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NONPROFIT LEADING AND FOLLOWING WITH POLLY CARR

July 30 - Aug

Back by popular demand! Join Polly Carr as she offers a vital platform for connection and dialogue. Participants will reflect on and discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with their roles, explore concepts of leading and following to advance the work, practice vulnerability and build community in a collaborative setting.

Who should register? Non-profit leaders in mid-level or senior-level leadership roles (Directors, VP's) who report directly to the executive director or CEO.



Polly is the Vice President of Programs at the Alaska Humanities Forum, where she leads a team dedicated to fostering community-minded leadership and cultural resilience. Proudly raising her family on Dena'ina lands in Anchorage, Polly has over fifteen years of experience as an outdoor educator, youth program director, and foundation officer, along with ten years as a nonprofit executive director. She champions staff leadership, organizational development, and the importance of culture in creating positive community impacts.

Polly has contributed to innovative initiatives,

including launching a statewide youth organizing program and a flat-track roller derby league. Outside of work, she enjoys mountain biking, writing poetry, and learning fashion trends from her daughter.









THE FUTURE OF NARRATIVES WITH JULIE DECKER

Aug 1 - Aug 3

Join Julie Decker for an immersive session focused on place-based narratives now and for the future. Participants will have the opportunity to delve into thought-provoking discussions, share insights, and create and collaborate.



Julie Decker

Julie Decker, PhD, is the Director/CEO of the Anchorage Museum in Alaska, a leading center for scholarship, engagement, and investigation of Alaska and the North. She has a doctorate in art history, a master's degree in arts administration, and bachelor degrees in visual design and journalism. She has curated numerous exhibitions and authored and edited publications on contemporary art, architecture and the environment.



Who should register?
Writers, designers, artists
and Journalists.







STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP THROUGH STORYTELLING & BEADING

Aug 4 - Aug-6

Participants learn to create Alutiiq-style beaded headdresses while engaging in discussions on leadership and storytelling, tailored for professional growth. Join Shauna as she curates an inclusive space, welcoming high-level leaders from Alaska Native organizations alongside emerging leaders, fostering networking opportunities and shared learning exchanges to empower and inspire. Dive into the art of beading and narrative-building, unlocking the potential of storytelling in leadership development.

Who should register? Emerging and seasoned Alaska Native female leaders. Priority will be given to Alutiiq leaders.



Shauna Hegna

Shauna is the President of Koniag, having joined the organization in 2016 after serving as Chief Administrative Officer for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Vice President of Shareholder Services for Afognak Native Corporation. A proud Alaskan, she holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alaska and a graduate certificate in Alaska Native Executive Leadership. Shauna is recognized for her leadership with several accolades, including the YWCA Woman of Achievement award and induction into the Anchorage Athena Society. She actively contributes to her community through her roles on various boards, including as Chair of the ANCSA Regional Association. Outside of work, she enjoys skiing and rafting with her husband Josh and their two children, Kai and Paxson.

Sheri Buretta

Sheri was born in Anchorage, Alaska, her family is from the village of Tatitlek, Alaska located in Prince William Sound. Sheri graduated from the University of Alaska with an Accounting degree and Gulf Coast Community College in Florida with a Business degree. Sheri and her husband Gary have two beautiful children, Anastasia, and Bo.





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ALASKA GRANTMAKERS ROUNDTABLE

Aug 6 - Aug-8

Join fellow Alaskan grantmakers for a collaborative discussion on current challenges in grantmaking, emerging funding priorities, and opportunities for greater impact. This session provides a space to share insights, explore common obstacles, and identify areas for strategic alignment. Whether you're refining funding strategies or seeking peer support, this conversation will help strengthen grantmaking efforts across Alaska.

Who should register? Alaskan Grantmakers & Funders

Elizabeth Ripley

Elizabeth retired as President & CEO of the Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF), where she played a pivotal role in integrating hospital governance with philanthropy to enhance community health systems, leveraging investments, and achieving significant health outcomes. Before MSHF, she held various healthcare roles and has served on multiple boards, receiving several accolades, including awards from the Alaska Public Health Association and YWCA, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Elizabeth holds a bachelor's degree in English and communications from Western Maryland College and a Master's in religion from Yale Divinity School.

Diane Kaplan

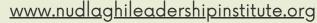
Diane Kaplan is a transformative leader in Alaska's philanthropic community, serving as president and CEO of the Rasmuson Foundation for 27 years, during which its assets grew from S5 million to S800 million. She is a Senior Fellow at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and has also significantly contributed to broadcasting as the leader of the Alaska Public Radio Network. A founder of United States Artists and the Nudlaghi Leadership Institute, Diane has received numerous honors for her impactful work in philanthropy and public service.

Michelle Dewitt

Michelle DeWitt is the Executive Director of Bethel Community Services Foundation, which serves the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region through grant making, philanthropic fund development, and community capacity building. Before joining BCSF in 2013, she worked at the Tundra Women's Coalition and has been actively involved in leadership roles, including chairing the Yuut Elitnaurviat board and serving on the Philanthropy Northwest Board. Michelle has also held positions such as mayor of Bethel and chair of various state councils focused on domestic violence and sexual assault.







