WHEN THE FIRES BURN DOWN, WE RISE TOGETHER

Opening Letter from the President & CEO and Board Chair

Dear WFN Community and Friends,

This past year reminded us that leadership takes many forms – especially in moments of crisis.

When wildfires tore through a community where one of our member Women's Funds operates, the Fund's CEO faced a daunting reality: urgent needs were multiplying by the minute. As she and her team mobilized emergency grants and coordinated with grantee partners, a familiar notification appeared in her inbox – messages from fellow Women's Fund leaders.

From Hawai'i. From Puerto Rico. From other corners of our network that had weathered crises of their own.

"We are here for you."
"We know what you need to do now and what can wait."
"Here's how we handled emergency grantmaking and ways to support your team while you lead."

That exchange captures the heart of the Women's Funding Network – a community of leaders who don't just respond to crisis, but reimagine what's possible through trust, shared knowledge, and collective care.

Together, WFN's more than 120 members are advancing gender justice by investing in women, girls, and gender-expansive people – not only as beneficiaries, but as architects of solutions. Across the globe, these leaders demonstrate that centering lived experiences, mobilizing resources collaboratively, and adhering to feminist values fosters systems that are resilient by design.

At WFN, we see this as our greatest impact. We are the connective tissue that inspires bold leadership to thrive, even in the most challenging moments.

We are deeply grateful to our members, supporters, partners, and allies who make this work possible. Your generosity sustains not just WFN, but an entire ecosystem of women's funds and gender justice leaders who are holding communities together in a time of continued uncertainty and threat.

As we look ahead, we invite you to keep our shared movement alive – to invest in the connective power of WFN and ensure our sector continues to grow, adapt, and rise as one. The work ahead requires courage and community, and together, we are building both.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Elizabeth Barajas-Román
President & CEO

Rashmi Yadav Marya
Chair, Board of Directors

WOMEN'S FUNDING NETWORK 2025 IMPACT BRIEF

40 Years Strong. Future-Focused. Powered by Collective Feminist Philanthropy.

Local to Global Connections

For more than four decades, the Women's Funding Network (WFN) has served as the connective tissue linking grassroots efforts to global movements for gender justice. Our global network, with 120+ members across 13 countries, collectively invest $1.4 billion each year to advance the leadership, safety, and economic security of women, girls, and gender-expansive people.

1 in 4 members fund across borders, connecting local action to global movements. In 2025, that bridge between local and global action grew stronger through our One World Strategy:

Cross-Border Collaboration: WFN continued its partnership with Justice for Migrant Women and Mi Familia Vota to advance a U.S.–Mexico feminist alliance—aligning advocacy strategies that transcend borders.

Global Leadership Forum: Through peer learning, leadership grants, and salon-style dialogues, the GLF continues to connect leaders from across the world who are transforming systems of power from within.

Advancing CEDAW Locally: Building on WFN's presentations at the UN Commission on the Status of Women and Unity Summit, we began developing a data platform to help U.S. cities and states align with CEDAW – the global treaty advancing women's rights and equality. While the United States is one of only six U.N. member states yet to ratify CEDAW, many local governments are using its principles to strengthen gender-equity initiatives at the municipal level.

"Estoy agradecida por la oportunidad y creo que ha valido mucho la pena participar en el WFN. Espero que podamos abrir articulaciones y vínculos políticos entre las dos redes de Fondos de Mujeres en la región."

"I am deeply grateful for this opportunity. Being part of WFN has been incredibly rewarding, and I hope it opens new pathways for collaboration and stronger political connections between the two women's fund networks in our region."

— Lopo Gutiérrez, Fondo de Mujeres Bolivia Apthapi Jopueti

Collective Power in Philanthropy & Gender Justice

WFN's network demonstrates what happens when funders, advocates, and community leaders act collectively: ideas become strategy, and solidarity becomes action. Highlights from 2025:

