

# The Nonprofit Sector

## Crises and Untapped Opportunities

Never in the history of California has the nonprofit sector been asked to do so much with so little. At the Envisioning California Conference, nonprofit leaders, philanthropists, government leaders, scholars, and an informed public audience will convene to discuss challenges and share strategies for meeting the needs of vulnerable Californians during this era of scarcity.

## Conveners

**The Center for Southern California Studies** was established in 1996 to provide research, education, and service on public policy issues facing Southern California. The Center offers diverse programs that facilitate pathways to productive policy dialogue aimed at building community capacity and participation.

**The Center for California Studies** is a public service, educational support, and applied research institute of California State University, Sacramento. It is dedicated to promoting a better understanding of California's government, politics, peoples, cultures, and history.

**The Human Interaction Research Institute** helps nonprofits, funders, and communities handle the challenges of innovation and change, using behavioral science strategies. Founded in 1961, the nonprofit Institute is based in Los Angeles. Its work ranges from research, to technical assistance on systems change, to disseminating innovations or helping others to do so. The emphasis in all these activities is on the complex human dynamics of change.

## Keynote Addresses

Our opening plenary session will feature **Jane Wales**, Vice President, Philanthropy and Society, of the Aspen Institute, and President and Chief Executive Officer of the World Affairs Council as well as Founding CEO of the Global Philanthropy Forum. She hosts the nationally syndicated weekly National Public Radio interview show *It's Your World*.

Our dinner keynote speaker is **Tavis Smiley**. From his celebrated conversations with world figures, to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, Tavis Smiley continues to be an outstanding voice for change as a broadcaster, author, publisher, advocate, and philanthropist. He is currently the host of the late night television talk show *Tavis Smiley* on PBS and *The Tavis Smiley Show* from Public Radio International (PRI).

The evening plenary session also will feature **Thomas E. Backer, Ph.D.**, President of Human Interaction Research Institute, which celebrates its 50th anniversary with this conference. In his talk, *Managing and Living with the Future*, Dr. Backer will discuss how behavioral sciences help us deal with the challenges of innovation and change in the nonprofit sector.

# Schedule of Events



1:00 – 2:00 **Registration**

2:00 – 3:00 **Opening Plenary and Keynote Presentation**

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3:00 – 4:30 **Panel Sessions**

Creative Technology for Improving Health Nonprofits  
Health and Wellness  
Comprehensive Approaches to Poverty

4:30 – 4:45 **Break**

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4:45 – 6:15 **Panel Sessions**

Tribes and Territories  
Government and Nonprofits as Partners  
Who Watches Foundations?

6:15 – 7:00 **Wine Reception**

7:00 – 8:30 **Dinner and Keynote Presentations**

sponsored by



Grantmaking for a Healthier California

# Panel Topics

## Creative Technology for Improving Health Nonprofits

Innovative technology is having an ever-increasing impact on the capacity of 21st century nonprofits to achieve their missions in a tight-resources world. Examples to be discussed in this session include online approaches to extend and improve physician-patient communications, online decision tools to help grantmaking at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and technology platforms like cell phones to disseminate information produced by a Federal agency.

## Health and Wellness

Both nationally and in California, the reduction in health infrastructure and low-cost health services has placed an extra burden on the nonprofit sector. What are the unique challenges, and the innovative solutions, to treating the health problems of our most vulnerable citizens in an era of scarcity?

## Comprehensive Approaches to Poverty

More nonprofits are starting to embrace holistic approaches to combating poverty – integrating “one-stop shopping” in one setting to include health and social services, food banks, housing, vocational services, and community outreach. This panel highlights both good practices and challenges of a comprehensive approach.

## Tribes and Territories

Given limited funding and resources, how do nonprofits prioritize and deliver services to communities with overlapping identities? Issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, regional affiliation, and socioeconomic status often fragment service provision and generate tension between groups. How can nonprofits collaborate to address these often competing needs and develop a more holistic approach to community engagement?

## Government and Nonprofits as Partners

As the California budget shrinks, there has been a corresponding contraction of services provided by local and state government agencies. Yet, there are many elected officials who care deeply about maintaining a functional level of social service provision. What do they need from the nonprofit sector to realize that goal? And what does the nonprofit sector need from local and state agencies to survive and continue to provide services?

## Who Watches Foundations?

Foundations are critical to California public policy, politics, and public services. And they do extraordinary work on behalf of countless nonprofit interests in the state. At the same time, important questions remain about accountability, transparency, and representation among foundations. The panel will provide an opportunity for a considered and reasonable discussion of the challenges as well as the opportunities foundations offer the Golden State.



The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences would like to thank this year's conference sponsors for their most generous support.



Thank You!

## More Info

The conference registration fee of \$85 includes a wine reception and dinner. In order to accommodate persons with disabilities, please notify us of any special requirements you may have. Cancellations received in writing by **October 10th, 2011**, are subject to a **\$25.00** service fee. After that date, substitutions are allowed, but no refunds will be issued. Upon receipt of registration, you will be sent a conference confirmation via email. For additional conference information, please contact the Center for Southern California Studies at **818.677.6517** or by email at **cscs@csun.edu**.

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## Registration Information

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**Conference Registration is \$85.00**

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convened by  
**The Center for Southern California Studies**  
California State University, Northridge  
  
in association with  
**The Center for California Studies**  
California State University, Sacramento  
  
and  
**Human Interaction Research Institute**

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Twenty-Second Annual  
Envisioning California Conference

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