PHILANTHROPY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FELLOWSHIP

“The Spirit of Detroit” by Marshall Fredericks

PROGRAM BOOKLET: DETROIT MEETINGS

DETROIT: MARCH 19–21, 2015
NEW YORK: OCTOBER 15–17, 2015

Humanity in Action is an international educational organization. We educate, inspire and connect a global network of university students, young professionals and established leaders committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship—in their own communities and around the world.

Beginning in Detroit and concluding in New York, the Philanthropy and Social Enterprise Fellowship supports Humanity in Action Senior Fellows who are conducting research on new trends in philanthropy, community development and social innovation.

Humanity in Action thanks the RNR Foundation, Heather Lord and the many individuals who made this program possible.

601 West 26th Street, Suite 325; New York, NY 10001; humanityinaction.org
Today, there are few places in America more relevant to the study of philanthropy, entrepreneurship and social equity than Detroit. The relevance of this city is both tragic and empowering. Detroit’s collapse gives us a frightening preview of the economic and social issues faced by postindustrial cities across the country. The city’s decline is evident in the overwhelming unemployment figures of ordinary citizens as well as the empty warehouses and homes scattered throughout its grand expanse.

Yet, the dominant narrative of Detroit as a city of abandonment, urban decay and failed governance is only part of the story. The city of rows of abandoned homes and gardens is also a city of incredible invention and resilience. Today, a growing revitalization movement powered by community leaders, philanthropists and young entrepreneurs is redefining and reimagining Detroit.

We are beginning the Philanthropy and Social Enterprise Fellowship in Detroit to explore these new trends. We will study the actions of philanthropies, community leaders and social enterprises as part of the revitalization movement while paying close attention to whether these new initiatives advance social equity and economic opportunities for ordinary citizens.

Our meetings in Detroit will inform the research which the eight Humanity in Action Senior Fellows will conduct across the nation in the coming six months. We look forward to challenging conversations in Detroit, to our concluding conference in New York in October and to the research projects conducted by the Senior Fellows as contributions to Humanity in Action’s ongoing work on democratic, pluralistic and inclusive societies.

We are grateful to the many speakers in Detroit who have volunteered their time and to Amre Metwally for helping us develop this exciting program. We are also deeply thankful to the RNR Foundation and to Heather Lord for generously supporting such an experimental and exciting program.

Finally, we would like to recognize Sue B. Mercy, a philanthropist and cherished friend of Humanity in Action. With Heather Lord, we dedicate this program to Sue’s memory.

With thanks,

Judith S. Goldstein, PhD  
Founder and Executive Director

Anthony Chase  
Director of Programs

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The Philanthropy and Social Enterprise Fellowship is a new program organized by Humanity in Action. The program supports eight Humanity in Action Senior Fellows as they examine contemporary trends in philanthropy, community development and entrepreneurship across the United States. The program begins in Detroit and will conclude in New York City.

The story of philanthropy and innovation amid Detroit’s ruin and revitalization serves as inspiration for the program. The program begins with a three-day, intensive session (March 19-21, 2015) in Detroit. The Senior Fellows will engage in Detroit-based discussions with local leaders in philanthropy, social entrepreneurship and community organizations, including representatives of the Kresge Foundation and the Detroit Institute of Arts. The Senior Fellows will explore the remarkable actions of philanthropic leaders and social innovators during Detroit’s bankruptcy, including “the Grand Bargain” – the unprecedented intervention of national foundations to fund municipal pensions and save the city’s art collection.

In the six months following the initial session in Detroit, the Senior Fellows will embark on independent research projects exploring the role of philanthropy and social entrepreneurship in addressing economic development and issues of social equity in their home communities. Collectively, the Senior Fellows will examine geographies as far as Seattle, Denver and the Twin Cities and issues as diverse as agricultural development, elderly health care and the corporate social responsibility programs of technology companies.

Upon completion of the research projects, the Senior Fellows will reconvene in New York City in October for a second set of meetings with local philanthropic, entrepreneurial and community leaders (October 15-17). The Senior Fellows will share their research at Humanity in Action’s New York Conference at The New School. Brief reports for each of the projects will be published online.

