

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP FUND

of the VALENTINE FOUNDATION

The Valentine Fund for Visionary Leadership is a separate endowment established at the Valentine Foundation through the generosity of many individual and foundation donors. Our commitment is to develop the leadership capacity of local nonprofit organizations whose primary focus and mission-driven activities benefit women and girls. Grant funds support leadership development for both current and emerging women leaders. Applicant organizations are encouraged to propose initiatives that address their unique leadership needs, including but not limited to courses, workshops, certificate programs, coaching, and succession planning.

In 2020, the Leadership Fund Committee took steps to encourage more women of color to apply for leadership development grants and announced that to help close the racial leadership gap at local nonprofits, priority would be given to applicants of color and leadership teams that include women of color in the 2021 grant cycle.

LEADERSHIP FUND COMMITTEE

Mary McTernan, Co-Chair
 Alexandra Samuels, Co-Chair
 Robin Eisenberg, Vanessa Lowe, Laura Morris,
 Ann Ricksecker, Tracy Tripp,
 Frances Vilella-Velez, Cheryl Weiss

2020 LEADERSHIP FUND GRANTEES



From left:
 Sara Morningstar,
 Rachel Rutter,
 Brynn MacDougall

Organization/Visionary Leader(s)	Program	Grant Amount
After School Activities Partnerships Sara Morningstar	NELI Executive	\$ 1,757
Federation of Neighborhood Centers Nina Kenney McCrae	NELI Ascending	\$ 2,300
Maternal and Child Health Consortium Cecilia de Arce	NELI Executive	\$ 5,850
YWCA Tri-County Stacey Woodland	NELI Executive	\$ 5,000
Girls Inc Cherice Gordon and Brianna Pendleton-Wise	NELI Ascending	\$ 4,400
Girls Rock Philly Executive Team: Diane Foglizzo, Candice Johnson, Melanie Hsu and Samantha Rise	Coaching	\$ 6,000
Project Libertad Rachel Rutter	LaSalle Certificates	\$ 3,500
Women's Campaign International Brynn MacDougall	Univ of Penn, Positive Psychology	\$ 475
La Salle Clear Circle Eight emerging nonprofit leaders	The Nonprofit Center at La Salle University	\$ 4,458
		\$33,740

2019 Leadership Grantees Reflect

Cheryl Brubaker, Women's Resource Center—Through coaching provided by Dr. Tiffenia Archie, our organization was able to address the more elusive aspects of changing one's organizational culture to allow for diversity and inclusion. Our organization emerged strongly committed to racial justice and creating space for everyone who identifies as female to participate fully with WRC. We would absolutely choose this same initiative, as the timing could not have been better for our organization.

Natasha Andrews, Girl's Inc. —Extraordinary! You was amazing! The training and coaching sessions were led by June Grushka-Rosen. She modified her sessions specifically for us, paying attention to mission, size, culture and goals. With these considerations, she also took an interest in each individual, used strength-based approaches to discuss leadership, valued each voice, and encouraged reflection and assessments.

Catsy Pemberton, Peter's Place—I believe the knowledge I gained during the NELI Executive Leadership program most definitely has helped me navigate the challenges our organization has faced as a result of the pandemic. Peter's Place has been able to remain nimble and respond effectively to the emergent needs of our communities while remaining financially stable in order to continue to sustain our mission.

Ariel Brockman, Philadelphia Futures—The Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute (NELI) Ascending Leadership program was focused on strengthening leadership and programming for Philadelphia Futures' Young Women Rising after-school club. The initiative honed in on development of leadership skills, programming strategy, program building, organizational skills and macro-level thinking. Ariel would recommend NELI to other non-profit leaders because "it is well organized, they share their expertise in a way that is applicable to real-work situations, they possess an understanding of the challenges of operating a non-profit organization. It will contribute to the improvement of an organization.

Elicia Gonzales, Women's Medical Fund—The ED continued coaching with Alison Gerig and discussed challenges and successes in leading the organization through a cultural shift towards racial justice. Support helped Elicia navigate challenging conversations and develop tools for managing stress. We would highly recommend coaching for all leaders. The role can be isolative. Coaching serves as a container for honest and vulnerable conversations, discussions that cannot be shared with staff, board, or donors. All EDs need a person who is able to reflect back to them their strengths and blind spots. Anyone wanting to advance racial equity should call on experts for support and guidance.