



Joint Hearing of the Senate and Assembly Select Committees on the Nonprofit Sector
Subject: Barriers and Solutions to Nonprofit Participation in State Government

Date: Wednesday, August 14th, 2024
Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Location: 1021 O St - Rm 1200, Sacramento, CA

Agenda

- I. Opening Remarks**
- II. Panel 1: Toward Modernization of the DOJ Charitable Trust Registry**
 - Elizabeth Kim, Senior Assistant Attorney General of Charitable Trusts Section, California Department of Justice
 - David Eller, Registrar of the Registry of Charities and Fundraisers, California Department of Justice
 - John Jones, Executive Director, CoCo Kids
- III. Panel 2: Implementation of Advanced Payments**
 - Geoff Green, Chief Executive Officer, CalNonprofits
 - Amar Azucena Cid, Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning, California Strategic Growth Council
 - Susan Gomez, Chief Executive Officer, Inland Empire Community Collaborative
 - Sandra Celedon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fresno Building Healthy Communities
- IV. Public Comment**
- V. Closing Remarks**

Elizabeth Kim, Senior Assistant Attorney General of Charitable Trusts Section, California Department of Justice

Elizabeth Kim is the Senior Assistant Attorney General of the Charitable Trusts Section with the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. As the head of the Section, she oversees the Deputy Attorneys General, auditors, and legal analysts who investigate and bring enforcement actions against charities, charitable trustees, and fundraising professionals for fraud, diversion and misuse of assets, self-dealing, misrepresentations in solicitations, false reporting and other violations of law. She's involved in drafting laws and regulations affecting the nonprofit sector, and actively participates in public outreach and education opportunities to help the nonprofit sector stay compliant with the applicable laws. With the Registrar of the Registry of Charities and Fundraisers, Elizabeth also oversees the Registry's operations. Elizabeth is on the board of the National Association of State Charity Officials.

David Eller, Registrar of the Registry of Charities and Fundraisers, California Department of Justice

David Eller is the Registrar of the Registry of Charities and Fundraisers with the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. As the head of the Registry, he oversees Registry operations including key process such as Initial Charity Registration, Annual Charity Renewal, Raffle, Dissolution, Complaints, Professional/Platform Fundraisers. All charitable trustees and fundraising professionals are required to register and file annual financial disclosure reports with the Registry. In addition, nonprofit organizations that conduct raffles for charitable purposes are required to register and file an annual financial report. He actively participates in public outreach and education opportunities to help the nonprofit sector stay compliant with the applicable laws.

John Jones, Executive Director, CoCo Kids

Since 2014 John Jones is the Executive Director of CocoKids Inc, a private non-profit organization with the mission to champion and advance quality childcare and early education.

Throughout his 30-year nonprofit career, he has focused his work, passion, and advocacy on children's education, care, welfare, and well-being. For 15 years John served as President and CEO of We Care Services for Children, a private nonprofit that provides early intervention services for young children. His nonprofit management experience includes roles as Director of Community Services and Assistant Director of Day Treatment with Lincoln Child Center in Oakland. He has served on the Board of Directors for the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, We Care Society, St. Peter Martyr School, The Center for Community-based Organizations and the Delta Youth Soccer League. He is currently President of the Contra Costa Children and Families Commission and Board President of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

He received his B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Sociology from the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley, Colorado and did graduate work in Nonprofit Management at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

Geoff Green, Chief Executive Officer, CalNonprofits

Geoff Green is CEO of the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), a statewide policy alliance of more than 10,000 nonprofits speaking to government, philanthropy, and the public at large.

A long-time CalNonprofits board member, Geoff previously served as CEO of the Santa Barbara City College Foundation. With more than 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, he has worked on a wide variety of issues including affordable housing, access to education, racial equity, and environmental protection.

Under Green's nine years of leadership, the SBCC Foundation raised over \$50 million to support student success programs. In 2016 he led the creation of the SBCC Promise, a groundbreaking initiative that offers all recent, local high school graduates the opportunity to attend college full-time at no cost.

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Green now resides on the Central Coast. He has served on a diverse array of local, state, and national nonprofit boards in addition to both elected and appointed public office. A dedicated champion of the nonprofit sector, his prior roles include campaign organizer, public affairs radio host, and national park ranger.

Amar Azucena Cid, Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning, California Strategic Growth Council

Amar joins SGC as the Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning. Amar values and utilizes her lived and learned experiences, rooted in racial justice, the environment, and the community's ability to thrive, to inform her professional work. She has over 15 years of transportation and community planning and policy experience across public and nonprofit sectors, including positions in affordable housing, federal surveying, youth and health advocacy, legislative analysis, and transportation planning.

Prior to joining SGC, Amar led the country's first State DOT office on Race and Equity at Caltrans. Under her leadership and through meaningful collaboration, she advanced internal and external DEI efforts with a people's centered model. The Caltrans Office on Race and Equity (CORE) launched the development of the Equity Index, the Interagency Transportation Equity Listening Sessions, and the inaugural external Interagency Transportation Equity Advisory Committee. Before managing CORE, she was an integral statewide strategist in public transportation, including implementing and cultivating the \$100M+ annual CA Climate Investment Low Carbon Transit Operations Program. Amar successfully advanced local transit entities in their transition to Zero Emission service, coordinated new routes for the direct benefit of priority populations, and negotiated service-wide free fare programs for students. Amar earned a MA in Community Development and Planning from Clark University and a BS in Community and Regional Development at UC Davis.

Susan Gomez, Chief Executive Officer, Inland Empire Community Collaborative

Born and raised in the Inland Empire, Susan Gomez spent her life in dedication to others. From being a special education teacher to several decades of social work for people with disabilities, to CEO of the Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC), Susan has found ways to make the lives of others just a little bit brighter in any way that she could.

Her collaborative efforts include building IECC to a coalition of over 100 nonprofits. A member of the Funder's Alliance, a Líderes fellow for Hispanics in Philanthropy, a member of the Latino Community Foundation, a board member for the California Association of Nonprofits, and co-chair of the Riverside County Nonprofit Round Table.

Susan is an alumnus of San Bernardino Valley College and California State University San Bernardino with undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Art History and graduate studies in Rehabilitation Counseling, where she graduated Chi Sigma Iota.

She has been committed to ensuring the nonprofit sector in the Inland Empire grows to address the needs of children and families. During her leadership, IECC has trained nonprofits to build community power and ensure marginalized voices are heard when issues for the region are discussed. Her commitment to improve the quality-of-life of our community has led to significant wins for the region while ensuring equity, inclusion and justice are cornerstone of nonprofit work while also internally building nonprofit capacity, advocacy, and sustainability.

Sandra Celedon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Fresno Building Healthy Communities

Sandra Celedon serves as the President and CEO for Fresno Building Healthy Communities – a coalition of residents, youth, and community-based organizations working to foster and encourage thriving communities where all children and families can live healthy, safe and productive lives. Through her leadership, Fresno BHC has established a network comprising over 30 nonprofit and faith-based organizations, affecting over 97,000 lives in Fresno, California. Fresno BHC utilizes a community organizing approach to build local capacity to address social determinants of health and serves as a backbone organization with experience in marketing and communications, civic engagement, developing and sustaining coalitions, and implementing innovative policy solutions. Sandra has over 15 years of nonprofit administrative experience and earned a Master of Public Health in Community Health degree from San Jose State University.