

THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY

TRANSITIONS

Tina Tchen Joins the Obama Foundation; Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation CEO Will Retire This Fall

By M.J. Prest

JULY 15, 2022



ERIN SCHAFF, REDUX

Obama Foundation

[Tina Tchen](#) will join the presidential foundation as executive vice president and chief strategy and impact officer.

A lawyer who previously spent two decades as a partner at the Chicago office of the law firm Skadden Arps, Tchen was most recently the president and CEO of Time's Up Now and the Time's Up Foundation, and co-founder of the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund. She resigned last summer following the revelation that she advised Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York during the sexual-harassment scandal that led to his resignation.

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Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation

[Holly Kuzmich](#) will join the venture-philanthropy organization on December 1 as a managing director, based in Dallas.

She has been executive director of the George W. Bush Institute since 2013.

New York Academy of Medicine

[Ann Kurth](#) will become president of the health-policy and advocacy organization on January 1.

Currently she is dean of the Yale School of Nursing and a professor of epidemiology of microbial diseases at the Yale School of Public Health.

More New CEOs

Bobbie Brown, assistant corporation counsel for the New York City Law Department, will become executive director of Young New Yorkers, a nonprofit group that combines the arts and criminal-justice activism. She will begin her new role on August 11 and will succeed **David Rivel**, who has served as interim executive director since November.

[Michelle Figlar](#), vice president of learning at the Heinz Endowments, has been tapped as executive director of the Birmingham Foundation. When she starts in September, she will follow **Mark Bibro**, who is retiring after 22 years there.

[Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia](#), executive director at Jolt, will now serve as executive director of the Jeremiah Program's campus in Austin, Tex.

In October, [David Kramer](#) will be promoted from managing director of global policy to executive director of the George W. Bush Institute.

[Joseph Pancari](#) has been promoted from executive director of metro services to president and CEO of Constructive Partnerships Unlimited. He has worked at the organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1998. Pancari succeeds **Susan Constantino**, who has retired after 33 years there.

Oceana

The conservation group has promoted [three senior leaders](#).

Dustin Cranor has been promoted from senior director of communications for North America to vice president of global marketing and communications.

Beth Lowell, deputy vice president for U.S. campaigns, is now the group's vice president for the United States.

Jacqueline Savitz will serve as chief policy officer. She was one of Oceana's first employees in 2001 and most recently was chief policy officer for North America.

Other Notable Appointments

[Kerry Mitchell Brown](#) has been hired as senior vice president of finance and operations at Race Forward. She began working with the racial-justice organization last year as a strategic adviser in racial equity, organizational development, and leadership.

[Elyse Buxbaum](#) has been promoted to chief operating officer at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—a Living Memorial to the Holocaust. She was hired in 2019 as executive vice president for strategy and development.

[Lauren Lawson-Zilai](#), head of public relations at Goodwill Industries International, has been appointed senior director of media and public relations at Shatterproof.

Malika Pryor-Martin has joined the International African American Museum as chief learning and engagement officer. Previously she was senior director of education and programs at the Detroit Historical Society.

[Lauren Schuster](#) has joined the Urban Resource Institute as vice president of government affairs. Previously she was chief of staff to Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal of New York State.

Departures

[Thomas Bognanno](#) plans to retire in 2023 as president and CEO of CHC: Creating Healthier Communities. He has led the group for 17 years.

[Deanna Gomby](#) will retire as president and CEO of the Heising-Simons Foundation the end of the year. She has led the \$753 million foundation for more than 10 years.

[Wendy Guillies](#) will retire from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in the fall. She has spent 22 years at the \$3.1 billion grant maker and has served as its president and CEO for the past eight years.

[Jenny Moore](#) has stepped down after nine years as director of the Chinati Foundation, in Marfa, Tex. **Marella Consolini**, who was the contemporary-art museum's chief operations officer from 2010 to 2014, will return to serve as interim director during the organization's search for a permanent successor.

[Charles Sennott](#), founder of the GroundTruth Project, will step down as CEO on September 15. He will remain with the nonprofit journalism organization as editor-in-chief, where he will oversee its independent editorial programs, re-release its podcast, and develop new partnerships with other organizations and media outlets.

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M.J. Prest

M.J. Prest has been writing about major gifts, grant making, and executive moves for *The Chronicle* since 2004.

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