NONPROFIT FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP CONVENING

Aug 8 - Aug 10

Join Mike True for a session focused on navigating the complexities of financial leadership within the nonprofit sector. This session will provide an opportunity to discuss shared challenges, brainstorm solutions, build a supportive network, and have fun. Kevin Gray and Kris Palmatier, last year's facilitators, will also be in attendance.

Who should register? Alaskan nonprofit CFOs, controllers, VPs of finance, or others operating in top-level financial management and leadership positions in a nonprofit.

Mike True

Mike True is the Chief Financial Officer of the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, which focuses on supporting nonprofits in the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska. A Certified Public Accountant, he previously served as CFO and later as President and CEO of the Historic Trust of Fort Vancouver. Mike holds degrees in accounting and business administration from George Fox University and has experience working at Moss Adams. He is actively involved in the community, having served on various boards and committees for regional organizations.

Kris Palmatier

Kris Palmatier is the Director of Finance at the Bristol Bay Foundation, bringing nearly 20 years of experience in accounting, finance, and organizational leadership across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. A lifelong Alaskan, Kris co-founded a dance studio right out of high school, igniting his passion for blending creativity with strategy. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and an MBA, having held finance leadership roles at various organizations, including the State of Alaska and Catholic Social Services. In addition to his finance career, Kris actively contributes to the arts community and lives in Anchorage with his husband and pets.

Kevin Gray

Kevin Gray is the CFO of the Alaska Community Foundation, overseeing finance strategy, planning, and investments for its \$200 million in charitable assets. With over 32 years of experience in finance and accounting, he has led financial policy and operations for various sectors, including nonprofit, technology, and telecommunications. Kevin holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with an accounting concentration from Pacific Lutheran University and is a licensed CPA in Washington State. In his free time, he enjoys exploring the Alaskan wilderness, fishing, and spending time at his family cabin on Nancy Lake.



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MEN'S PARTICIPATORY LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Aug 10 - Aug 1

This retreat is tailored for men in leadership roles throughout Alaska, whether they are emerging leaders or seasoned professionals seeking to take a step back from their daily responsibilities. It offers a unique opportunity to connect with peers, reflect on their experiences, and deepen their leadership practices. Participants will engage in meaningful dialogue and shared learning, creating a supportive environment for men navigating the challenges of leadership.

Who should register? Men in leadership roles across corporate, nonprofit, government, and community sectors who want to explore new leadership approaches and build a strong network of peers.



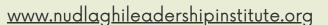
Kameron Perez-Verdia has over 30 years of nonprofit leadership experience and currently serves as the CEO of the Alaska Humanities Forum. He has also been a member of the Anchorage Assembly since 2019 and previously served on the Anchorage School Board, including terms as Vice President and President. Originally from Utqiagvik, Alaska, Kameron holds a BA in Communications from the University of Puget Sound and an MBA from the University of Denver. Outside of his professional commitments, he enjoys exploring Alaska's outdoors with his wife and two daughters.



Apagzuk/Apagruk honors both his Yup'ik and Iñupiaq identities, bringing a wealth of experience in nonprofit management, philanthropy, rural health, and Iñupiat language preservation to his role at FAI. With roots in the Bering Straits region and diverse heritage from Spain, the Philippines, and New England, he was raised in Iñupiat and Yup'ik cultures. Most recently, he served as an external affairs and granting program officer for the Rasmuson Foundation and has held various leadership positions in Alaskan organizations, focusing on arts and language education.







WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP WITH LINDA LEARY & DIANE KAPLAN

Aug 22 - Mug

Linda Leary is a transformational leader with expertise in strategic growth and operational excellence across multiple industries. She brings her extensive experience from leading Carlile Transportation System and founding a successful outdoor clothing business to the table. Seasoned and emerging leaders will have the opportunity to engage, share, and learn from each other's experiences. Emphasizing the belief that everyone has something to teach and something to learn, this program fosters a collaborative environment for improving leadership skills.

Who should register? Women in top-level leadership positions in Alaska's public, private, and for-profit sectors, as well as those who are emerging and would benefit from mentorship.



Linda Leary is an Alaskan fly-fisherwoman and the owner of Fishe Wear, a women's clothing and accessories brand designed for fishing. After moving to Alaska and spending over thirty years in the trucking industry as an owner at Carlile Trucking, she recognized the lack of suitable fishing apparel for women while taking clients to remote fishing lodges. In 2015, she founded Fishe Wear to provide practical and stylish options for female anglers, and she continues to promote women's participation in fishing while exploring exciting collaborations for her brand.



Diane Kaplan is a transformative leader in Alaska's 🗨 🌑 philanthropic community, serving as president and CEO of the Rasmuson Foundation for 27 years, during which its assets grew from \$5 million to \$800 million. She is a Senior Fellow at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and has also significantly contributed to broadcasting as the leader of the Alaska Public Radio Network. A founder of United States Artists and the Nudlaghi Leadership Institute, Diane has received numerous honors for her impactful work in philanthropy and public service.







