

Heather L. Porter

Profile

Emotionally intelligent and highly collaborative philanthropic leader with 10 years of experience guiding strategy, governance, and grantmaking for family foundations. Currently directs a \$35M+ annual portfolio, recognized for advancing equity-driven, trust-based philanthropy by building durable grantee partnerships and collaborating with peer funders to amplify climate justice, global health, and social equity initiatives. Before philanthropy, Heather was an award-winning director of a sustainability consulting practice.

Core Competencies

Organizational Leadership & Consultant Management | Strategic Philanthropy & Portfolio Growth | Trust-Based & Equity-Centered Grantmaking | Board Partnership & Governance | Multi-Million-Dollar Budget & Audit Oversight | Mission-Aligned Investment Strategy | Cross-Sector Collaboration & Funder Networks | Climate Justice & Global Health Funding Strategies | Risk Management & Compliance | Board Education

Education

Women's Leadership Development Programme | Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, UK

Master of Environmental Law | The University of Sydney, Australia

Bachelor of Environmental Science (Honors) | The University of Sydney, Australia

Board Service & Certifications

GiveWell | Board of Advisors

California University of Science & Medicine | Head of Health Scholarship Committee

21/64 | Certified Advisor - Multigenerational Giving, Family Philanthropy, and Strategic Grantmaking

Experience

The Rauch Family Foundation (Upland, CA - Remote from Denver, CO)

June 2022 - Present

Senior Program & Operations Manager

Sole staff member reporting directly to the Board of Directors, providing executive leadership across all aspects of a \$340MM endowed private foundation with \$35MM+ in annual giving. Leads strategy development, financial operations, philanthropic partnerships, grantmaking, communications, and external relations. Structured the foundation's largest-ever multi-year award (\$30MM). Manages all consultants, interns, and advisory relationships.

Key Achievements & Initiatives:

- **Strategic Scaling**
 - Designed and implemented a growth strategy that 5X annual grantmaking within 24 months while maintaining strong fiscal oversight.
- **Global Health Investments**
 - Launched multi-year, multi-million dollar maternal and child health initiatives with Nutrition International, focused on the Global South.
 - Directed global emergency response funding of \$36MM+ in Q1 and Q2 of 2025 following USAID withdrawal, safeguarding essential care across 10+ countries.

- Funded targeted health interventions: Trachoma eradication (Sudan), malaria prophylaxis (Kenya), Vitamin A supplementation (Madagascar), in-line chlorination and WASH (India), and school feeding/community farming (Liberia, in partnership with World Food Program).
- **Medical Education & Rural Workforce Development**
 - Partnered with prominent Californian medical schools to create and fund scholarship programs for underserved, first-generation medical students committed to rural California.
 - Spearheaded internal medicine residencies, fellowship programs, and a graduate medical education consortium to address rural physician shortages.
- **Organizational Leadership & Visibility**
 - Developed the foundation's theory of change frameworks, established new media and communications strategies, and strengthened governance processes.
 - Served as a 2024 Guest Speaker for the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) Global Mapathon, highlighting the role of private philanthropy and geospatial data in disaster response and global health interventions.

The Sturm Family Foundation / Alder Companies (Denver, CO) July 2021 - June 2022
Philanthropy Program & Operations Manager (FT 12 months, contracted through January 2023)

Managed personal and institutional giving across arts, workforce development, and medical research (cardiac) sectors. Directed full grant life-cycle, operational systems, and special projects for the family office. Structured \$20MM multi-year commitment - the foundation's largest to date.
 - Streamlined historical giving data, built internal controls, and standardized reporting practices.

Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) (Denver, CO) October 2018 - June 2021
Program Officer

Administered \$75MM+ in annual public funds to 320+ cultural and scientific organizations. Supported community review panels and led database transformation.
 - Advised two county cultural councils on grant strategy and award evaluation (Arapahoe & Douglas Counties).
 - Led the design and implementation of the Fluxx grants management system.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Denver (Denver, CO) August 2016 - September 2018
Grants Manager | Foundation | Government | Corporate

- Secured over \$2 million in National Endowment for the Arts, private philanthropy, and corporate awards.
 - Systemized metrics and KPI tracking across all departments.

Hemera Foundation (Boulder, CO) July 2014 - July 2016
Executive Administrator / Project Leader

- Delivered scientific advisory services, wrote the scientific arc, and provided international grantee and production management (BBC UK, Hong Kong, Netherlands, and US-based production teams) for an environmental documentary titled A Plastic Ocean (Netflix).

Earlier Career

Career Transition and Elder Family Support | (Miami, FL and Sydney, Australia) | 2012 - 2014
Director of Sustainability Services | Renewable Choice Energy (Boulder, CO) | 2010-2012
Sustainability Project Manager | Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure (Miami, FL) | 2008-2010
Marine Scientist | Coastal Systems International (Miami, FL) | 2006 - 2008
Environmental Coordinator | City of Miami Beach (Miami, FL) | 2005 - 2006