



Larger Community Foundations Annual Conference 2013

January 23-25, 2013
Charlotte, NC

Welcome!

Dear Larger Community Foundations Colleagues:

We're excited to be convening this year in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Conference Center of the Foundation For The Carolinas. The Planning Committee believes this setting couldn't be more ideal to focus on our work and learn from each other. Michael Marsicano and his able staff have been enormously generous in helping us design this year's conference and ensuring we experience the best of Charlotte -- we'll be meeting in spectacular venues, eating in great restaurants, and tapping amazing "human capital" from one of the most innovative regions in the country.

You'll note this year that we haven't identified a theme. That's because the feedback you provided last year encouraged the Planning Committee to sharply focus on shared challenges and opportunities, to emphasize learning from each other, to provide time for extended and deeper discourse over key issues and trends, and to expand opportunities for developing stronger ties and relationships with each other.

Consequently, there will be more sessions for CEOs and Board Chairs to interact, together and apart, and our presenters were selected to provoke new thinking, challenge conventional wisdom, deepen our knowledge of emerging trends, and inspire innovation. Dr. James Johnson of the University of North Carolina, one of the nation's leading demographers, will kick us off with a presentation and "workshop" focused on disruptive demographics and how ethnographic shifts in the various regions of the country we serve could influence our business models in the future. Ken Hey, managing partner of Inferential Focus, will help us make sense of a changing world – his firm focuses on early detection of economic, political, social, and technological changes and identifies market opportunities and risks before they are well recognized. We'll have a chance to interact with four leading corporate philanthropists from Duke Energy, Bank of America, Lowes Corporation, and Wells Fargo to explore new ways to leverage corporate and philanthropic assets. And we'll do deep- dive case studies presented by our colleagues on proven and promising initiatives and successful business practices. We'll close on Friday with a conversation with Vicki Spruill, CEO of the Council on Foundations, and an opportunity for CEOs and Board Chairs to convene one last time.

This year's Planning Committee, aided and abetted by Michael and his team, as well as our indispensable management team of **Amy Daly-Donovan** and **Sherrie Chelini**, have been absolutely terrific to work with – always willing to step up and loaded with creative ideas. **Ken Bernhardt** (Board Chair, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta), **Terri Freeman** (Community Foundation for the National Capital Region), **Ellen Gilligan** (Greater Milwaukee Foundation), **Ken Hegi** (Board Chair, Communities Foundation of Texas), **Phil Lakin** (Tulsa Community Foundation), **Michael Marsicano** (Foundation For The Carolinas), **Dick Ober** (New Hampshire Charitable Foundation), **Brian Payne** (Central Indiana Community Foundation and The Indianapolis Foundation), and **Ronn Richard** (The Cleveland Foundation) deserve our gratitude and thanks. If you have yet to serve on this Committee, please volunteer for next year – we need to keep the ideas fresh and flowing!

We look forward to our time together in Charlotte.

Steve Seleznow
Chair, 2013 Larger Community Foundation Planning Committee