

SUMMER

2023



NEWS FOR DONORS

Noteworthy



The Denver Foundation



The Denver Foundation

NOTEWORTHY
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MISSION

The mission of The Denver Foundation is to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen our community. We envision a Metro Denver that is racially equitable in its leadership, prosperity, and culture.

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@TDFcommunity

BEYOND THE STREETS AND SIDEWALKS



I left Miami in 2019 and moved to Denver to become the president and CEO of The Denver Foundation. I feel so lucky to call Denver home.

Home for me is not just where I live with my family, or where I bike, or even where I go to grab a beer. Home is where I give back because it's a very special place not only to me but to the generations of families who have built their lives in Denver.

Place is so important to the work we do as a community foundation. And place is not just the streets and sidewalks and parks. It's really about the people who give to make this city strong. It's about you.

It's about the donors and fundholders who give to this place about which they care deeply. It's about the grantees who use funding from The Denver Foundation and our donors to improve lives. It's about the investments we make through impact investing to more deeply support organizations in our area.

This edition of Noteworthy is dedicated to place and to the people who make this place incredible.

Whether you are looking for different ways you can give from your donor-advised fund, want to learn more about how policy can impact our home, or have questions about complex gifts, like real estate, please reach out to me or a member of your engaged philanthropy team at information@denverfoundation.org.

Javier Alberto Soto, *President and CEO*

ON THE COVER Joanne Posner-Mayer at the Posner Center for International Development.

PICTURED UPPER RIGHT Javier Alberto Soto and Joanna Kelley, CEO Philanthropy Colorado.



THE POWER OF PLACE-BASED AND COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

In June, foundations from across the country gathered in Denver for the Council on Foundations' annual conference. This year's theme was "The Power of Place-Based and Community Philanthropy." The Denver Foundation had several staff members in attendance to learn and share their expertise.

Javier Alberto Soto, president and CEO of The Denver Foundation, co-chaired the host committee for this conference with The Colorado Health Foundation's President and CEO, Karen McNeil-Miller.

"Place-based giving is the future," said Santhosh Ramdoss, president and CEO of Gary Community Ventures, during the conference kick-off. "Place-based work is extremely collaborative. And when we can get together, we can do things differently."

During the conference, we heard from leaders across the country, including many Colorado leaders, about how they come together to find solutions for crises facing our communities, such as responding to natural disasters, or investing in affordable housing. We learned about what it means to invest in place, build resilience, and find innovations for lasting impact.

"A community is a place you invest in," said Chanda Smith Baker, chief impact officer and senior vice president at the Minneapolis Foundation.

The conference was an opportunity for foundation leaders to convene, learn from each other, and improve their practice. We look forward to implementing some of these lessons learned in our own work at The Denver Foundation.

"Constructive dialogue is the role of place-based philanthropy. I think of it as a public plaza with 50 paths leading to a meeting point in the center, and at that center is where we solve community problems."

JAVIER ALBERTO SOTO



POSNER CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Main Entrance

A community of 200 global development organizations and individuals working together for a more equitable and prosperous world.

Regular Hours of Operation:
8:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday

"I WANTED A LEGACY FOR MY FAMILY, MY GRANDCHILDREN, AND FUTURE GENERATIONS."

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Place-based giving focuses on the challenges of a local ecosystem and draws on the experience, expertise, and resources of local partners to create solutions best suited to each specific community.

Because of our deep community connections, The Denver Foundation provides expert advice to donors for place-based giving.

"Place-based giving falls directly in line with the mission of The Denver Foundation to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen our community," said Claire Tobin, The Denver Foundation's major gifts officer. "True change starts at the local level, and connecting philanthropists with local organizations to make an impact is a joy in my role."

The Denver Foundation strives to support the evolving demands of Metro Denver, connecting interested donors with local partners to address immediate needs. "We work daily to achieve our ambitious goal of serving the greatest needs of our community," explained Tobin.

Joanne Posner-Mayer, with her support of the Posner Center for International Development in Curtis Park, is an example of this concept in action.

JOANNE POSNER-MAYER

Driving around Curtis Park and Five Points is nostalgic for Posner-Mayer.

She grew up in East Denver with her parents, Jerry and Hanna Posner. Jerry was an entrepreneur who owned and operated Franklin Hardware on 34th Avenue and Franklin Street from 1958 to 1973.

Posner-Mayer remembers spending afternoons in the back of the store reading or coloring. Occasionally, she also helped customers. “Because of the store, I got used to meeting all kinds of people with different backgrounds,” she reflected.

Little did she know, those early experiences would shape the businesswoman and philanthropist she is today.

As a philanthropist, Posner-Mayer is passionate about the arts and collaboration. She got involved with The Denver Foundation in 2010 at her financial planner’s suggestion. Today, she is also a member of the Community Legacy Society, naming The Denver Foundation in her will. Through her funds, she has given nearly \$1 million in grants.

Her family’s history is at the core of why giving and creating a charitable legacy is so important to her. “My parents were from small families. I’m an only child, and my son is an only child. My parents were both immigrants, and my mom is a Holocaust survivor,” explained Posner-Mayer. “I wanted a legacy for my family, my grandchildren, and future generations.”

THE POSNER CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

One of the most meaningful grants Posner-Mayer has given was to complete a large nonprofit international incubator center. The Posner Center for International Development was named after her parents, thanks to her gift.

Established in 2013, the Posner Center brings together organizations, building an engaged, thriving community where people meet and learn about one another, exchange ideas, access shared resources and support, and ultimately combine their expertise to reduce poverty and social inequity around the globe.