- **Shared Values, Shared Practice report:** Drawing insights from more than 100 organizations, this second installment in our landscape report series captures how women's funds are navigating today's economic and political headwinds—advancing racial and gender justice while adapting to a shifting philanthropic landscape.
- **Advocacy & Policy Hub:** Our virtual help desk and bi-monthly policy briefs equipped members with real-time guidance on issues from child tax credit expansion to DEI restrictions, ensuring they have the tools to respond swiftly and strategically.
- **Data for Impact:** The launch of DataWoven, WFN's new Representation & Resourcing of the Nonprofit Sector Dashboard, marks a major milestone in our data and learning strategy. Developed in partnership with Candid and ten member funds, this tool helps funders and nonprofits analyze who holds power within the U.S. nonprofit sector, examining representation by race, gender, and organizational scale.
- **The Just Rise Fund:** WFN's blended-capital initiative continues to prototype new funding models that combine philanthropic and institutional capital to strengthen feminist movements' long-term sustainability.

🤝Collective Impact

84% of WFN's Feminist Funded attendees built new partnerships and collaborations — sparking momentum that extends well beyond the convening.

"The Feminist Funded conference was such an inspiring space full of warmth and connection. In these trying times, this collective spirit moves us forward."
— Amrita Doshi, South Asian SOAR

"I came into this conference feeling a real sense of cynicism and left with a true semblance of hope."
— Zack Fowler, Amplify Girls

Women's Funding Network
www.womensfundingnetwork.org/giving

wfn WOMEN'S FUNDING NETWORK
Where women lead, change follows.

40 Years Strong: Honoring our Past, Inspiring our Future

In September 2025, WFN celebrated 40 years of feminist philanthropy at Feminist Funded '25, a sold-out global convening in Washington, D.C. More than 400 leaders from 13 countries gathered to reflect on the past and co-create the future of feminist funding.

Highlights included:

- The release of the DataWoven and Shared Values, Shared Practice Member Landscape Report, providing members and funders with timely insights and actionable tools.
- A gala honoring visionary leaders and funders shaping the next generation of feminist philanthropy.
- The debut of new member collaborations focused on cross-border partnerships, youth leadership, and storytelling as tools for system change.

As we look ahead, WFN remains focused on ensuring that feminist philanthropy is not just a movement–but a lasting infrastructure for justice.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP FUELS THE FUTURE

Your support powers the next era of feminist philanthropy. Together, we can:

- Expand data-informed practice through DataWoven workshops and trainings for members and funders.
- Grow leadership pipelines through the Global Leadership Forum and NextGen initiatives.
- Sustain feminist infrastructure by investing in the Just Rise Fund and core network capacity.

Your partnership fuels collective impact. Donate to WFN, partner in our mission, or join and renew your membership today to help us build a more just and equitable world. Join us in shaping the next 40 years of collective power.

CLICK BELOW TO HEAR FROM WFN MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, AND FRIENDS

WFN By the Numbers

How the Women's Funding Network strengthens feminist philanthropy worldwide.

40
YEARS

🏛️Enduring Commitment

Since 1984, WFN has been the connective tissue of feminist philanthropy — linking grassroots leaders, global movements, and visionary funders to create lasting systems change.

"Feminist Funded made clear that the path forward requires boldness, generosity, humility, and solidarity." — Stacy Kono, Hand in Hand Network

93%

⚖️Equity in Practice

93% of WFN members affirm that gender justice is inseparable from racial justice. Members are embedding equity across programs, governance, and pay practices, ensuring justice in structural – not symbolic.

"We have always been an intersectional feminist organization that prioritizes both gender and racial equity." — 2025 Survey Respondent

67%

💰Transforming Capital

67% of WFN members with endowments invest through a gender lens, aligning capital with feminist values and accountability.

"I remain steadfast in expanding funding access to leaders of color. It's essential that there be representation on the other side of the checkbook." — 2022 Survey Respondent

69%

💡Leading the Field

69% of WFN members now practice trust-based philanthropy, nearly doubling since 2022, while 51% use participatory grantmaking. Feminist funds are redefining how resources move — with trust, collaboration, and care.

"Each time I come to this conference, I come away with new ideas and strategies for strengthening our work locally." — Kelly Nevins, Women's Fund of Rhode Island

"WFN gave a new meaning to youth advocacy and the way my peers and I can connect with resource organizations." — Tobechi Mezu, Justice + Joy National Collaborative

CALL TO ACTION - SUPPORT WFN

Donate, partner, or join today to keep feminist philanthropy strong.

Your partnership fuels this impact.

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