

Meet the Funders

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023



Sara Straubel, Program Officer
The Ahmanson Foundation

Sara Straubel is a Program Officer at [The Ahmanson Foundation](https://theahmansonfoundation.org/) where she manages a portfolio of grant requests in the [areas of arts and culture, education, healthcare, and human services](#). She also serves on the Steering Committee for the LA Arts Recovery Fund, on the Executive Committee of the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, as a Managing Funder for the Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative, and on the Advisory Committee of EPIP LA. Prior to The Ahmanson Foundation, Sara served as a Research Assistant at Project Zero, an education research center at Harvard University. Sara's professional experience also includes several years in fundraising and strategic development for the Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization P.S. ARTS. Sara holds a B.A. from Ithaca College and an Ed.M. from Harvard University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Policy, Planning, and Development at University of Southern California.

Funding Priorities: <https://theahmansonfoundation.org/funding-guidelines/>



Jeffrey S. Kim, Program Director
The California Wellness Foundation

Jeffrey S. Kim is a program director at [The California Wellness Foundation](https://www.calwellness.org/) where he leads strategy and grantmaking related to the [Economic Security & Dignity portfolio](#). Prior to joining Cal Wellness in April 2005, he was associate director of development for the National Conference for Community and Justice – Los Angeles Region, and deputy director for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's legal services department. Kim serves on the board of directors of the Asset Funders Network and Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties. He also is AFN's treasurer and co-chairs AFN's Bay Area chapter. Previously, Kim was appointed to the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. He has also served on the board of directors of Grantmakers in Aging, and the steering committees of the Funders Oral Health Policy Group (a national network of funders in oral health) and the Los Angeles chapter of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy. A member of the State Bar of California, Kim earned his law degree from the University of Michigan and his bachelor's degree in economics from Yale University.

Funding Priorities: <https://www.calwellness.org/money/what-we-fund/>



**Clara Steele, Associate Program Officer
The Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation**

Clara Steele is Associate Program Officer at the [Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation](#), where she supports and guides the Foundation's programmatic strategies on [Criminal Justice Reform](#), [Affordable Housing Preservation](#), and [Environmental Justice](#). She supervises the Foundation's Philanthropy Fellowship Program – a 12-month fellowship for an individual who is systems impacted and interested in a career in the nonprofit sector. Before joining the Foundation as a Program and Operations Associate in 2017, she was Senior Program Manager at Best Buddies International. Clara was an Exponent Philanthropy Next Gen Fellow, a Women's Foundation California Policy Institute (WPI) Fellow, and currently serves on the Los Angeles Steering Committee of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP). In her free time, she enjoys powerlifting, traveling, and teaching people about honeybees through her family's beekeeping business, Chaparral Mountain Honey Co. She received her BA in History from Occidental College and graduated with honors from Case Western Reserve Weatherhead School of Management with a Master of Science in Organization Development and Change Management. Additionally, she received a Professional Mastery in Leadership and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, an International Business honor society.

Funding Priorities: <https://rpdff.org/our-work/>