The Posner Center provides office space and collaborative workspaces for 180 member organizations in the US and worldwide, accommodating on-site and off-site partners. Fifty of those member organizations utilize their physical space, and each organization occupies its own footprint in the building while sharing communal

areas, meeting rooms of all sizes, and access to other office necessities. It’s an incubator for local ideas and international partnerships to flourish.

The Posner Center was built just a few blocks away from where Posner-Mayer’s dad’s hardware store was once located, which felt like a perfect fit. “Giving back to a neighborhood that’s important to my family is important to me,” said Posner-Mayer. “I like to pay it forward for the betterment of new generations.”

In addition to her financial contribution to the Posner Center, Posner-Mayer also sits on it’s leadership councils, which serves to advise the board of directors and the executive director. It’s just another way she has shared her gifts with a place that has meant so much to her. “I was brought up Jewish; we’re taught to leave the world a better place,” said Posner-Mayer. She’s living out that principle every day.



START YOUR PLACE-BASED GIVING

The Denver Foundation has a myriad of ways to connect donors with organizations around Colorado. “Place-based giving can be done in many ways,” explained Tobin. “We meet with our donors individually to discuss their interests and goals and learn about which places matter to them. Our networks and relationships within Colorado allow us to find the perfect match for generous donors to collaborate with community organizations to address pressing local needs. It’s a win for everyone involved.”

To learn more about place-based giving or find a way to give where you live, contact your relationship manager or email information@denverfoundation.org.



PLACE-BASED POLICY

*Addressing the affordable housing crisis
through policy change*

As Denver's population grows and changes, it's critical that the city's policies and practices change as well. The Denver Foundation and our donors are engaging in shaping those policies and practices to ensure that everyone has a home. Many of our donors choose to give where they live by donating gifts of real estate or participating in place-based giving. Other donors join us in supporting our policy and advocacy work to address issues that are important to the community.

Communities across Colorado are experiencing an affordable housing crisis, which has significant repercussions, given that affordable housing impacts almost every aspect of daily life. Families who have long called Denver home have been forced out of their neighborhoods. People cannot live near their jobs, exacerbating environmental and transportation issues.

This crisis does not only impact homeowners and renters. Developers, builders, and landlords also face challenges in preserving and growing the much-needed affordable housing supply within our communities.

Providing infrastructure and housing is a major part of the solution to this issue. It is critical to engage with all these stakeholders to help us understand what resources we need to build new homes or maintain existing affordable housing to better support everyone in our community, from renters and homeowners to developers, builders, and landlords.

Because this issue is so vital, it was a major area of focus for state legislators in the 2023 session. It has also become essential for The Denver Foundation, which began participating in policy work more deeply in 2021 and has grown its presence in this space each year since. With a dedicated director of policy and government affairs and an extensive network of donors, community leaders, and policymakers, we are using our influence to help shape a new future for our city.

“One of the pillars of our work during this legislative session was advocating for practical solutions to this crisis. We collaborated with partners to support a variety of balanced affordable housing policies. Many passed and will provide some clarity and relief for renters, homeowners, and developers,” said Naomi Amaha, director of policy and government affairs at The Denver Foundation.

This year, Amaha and The Denver Foundation worked on seven unique affordable housing-related policy initiatives, and five passed. By joining and hosting community meetings with local nonprofits, meeting with elected officials, and testifying at the state Capitol, we've been very engaged on these issues.

One example of an issue we supported was Denver's Expanding Housing Affordability Ordinance. It requires that, as new housing units are built, a specific number of units are designated as affordable.



PICTURED Javier Alberto Soto, mayoral candidate Kelly Brough, mayor-elect Mike Johnston, CBS4's Michelle Griego, CBS4's Shaun Boyd, Dean Paul Teske.

Ensuring there are some affordable homes allows people to stay in the communities where they work, regardless of their wages or salaries. It keeps a community diverse and establishes clear expectations for developers, builders, and investors.

"This is a constantly evolving situation, so we stay nimble, informed, and connected to our community. We listen, we learn, and we use our voice to amplify the things we think will make the biggest impact. Colorado is home to so many people, and we all deserve a seat at the table," said Amaha.

HOW DONORS CAN GET INVOLVED

We encourage donors to join us in these policy and advocacy efforts. The Denver Foundation hosts a variety of policy-focused events throughout the year. This year, we hosted a mayoral forum with runoff candidates Kelly Brough and Mike Johnston. We publish a quarterly policy newsletter and blog with up-to-date news, information, policy positions, and resources from local media and community organizations.

If you feel passionately about this work, you can give to the Civic Fabric Fund, which supports The Denver Foundation's policy and advocacy efforts, including grantmaking to nonprofit organizations supporting their policy, advocacy, and voter engagement work.

"The Denver Foundation was a critical partner throughout the legislative session in advocating for deeply-needed housing policies that elevate the need for housing options for extremely low-income individuals."

JULIE GONZALES, COLORADO STATE SENATOR

GET INVOLVED

[denverfoundation.org/
public-policy-and-advocacy](https://denverfoundation.org/public-policy-and-advocacy)



GIVE THE GIFT OF REAL ESTATE

Open Your Doors to a Lasting Legacy

The Denver Foundation specializes in gifts of complex assets. Share your home with the community by donating your home, vacant land, commercial real estate, or other property.

Many donors leave gifts of real estate in their wills so that their homes can extend their giving long after they're gone. Regardless of the location of your property, we will work with you to ensure you get the maximum benefits and impact from your gift.

**To learn more and share your home
with the world, contact us today.**

303.300.1790



The Denver Foundation

**“Transferring real estate
to your donor-advised
fund will avoid capital
gains taxes, help you
qualify for a federal
income tax deduction,
and support the things
you care about the most.
It’s a gift that keeps
on giving.”**



**SAM CLARK,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PIKES PEAK REAL ESTATE
FOUNDATION**