The Humanity in Action Senior Fellows selected for the Philanthropy and Social Enterprise Fellowship are: Jasmine Burton (Atlanta), Zachariah Falconer-Stout (Washington, DC), Alexandria Margolis (New York), Terin Mayer (Twin Cities), Christopher McLaurin (Detroit), Fabiana Perera (Washington, DC), Ryan Richards (Seattle) and Susannah Shattuck (San Francisco).

The Philanthropy and Social Enterprise Fellowship is generously funded by the RNR Foundation.
### Jasmine Burton

**Project:** “Atlanta: The American Refugee Camp” (Atlanta and Clarkston, GA)

Jasmine Burton founded Wish for WASH, LLC as an organization intended to bring innovation to sanitation through culturally specific design, research and education beginning in refugee communities. Her senior design team won first place and the people’s choice awards at the 2014 InVenture Prize Competition for the SafiChoo, an inexpensive mobile toilet intended to reduce the spread of diseases. The winnings enabled the team to pilot their design in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya under the auspices of Sanivation. Jasmine has since been working with a new team and with resettled refugees in Atlanta via the nonprofit, the Global Growers Network, in hopes of iterating the design to best meet user needs. She was born and raised in Atlanta. Jasmine is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (Poland 2014).

### Zachariah Falconer-Stout

**Project:** “Intersection of Urbanism and Philanthropy in Denver” (Denver, CO)

Zachariah Falconer-Stout is an Evaluation Associate at EnCompass, LLC, where he leads impact evaluations and provides technical assistance for education programs. With a background in youth development, Zachariah has both been a classroom teacher and published on school management. Zachariah has lived and worked in Europe and Africa for over five years; recently returned from Zambia, he currently lives in Washington, DC. In 2012, he led a group of Senior Fellows, Peace Corps staff and volunteers, university students, and civil society activists in a project to develop simulation games to be used in youth democracy education programs. He recently received the Humanity in Action Dr. Louis Rabineau Award for outstanding leadership. Zachariah is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (Germany 2008).

### Alexandria Margolis

**Project:** “Aligning Incentives: Funding Care for Our Most Vulnerable Elders” (New York and California)

Alexandria Margolis is a Project Manager for Advanced Illness Management at the North Shore-LIJ Health System where she leads strategic initiatives to develop and fund care models that address complex chronic disease and end-of-life. Prior to working in healthcare delivery, she gained experience with a health care advisory and financial services firm, private not-for-profits, and government agencies. Alexandria completed her Master of Public Administration in Health Policy and Management at New York University after graduating from its College of Arts and Science with a BA in English. She was born in Colorado, raised in Southern California, and now lives in New York City. Alexandria is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (Poland 2011).

### Terin Mayer

**Project:** “Growing Equity: Philanthropy, Government and Social Enterprise in Minnesota’s Sustainable Food Systems” (Twin Cities, MN)

Terin Mayer is an organizer and social movement strategist based in Minnesota’s Twin Cities. Working with community-based nonprofits and labor unions, he has leveraged grassroots engagement into winning issue and electoral campaigns that advance racial and economic justice and helped to build organizations that develop the power of communities of color. He has an interest in long-term social change that strengthens democracy, deepens equity and fosters sustainability in the United States and around the globe. Terin received his bachelor’s degree with distinction from Carleton College where he studied political theory. He spent ten years of his childhood in Bolivia, Spain, and Chile with his younger sister and their parents, an elementary school educator and a US Air Force officer. Terin is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (United States 2009).
CHRISTOPHER McLaurin

Project: “Towards a New Model for International Immigration Investing” (Pontiac and Detroit MI; China)

Christopher “Chris” McLaurin is Director of Gridiron Leaders Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes international education, cultural exchange and people-to-people diplomacy between athletes from the United States and China. His interests are in social policy, youth/family social services, and social entrepreneurship, learning innovative solutions to entrenched social ills. Chris received his BA in history with high honors from the University of Michigan in 2009 and received his MSc in social policy from the London School of Economics in 2011. He was previously a Henry Luce Fellow, a White House Intern and Fulbright Scholar to South Africa. Chris is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (France 2008).

FABIANA PERERA

Project: “Immigrant Philanthropy in Our Nation’s Capital” (Washington, DC)

Fabiana “Fabi” Perera is a PhD student in the Department of Political Science at The George Washington University. Her research focuses on social spending in developing and resource dependent countries. She received her MA in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, where she was a Fellow in Language and Area Studies, and her undergraduate degree from Northern Michigan University. She was born in New Jersey and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. Fabiana is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (Diplomacy and Diversity 2014).

