



Animal Grantmakers Conference Connects Funders Online on October 28 and 29, 2020

All Funders Interested in Animal Protection Are Welcome

Los Angeles – October 8, 2020 – [Animal Grantmakers](#), the only philanthropy serving organization focused solely on animal protection, will host [CONNECTION: The 2020 Animal Grantmakers Virtual Conference](#) on October 28 and 29. Held exclusively for foundations, grantmaking public charities, corporate giving programs, individuals and other philanthropists that make grants for the benefit of animals, the Animal Grantmakers Annual Conference is being offered at no cost to funders in all sectors for the first time this year.

“Convening online affords us the unique opportunity to host our most inclusive conference ever,” said Shelly Thompson, board member and immediate past president of Animal Grantmakers. “Gathering like-minded individuals once a year for a deep dive into the latest animal issues and grantmaking best practices is a key benefit of membership in Animal Grantmakers. With a global pandemic limiting in-person meetings, a virtual platform allows us to deliver on that promise.”

Sponsored by the [Kirkpatrick Foundation](#), [Life of Riley at Spring Point](#), [Maddie’s Fund®](#), [PetSmart Charities®](#) and [The Summerlee Foundation](#), the 2020 Animal Grantmakers Conference will provide an unparalleled opportunity to connect and bond with colleagues old and new, share knowledge and ideas, and learn from experts. The goal of the 2020 [conference program](#) is to help funders expand their visions and develop grantmaking strategies to confront some of the biggest challenges in animal philanthropy today.

CONNECTION will kick off on October 28 with an important discussion for grantmakers on racial equity, diversity and inclusion. Organized by Animal Grantmakers, this vital session will be led by Dani LaGiglia and Johnny Jenkins with PetSmart Charities. A virtual happy hour will follow a few hours later.

The impressive line-up of speakers confirmed for October 29 includes:

- Michael J. Blackwell, DVM, MPH, director, [Program for Pet Health Equity, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville](#)

- Tony Eliseuson, litigation program director, [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#)
- James Evans, president, [CARE](#) (Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity)
- Che Green, principal, [Cultivate Insights](#); founder & board member, [Faunalytics](#)
- Sara Kent, chief executive officer, [Shelter Animals Count](#)
- Abby Levine, director, [Bolder Advocacy](#) (a program of Alliance for Justice)
- Andrew Rowan, founding member, [Animal Grantmakers](#); grants advisor, Edith J. Goode Residuary Trust
- Paul Schmitz, principal, [Leading Inside Out](#)
- Phil Tedeschi, clinical professor and executive director, [Institute for Human-Animal Connection](#)
- Marcus Walton, president and CEO, [Grantmakers for Effective Organizations](#)
- James Wilks, producer, [The Game Changers](#) (documentary film)
- Mary Logan Wolf, author and poet

The [registration](#) deadline for this free virtual conference is October 25, 2020. To learn more about the online conference or Animal Grantmakers, contact membership@animalgrantmakers.org.

About Animal Grantmakers

[Animal Grantmakers](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the only funder affinity group focused solely on animal protection. A diverse group of foundations, public charities, corporate giving programs, individuals and other philanthropists, its members work on local, regional, national and global issues involving animals of all types living in all kinds of environments. The mission of Animal Grantmakers is to support effective grantmaking, advance collaborative efforts, and expand the sphere of animal protection philanthropy to cast a wider and stronger safety net for animals in the communities its members serve, improving outcomes and elevating the field. To learn more, visit www.animalgrantmakers.org.

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