, and management oversight of the Community Foundation Campus. Montoya has been recognized as a leader in the community foundation field and currently serves on the Community Foundations National Standards Board.

“It has been a privilege and honor to serve as Interim President and CEO for CFSA,” shared Montoya. “I look forward to working alongside Jenny in my role as Chief Operating Officer to support our donors and the Southern Arizona community.”

CFSA engaged Susan Barry and Susan Egmont of Kittleman & Associates to support the CEO search. Kittleman & Associates is a national executive search firm that specializes in the recruitment of CEOs for tax-exempt nonprofit organizations, public charities, and philanthropic organizations.

“CFSA’s Board of Trustees is thankful to Kittleman & Associates for their strategic guidance throughout this process,” said Lesher. “We are also extremely grateful to the community leaders who joined us as search committee members for the last six months. Representing multiple sectors of our community, the diverse perspectives and experiences of the committee members were critical to the success of the CEO search process.”

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The Community Foundation for Southern Arizona is proud to announce the completion of a large-scale mural by local artist Ignacio Garcia at the Community Foundation Campus.

The completion of this mural fulfills the vision that Clint Mahie, CFSA’s former President & CEO, had for the Community Foundation Campus when the building was first acquired back in 2017. As a unique nonprofit co-working and event space, the Campus was designed to be a central place for Southern Arizona’s nonprofit community to come together. Clint’s vision included a large-scale mural that would communicate to visitors and tenants that the Campus is a welcoming place that values inclusion and equity for all.

Upon the announcement of Clint’s retirement in July 2020, several donors generously contributed the funds necessary to bring his vision of a large-scale mural to life. To reach as many local artists as possible, CFSA partnered with the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona to release a call to local muralists and facilitate the selection process. A mural committee comprised of CFSA staff and trustees, Campus tenants, representatives from CFSA’s initiatives, and local community members worked together to select three finalists from over nineteen applicants.

After selecting three finalists and reviewing their presentations, the committee selected Ignacio Garcia to complete the mural at the CF Campus. With a unique understanding of the large-scale concept, Ignacio’s design proved to be both captivating from a distance and engaging up close to create a visually welcoming Campus. The design wraps around the elevator tower at the northeast corner of the Campus and reflects CFSA’s values and purpose.

As a Tucson street muralist for the past seventeen years, Ignacio is proud to have created some of the most intriguing murals throughout Arizona. The opportunity to show the public his beliefs through art further drives Ignacio’s passion and led to his interest in the CF Campus mural. He shared, “I wanted a mural for the CF Campus because the direction they are headed in is an expansion of public art that Tucson needs.”

Thanks to our generous donors and Ignacio’s vision, CFSA is proud to present a mural that not only honors Clint’s significant contributions to the Foundation over the last decade, but also highlights the diverse and vibrant communities we serve.

Unprecedented Grantmaking in FY2021

From CORE Grants to COVID-19 Response Grants to our annual Initiative Grant Rounds, CFSA and its donors have distributed more grants in fiscal year 2021 than ever before.

CORE Grants 2021

This year, CFSA awarded $854,000 in CORE Grants to 42 nonprofits in Southern Arizona - an 18 percent increase in the total amount funded compared to 2020. CFSA launched the CORE Grants program in 2017 to provide high-performing nonprofits with the flexible working capital they need to maximize their impact and improve the quality of life in Southern Arizona.

With over $23 million in CORE Grants distributed since 2017, CFSA and our generous collaborators remain dedicated to supporting local nonprofits and promoting equity within Southern Arizona with general operating support. Areas funded in 2021 include human services; arts and culture; environment and animals; legal services; education; health; youth and elderly services; immigrant services; and support for Native and Indigenous individuals and communities.

CFSA’s 2021 CORE Grants were made possible with support from CFSA’s Unrestricted Fund and Field of Interest Funds, as well as our donor Advised Fundholders, CORE Collaborators, and the Connie Hillman Family Foundation.

Barbara McClure, Executive Director of Impact of Southern Arizona, shared, “It takes an innovative organization to hack the concept of investing in infrastructure and preparation for sustainable capacity building. Thank you for all you do for the community and your amazing support of nonprofits. Because of you, we will all continue to grow strong and provide services for many years to come.”

Interested in our CORE Collaborator Program?
Contact Kelly Huber, Senior Director of Community Investments, at 520-209-2858 or khuber@cfsaz.org to learn more.

Save The Date

- CF Campus Fall Open House
  October 14, 2021
  4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Legacy Donor Luncheon
  November 4, 2021
  11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Donor Holiday Party
  December 2, 2021
  5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

African American Legacy Fund

The African American Legacy Fund (AALF), an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, awarded $32,500 to eight local organizations in their 2021 grant round to address the educational and economic disparities faced by African Americans living in Southern Arizona.

Founded in 2013 by esteemed educator, philanthropist, and civic leader Dr. Anna Jolivet, Ph.D., AALF brings together people, resources, and goodwill to make sure all our children, youth, and families have the opportunities and resources to prosper. Since AALF’s first year of grantmaking, the initiative has granted $185,661 to organizations serving African American youth communities in Southern Arizona.

LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer (LGBTQ+) Alliance Fund, an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, awarded $82,500 to fourteen regional nonprofits in 2021 - surpassing $1 million in total funding to support innovative programs that benefit the LGBTQ+ community in Southern Arizona.

The Alliance Fund was created in 1999 by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona with support from donors, community members, and the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership. To date, the Fund has awarded 288 grants, totaling $1,025,897, to over 60 local organizations.

Mark Montoya, Interim President and CEO of the Community Foundation, shared, “This significant milestone was made possible by our dedicated Alliance Fund donors. We are extremely grateful for their generous investments over the last 22 years to increase available funding for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender programs and services.”

Pictures provided by Alliance Fund Grantees The Florence Project (left) and AALF Grants Tucson Educational Empowerment for Minorities (right).
Using Your IRA to Meet Your Philanthropic Goals

As one of our CFSA donors has said, “Wealth doesn’t mean anything if you don’t put it to work.” With that in mind, there are many opportunities to support your favorite nonprofits through your retirement accounts.

If you are 70½ years and have a traditional IRA, SIMPLE IRA, SEP IRA, or a retirement plan, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to a charitable organization and avoid any tax implications. Beginning in the year you turn 72, you can also use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).

Although Donor Advised Funds continue to be a popular method for current gifting to charitable organizations, this fund type cannot accept assets from a retirement account. At the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, we can help you establish a fund that meets your charitable goals and can accept IRA gifts.

Field of Interest Fund: With a Field of Interest Fund, you choose a particular issue such as art, education, or animal welfare to support, and CFSA will annually award grants to highly effective nonprofits organizations in your selected field. Grants are made to carefully vetted nonprofits in Southern Arizona.

Designated Fund: A Designated Fund allows you to distribute grants annually to your favorite organizations. The minimum for starting a Field of Interest Fund or a Designated Fund is $10,000 for a non-endowed fund and $25,000 for an endowed fund.

If you wish to contribute from your retirement account, but do not want to create a permanent fund at this time, CFSA has several programs that can accept your IRA gift, including our CORE Grants program and annual Civic Leadership Campaign. As part of your estate planning, you may also wish to consider naming CFSA as a beneficiary.

For additional information, please contact Mary Louise Luna, Senior Director of Gift Planning at CFSA at 520-909-7559 or mlluna@cfsaz.org.