RYAN RICHARDS

Project: “How Do We Develop Philanthropists With Ethical and Effective Practices?” (Seattle and Washington, DC)

Ryan Richards leads Serve Smart, a company which he founded to help programs better leverage volunteers for impact. Prior to that, Ryan served as Executive Director of Nourish International, a national youth service movement to address global poverty. He graduated with an MPA from New York University, where he received the Boufford Award for innovative solutions to public service challenges. Ryan is also a graduate from Juniata College and the United World College-USA. His passion is spanning cultural boundaries and building that capacity in individuals, programs and institutions. He currently resides in the Pacific Northwest. Ryan is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (United States 2006).

SUSANNAH SHATTUCK

Project: “Inside the Belly of the Beast: An Exploration of Community Outreach Initiatives at Two San Francisco Tech Companies” (San Francisco)

Originally from Boston, Susannah Shattuck currently lives in San Francisco. She works for Prezi, a Hungarian-based startup that creates presentation software. She graduated in 2013 from Yale University, where she studied history and fine art. Susannah spent her academic career studying the power of art and culture to transform both individuals and society, and she is currently interested in the role of technology and entrepreneurship in shaping and mis-shaping communities. San Francisco is a particularly interesting place to study these issues, and Susannah enjoys spending her time trying to learn more about the complex web of relationships that the tech industry has wrought on this city and its inhabitants. Susannah is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (France 2013).
**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**>> THURSDAY, MARCH 19**

*Location: Round Bar, Double Tree Suites (525 West Lafayette Boulevard)*

1:30 - 2:30 PM  
Lunch

*Location: Cass Community Social Services (11850 Woodrow Wilson Street)*

2:30 - 4:00 PM  
**Visit to Cass Community Social Services**  
Rev. Faith Fowler (Executive Director, Cass Community Social Services)

*Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center (3663 Woodward Avenue)*

4:30 - 4:45 PM  
**“What is the University of Michigan Doing in Detroit?”**  
Addell Anderson (Director, University of Michigan Detroit Center)

4:45 - 6:00 PM  
**“How to Fix a Broken City”**  
John Gallagher (Detroit Free Press)

6:00 - 6:30 PM  
Break

6:30 - 7:30 PM  
**“Detroit Then and Now: Narratives and the Revitalization of Detroit”**  
Marsha Music

*Location: Gold Cash Gold (2100 Michigan Avenue)*

8:00 PM  
Dinner

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**>> FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

*Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center (3663 Woodward Avenue)*

9:00 - 10:30 AM  
**“The Grand Bargain: Detroit’s Bankruptcy, the Role of Philanthropy and the Detroit Institute of Arts”**  
Laura J. Trudeau (Managing Director of Community Development, The Kresge Foundation, Detroit) & Annmarie Erickson (Executive Vice President and COO, Detroit Institute of Arts)

10:30 - 11:00 AM  
Break

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
**Presentations and Discussions on Senior Fellows’ Research Projects**

*Location: The Green Garage (4444 2nd Avenue)*

12:30 - 1:30 PM  
Community Lunch at the Green Garage

*Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center (3663 Woodward Avenue)*

2:00 - 3:30 PM  
**“Advancing Social Equity through Entrepreneurship in the ‘New’ Detroit”**  
Shel Kimen (Founder, Detroit Collision Works) Lauren Hood (Co-founder, Deep Dive Detroit) Amy Peterson (Co-founder, Rebel Nell)

3:30 - 4:00 PM  
Break
**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**>> FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

*Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center (3663 Woodward Avenue)*

4:00 - 5:00 PM  
“Localized Crowdfunding in Detroit”  
Ebrahim Varachia (Co-Founder and Director of Operations, Patronicity)

5:00 - 5:30 PM  
Break

5:30 - 6:30 PM  
“Where is the Money Going? Tracking Philanthropic Giving in Detroit”  
Benjamin Chodoroff and Jessica McInchak (The Detroit Ledger)

*Location: The Whitney (4421 Woodward Avenue)*

6:30 - 7:30 PM  
Cocktail

*Location: Traffic Jam and Snug (511 West Canfield Street)*

8:00 PM  
Dinner

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**>> SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Tour: Exploring the Extremes of Detroit  
Alex B. Hill  
Departing from the DoubleTree Suites.  