NEXT LEVEL DEVELOPMENT: INFUSING YOUR PERSONAL FUNDRAISING SKILLS WITH NEW ENERGY AND STRATEGIES

Aug 25 - Aug 27

Join Alison Kear, renowned for her dynamic leadership and exceptional fundraising abilities, along with Diane Kaplan, former President and CEO of the Rasmuson Foundation, who served from 1995 to 2022. Together, they will guide a cohort focused on how CEOs and experienced development executives can elevate their impact to benefit both their organizations and their careers.

Who should register? Non Profit CEOs and Development Executives



Alison Kear

Alison moved to Alaska in 1994 and found her calling

while volunteering with Covenant House Alaska, eventually becoming its executive director in 2012. Notably, during the recession in 2010, she successfully raised funds to build a new youth center, showcasing her leadership and dedication to helping vulnerable populations. Recognized as a compassionate and thoughtful leader, Alison has received multiple awards for her contributions and has actively supported various organizations, including Special Olympics Alaska and the YWCA, while enjoying time with her Goldendoodle, Charley.

Diane Kaplan

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NONPROFIT CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Aug 27 - Aug 29

This retreat is designed for Alaska's nonprofit CEOs and executive directors, providing a space to reflect and explore solutions to the challenges of leading mission-driven organizations. Led by Kameron and Tonio, participants will engage in an interactive experience that fosters connection, professional growth, and renewal while emphasizing peer learning and practical strategies for navigating Alaska's evolving political, economic, and funding landscape. It also offers an opportunity to recharge and build a lasting network of trusted colleagues in an environment that encourages deep reflection and meaningful dialogue.

Who should register? Nonprofit Executive Directors or CEOs.



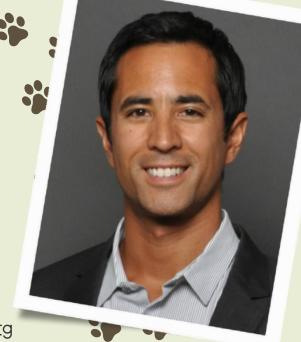
Kameron Perez-Verdia

Kameron Perez-Verdia has over 30 years of nonprofit leadership experience and currently serves as the CEO of the Alaska Humanities Forum. He has also been a member of the Anchorage Assembly since 2019 and previously served on the Anchorage School Board, including terms as Vice President and President. Originally from Utqiagvik, Alaska, Kameron holds a BA in Communications from the University of Puget Sound and an MBA from the University of Denver. Outside of his professional commitments, he enjoys exploring Alaska's outdoors with his wife and two daughters.

Tonio Nguyễn

Tonio is a Learning Architect and Change Facilitator whose approach to transformation is deeply influenced by the people and wilderness of Alaska, as well as his experiences with rural and indigenous communities worldwide. Over the past twenty years, he has worked as an educator and facilitator in various countries, including Vietnam, India, and Mongolia, while also focusing on rural Alaska and urban education in New York City and Washington, DC. He collaborates regularly with educators, nonprofits, tribes, and community groups across the United States. Based in Anchorage, Alaska, Tonio enjoys exploring the backcountry, engaging in creative design, and sharing s'mores with friends in the great outdoors.





WOMEN IN TRANSITION WITH FRAN ULMER, JANET WEISS & DIANE KAPLAN

Sep 1 - Sep 3

Stepping away from a demanding career doesn't mean losing purpose; for many women, transitioning from full-time leadership to a more flexible, fulfilling life is a gradual journey. Join co-facilitators Fran Ulmer and Janet Weiss, along with host Diane Kaplan, as they lead a session for women who have moved on from executive roles and are seeking to balance service, engagement, and personal fulfillment. The facilitators will guide discussions on aligning passions with this new life stage, navigating shifting priorities, and shaping a meaningful next chapter.

Who should register? Women who have left executive-level or other demanding leadership roles in the past 3-5 years.

Fran Ulmer

Fran Ulmer is a former elected official who served as Mayor of Juneau, a state representative, and Lieutenant Governor of Alaska from 1983 to 2002. She later held positions at the University of Alaska Anchorage as a Distinguished Visiting Professor and Chancellor, and was appointed by President Obama as Chair of the US Arctic Research Commission from 2011 to 2020. Fran has also served on numerous state and national boards and is currently a senior fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center.

Diane Kaplan

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Janet Weiss

Janet Weiss served as president of bp Alaska from 2013 to 2020, where she managed the company's oil and gas operations, exploration, and development in the state, including the Trans Alaska Pipeline and the Alaska LNG project. With over 35 years in the oil and gas industry, including 27 years in Alaska, she has also led bp's operations in Wyoming and the Gulf of Mexico. Janet and her husband, Troy, are dedicated to supporting the youth of Alaska and local nonprofits; they have two adult children—Jessica, an Art Director, and Stormy, an ER doctor—and two grandchildren, Juliet and Owen.



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