

Welcome Our Newest Board Member, Xavier Borja



Gray Family Foundation is thrilled to welcome Xavier Borja to our Board of Directors. Xavier, who goes by Zavi, works for the City of Bend as the Community Relations Manager. Zavi is a first-generation Mexican-American, born in Redmond, OR, he grew up in Madras, and currently lives in Bend. Zavi is an outdoor enthusiast, a brother, a son, an advocate, and a community connector. He founded the non-profit [Vámonos Outside](#) and a local chapter of [Latino Outdoors](#). He has the pleasure of serving as an elected official for Bend's local parks district (Bend Parks and Recreation District) as well as on a handful of other boards and committees. His educational background consists of a B.A. in Management and Organizational Leadership from George Fox University as well as piloting Oregon State University's Outdoor Leadership Certificate, Outdoor Leadership & Economics. You can find out more about all our board members [here](#).

OCF's Incoming President and CEO, Lisa Mensah

Born and raised in Oregon, Lisa Mensah has an illustrious career that has taken her from working on rural poverty with the Ford Foundation to serving as Undersecretary for Rural Development in the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the Obama Administration, to currently leading Opportunity Finance Network, the nation's largest network of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). Ms. Mensah will join OCF in September 2022, supported through the transition by current President and CEO, Max Williams. [Click here](#) to learn more about Lisa Mensah.



Building a Relationship in the Outdoors

Oregon Humanities' publication *Beyond the Margins* has an article by Jennifer Perrine that shares how Oregonians of color are building connections to the outdoors and to each other. [Read more](#).

Leadership Transition at OSU Extension Service Outdoor School Program

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Kristopher Elliott for his role building a strong statewide outdoor school program and congratulate him as he moves to a new position as Associate Director of the Extension Service at Oregon State University. Kris spent the last five years leading the development and operation of our statewide Outdoor

School Program, which served over 117,000 students and successfully secured more than \$46 million in state funding over the last legislative biennium. Kris was instrumental in infusing equity, diversity, inclusion, and access into all of outdoor schools' initiatives. We are thankful for the impact Kris has played in the lives of Oregon students and look forward to supporting him in his new role.

We also want to take this time to welcome Dr. Spirit Brooks as the interim leader of the Outdoor School program. As an educational anthropologist, Spirit is committed to research practices that are rooted in collaboration, are community-centered, and focused on equity in outcomes in outdoor education for youth from marginalized identities and communities, particularly Indigenous youth. Spirit brings a wealth of leadership experience to the position and will help ensure a smooth transition while OSU initiates a national search for a permanent program leader.



Grantee Highlight: Portland Audubon

When youth at Miraflores, a North Portland housing community, attend after-school activities with Portland Audubon, they might not realize they're tapping potential career paths—they are just having fun outside. Miraflores is a community of Hacienda CDC, Portland's largest Latinx-led, Latinx-serving affordable housing provider, which has been partnering with Audubon for more than a decade to provide its youth with hands-on environmental education. [Read full story.](#)

Climate Justice Education Initiatives in Action

We are excited to see grantee efforts related to climate justice education highlighted and these national efforts to track these important efforts related to climate education policy across the U.S.

1. NAAEE and Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education Project (MECCE) are excited to release "[Mapping the Landscape of K-12 Climate Change Education Policy in the United States](#)", a new comprehensive report on the state of climate change education policy. To learn more read the Executive Summary and full report on [eePRO](#).
2. Eugene Weekly has an article outlining Oregon educators that are laying the groundwork for what legislation on climate education could look like. [Click here.](#)
3. OPB has a story on how students and teachers would like to see draft legislation that adds climate education throughout grade levels and core classes across the state of Oregon. [Read more.](#)

Organizations accepting proposals

Roundhouse Foundation is currently accepting proposals. Organizations that fit within their [focus areas](#) and [eligibility guidelines](#) can submit a proposal to their Open Call grant portal. Deadline is September 30, 2022. [Click here](#) for more information.