*Location: University of Michigan Detroit Center (3663 Woodward Avenue)*

1:30 - 2:30 PM  
Lunch  
“Looking Beyond Detroit: Philanthropy and Social Enterprise in Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan”  
Neel Hajra (President & CEO, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation)  
Richard Lord (Board of Directors, RNR Foundation)

*Location: The Detroit Institute of Arts (5200 Woodward Avenue)*

3:30 - 4:30 PM  
Exhibition: “Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in Detroit”
ADDELL ANDERSON
Director, University of Michigan Detroit Center

Addell Austin Anderson oversees operations and is responsible for partnerships with the Detroit Center. In this role, she seeks to facilitate ways the Center may serve as a gateway for University and Detroit communities to collaborate and take advantage of each other's assets and capabilities to affect change for the mutual benefit of our region. Anderson earned a BA in Business and Economics from Kalamazoo College; a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Michigan; and a PhD in Theatre from Michigan State University. She has a long history working with non-profit organizations, academic institutions and in community service capacities. She maintains an appointment as an Adjunct Professor of the Humanities for Wayne County Community College District. Prior to these positions, she served as AmeriCorps Director at U-M's Ginsberg Center and Executive Director of the Woodward Heritage Organization, Wayne.

THE DETROIT LEDGER
Benjamin Chodoroff and Jessica McInchak

Benjamin Chodoroff and Jessica McInchak make up the local team of the Detroit Ledger, while the third team member, Matt Hampel, helps out from his new home in the City of New York. The project started a few years ago as a Google spreadsheet shared between friends. It has since progressed into a collaboratively maintained database with a public API used by journalists, researchers, local Detroit non-profits, and other curious people.

ANNMARIE ERICKSON
Executive Vice President and COO, Detroit Institute of Arts

Annmarie Erickson has been employed at the Detroit Institute of Art (DIA) for 12 years, serving previously as Executive Vice President, Planning and Administration. Erickson’s position incorporates responsibilities including implementation of the DIA’s strategic plan designed to help close a structural operating deficit and bring the museum to financial stability and direct supervision of several new museum departments. As COO, she directly supervises Building Operations, Development, Communications and Marketing (Website and Social Media), Community Outreach, Public Programs and Organization Development and Human Resources. Erickson also handles Board of Directors relations and is the staff liaison to the Governance and Nominating Committee. Erickson serves as vice-chair on the board of Pewabic Pottery, and is among the inaugural class of mentors in the Women of Tomorrow mentorship program. She mentors young women at Cody High School in Detroit.

REV. FAITH FOWLER
Executive Director, Cass Community Social Services

Rev. Faith Fowler is the Senior Pastor of Cass Community United Methodist Church and Executive Director of Cass Community Social Services (CCSS), a Detroit nonprofit agency which responds to poverty with programs for food, health care, housing and employment. She has held these roles since 1994. Beyond her work at CCSS, Rev. Fowler has served as a Board Member for the Cass Corridor Neighborhood Development Corporation (CCNDC), an advisory Board member of the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, as well as a Board Member and Trustee for the General Board of Church and Society. She currently Chairs the Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Advisory Committee.
BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

For full biographies, please visit humanityinaction.org

JOHN GALLAGHER
Business Writer, Detroit Free Press

John Gallagher is a veteran journalist and author whose book, Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City, was named by the Huffington Post as among the best social and political books of 2010. His most recent book is Revolution Detroit: Strategies for Urban Reinvention. John was born in New York City and joined the Detroit Free Press in 1987 to cover urban and economic redevelopment efforts in Detroit and Michigan, a post which he still holds. His other books include Great Architecture of Michigan and, as co-author, AIA Detroit: The American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture. John and his wife, Sheu-Jane, live along Detroit’s east riverfront.

NEEL HAJRA
President and CEO, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Neel Hajra is the President & CEO at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. His multi-sector background includes a prior CEO role at Nonprofit Enterprise at Work, a lecturing appointment at the University of Michigan’s Ford School of Public Policy and a corporate attorney position at Ford Motor Company. Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Hajra holds a BS with honors in Physics from the University of Michigan and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School. Neel has received the Aspen Institute Fellowship for Emerging Nonprofit Leaders and the American Express Next Gen Fellowship, both of which recognize 12 individuals nationally for emerging and visionary leadership. He has also been named to the Ford School’s Teaching Honor Roll for seven consecutive years.

ALEX B. HILL
DETOITography.com

Alex B. Hill is a Project Coordinator and Community Health Worker in Detroit. Through a multi-disciplinary research center at Wayne State University, he addresses the impacts of health disparities from chronic diseases in the African-American community. His personal research is focused on food access, health disparities and racial justice. Alex’s projects and research focus on the need for greater community involvement at all levels and specifically highlights the intersections of power, privilege and race. In his free time, he advocates for citizen engagement in open data and regularly writes a map and geography focused blog, DETOITography.com;

LAUREN HOOD
Co-Founder, Deep Dive Detroit

Lauren Hood is a community development professional and a native Detroiter. While studying for her Masters in Community Development at the University of Detroit Mercy, she developed a passion for creating engagement strategies, recognizing that long time residents, like her, are often left out of the redevelopment process. By day, she serves as the Community Engagement Manager at Loveland Technologies. She also develops programming and facilitates dialogues around race and equity issues for her LLC, Deep Dive Detroit where “difficult” conversations are at the core of every interaction. Clients have included/include the Challenge Detroit Fellowship Program, The Skillman Foundation, The Detroit Equity Action Lab at The Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and others. Recognizing Detroit’s rapidly changing cultural landscape, she has also become active in the preservation arena. She serves as a mayoral appointee to the Historic District Commission and on the Board of Directors for Preservation Detroit.
BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

SHEL KIMEN
Founder, Detroit Collision Works

Shel Kimen has helped organizations find new ways to learn about and engage people and culture. She’s worked across industries creating campaigns, products, and services for world-class brands like The New York Times and JC Penney. Most recently as Senior Vice President, Digital Strategy for Saatchi & Saatchi, a global advertising firm, she led award-winning client work and was also charged with capacity building around digital and social media. Her skills in collaboration led to Together Counts, facilitating CMOs from the worlds largest food companies in a joint effort against childhood obesity. She’s been involved in all aspects of digital design and development and began her career in the mid 1990s as a technology journalist in San Francisco. She holds a BA in Human Environment and Design from Michigan State University and completed post-graduate work in Economic History at The New School in New York City.

MARSHA MUSIC
Kresge Literary Arts Fellow 2012

Marsha Music, daughter of a legendary pre-Motown record producer, Joe Von Battle, was born in Detroit and grew up in Highland Park, MI, during its lush, prosperous days. She is a self-described “primordial Detroiter,” and for many years she has written about the city’s music, its past and future. She is a noted presenter and she has contributed to important anthologies, oral histories and an HBO documentary. In 2012, she was awarded a Kresge Literary Arts Fellowship, and has received accolades for her “One Woman Show – Live From Hastings Street!” She has partnered with executive producer Juanita Anderson on a documentary film project about her father’s record shops and mid-century African-American life in Detroit. Her most recent literary works are the essay “The Kidnapped Children of Detroit,” published in The Detroit Anthology, and an epic poem “Just Say Hi – The Gentrification Blues,” published in Infinite Mile, both of which have been acclaimed for creatively engaging readers in historical narratives that impact Detroit today.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

AMY PETERSON
Co-Founder, Rebel Nell

Amy Peterson is associate counsel for the Detroit Tigers and co-founder of Rebel Nell, a jewelry making business started with the sole purpose of employing, educating and empowering disadvantaged women in Detroit. Rebel Nell’s product line starts by repurposing graffiti, an abundant local resource in the Motor City. Graffiti is collected after it has already fallen off of walls. Initially these scraps of graffiti look a little rough on the surface, just like many people’s first impression of Detroit. After some hard work and TLC, the women of Rebel Nell turn that scrap of graffiti into a unique piece of wearable art. Rebel Nell employs disadvantaged women in Detroit, educates them on business and life skills and empowers them to transition to an independent life.

LAURA J. TRUDEAU
Managing Director Community Development, Detroit, The Kresge Foundation

Laura Trudeau is managing director for the Community Development and Detroit programs at The Kresge Foundation. She manages Re-Imagining Detroit, The Kresge Foundation’s nine-point framework to reverse decades of disinvestment in Detroit and reposition the city as a model for revitalization. Nationally, Laura works with community development grantmakers and practitioners to identify promising initiatives for the redevelopment of older industrial cities and to build bridges between Detroit and other urban communities to encourage the sharing of information and strategies. A graduate of Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Mich., Laura is active in the nonprofit sector. She serves on the Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation’s local advisory board and the Living Cities program committee.
EBRAHIM VARACHIA  
Co-Founder and Director of Operations, Patronicity

Ebrahim Varachia graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in International Development and focusing on creating sustainable businesses in developing countries. Staying local and moving to Detroit, he translated this into urban revitalization and began working on two startups. Being an entrepreneur coupled with his passion for sustainable community development he enjoys learning of great initiatives happening around the state started by other entrepreneurs, innovators, artists, activists and the like. He has a vested interest in sustainable community development and is the Co-Founder & President of Patronicity.

SUGGESTED READING


“Detroit: Black Problems, White Solutions” by Alex B. Hill. (Blog)


JUDITH S. GOLDSTEIN  
Founder and Executive Director

Judith Goldstein founded Humanity in Action in 1997 and has served as its Executive Director ever since. Under Judith’s leadership, Humanity in Action has organized programs on international affairs, diversity and human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States. She received her PhD in history from Columbia University and was a Woodrow Wilson Scholar for her MA studies. Judith has written several books and articles about European and American history, art and landscape architecture. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and several boards and advisory groups. She is originally from Great Neck, Long Island.

ANTHONY CHASE  
Director of Programs

Anthony Chase serves as Director of Programs at Humanity in Action in New York City. He oversees a number of initiatives, including the Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship, the annual New York Conference, the John Lewis Fellowship and the Philanthropy and Social Enterprise Fellowship. Previously, he worked for Bibliothèques Sans Frontières in Paris and now serves on the Board of Directors of the organization’s US branch, Libraries Without Borders. Anthony is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow (France 2011). He grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

HEATHER LORD  
Senior Fellow and Board Member

Heather Lord has almost 20 years of experience in the philanthropic, social enterprise, corporate and academic sectors. She began as the communications strategist at a Rockefeller Foundation new media startup, then launched and directed programs at the Whitney family’s Greentree Foundation for diplomacy and social justice, and was also a pop culture analyst and futurist trendspotter for Faith Popcorn’s BrainReserve. Heather is the co-founder of V&H Social Impact Strategies, which helps individuals and institutions change the world by connecting the dots, thoughts, people and projects to turn inspiration into impact. She serves on boards for philanthropic, cultural, and international human rights organizations including Humanity In Action, TerreformONE at the Brooklyn Navy Yard NewLab, and the Global Philanthropy Committee of the Council on Foundations. She holds a Master in Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. Heather is also a Humanity In Action Senior Fellow (Denmark, 1997).

ABOUT HUMANITY IN ACTION

Humanity in Action is an international organization that educates, inspires and connects a network of university students and young professionals committed to promoting human rights, diversity and active citizenship in their own communities and around the world.

Humanity in Action has educated over 1,400 young leaders in their 20s and 30s who now form a unique international community. Through its programs and partnerships with outstanding civic and educational organizations, including The New School and The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Humanity in Action contributes in innovative ways to advance human rights and democratic freedoms.

The annual Humanity in Action Fellowship programs bring together more than 130 European and American university students and young professionals each summer in programs in Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States to discuss, learn and research in international groups. Humanity in Action Fellows meet leading experts and activists to study historical and contemporary cases of institutional violations of human and minority rights. Fellows write research-based articles and develop teaching tools to share what they learned in their programs. Humanity in Action also organizes the annual Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship, an advanced graduate student program in Washington, Paris and Berlin.

Humanity in Action maintains an international network of students, young professionals, established leaders, experts and partners for which it organizes a range of educational and career opportunities, including seminars, workshops, study trips and fellowship positions at leading civic and political institutions, such as the European Parliament, the United States Congress and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. These opportunities encourage emerging leaders to develop their professional abilities and introduce established leaders to the ideas of the younger generation.

Humanity in Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with governing and advisory Boards in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United States. Humanity in Action’s international headquarters is in New York City.

Major supporters of Humanity in Action have included the Ford Foundation; the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund; the Germshausen Foundation; the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Open Society Foundations; the Hurford Foundation; the RNR Foundation; Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ); the William H. Donner Foundation; the Fetzer Institute; the Dutch Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sport; the Polish Foreign Ministry; and the U.S. Department of State.