

# NONPROFIT SEMINAR

CENTER FOR  
NONPROFIT STRATEGY  
AND MANAGEMENT

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## Current Perspectives on Philanthropy

Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
4:00-6:00PM

### BIOGRAPHIES

**David Birdsell**  
**Dean, Baruch College, School of Public Affairs**

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David Birdsell is Dean of the Baruch College School of Public Affairs. His academic work is centered on the nexus of communication, media, and information technology in politics, government and nonprofit administration. He studies public access to information technology and advises nonprofit and governmental institutions on their communication and technology programs. His recent work on developing public sector leaders has led to the creation of more than 20 executive programs offered in partnership with government and nonprofit organizations in New York. An expert on political debating and widely published on communication theory and practice, David is a regular guest commentator on debates and other aspects of political communication for local, national, and international television and print media. His work has been supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the IBM Endowment for the Study of Business and Government, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, the New York Community Trust, the JPMorganChase Foundation, the United Way of New York City, the Markle Foundation, and other funders. He chairs the board of VCG Governance Matters and serves on the boards of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration and of the New York Census Research Data Center and chairs NASPAA's Data Committee. He received BA and MA degrees from the University of Virginia and the Ph.D. in Public Communication from the University of Maryland.

## **Darren Walker** **President, The Ford Foundation**

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Darren Walker is the president of the Ford Foundation, the second-largest philanthropy in the United States, with headquarters in New York City and offices in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Mr. Walker, who was appointed president in July 2013, has been a leader in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors for more than two decades, focusing on global social justice issues, including human rights, urban development and free expression.

As the Ford Foundation's vice president for Education, Creativity and Free Expression from 2010 to 2013, he oversaw programs in media and journalism, arts and culture, sexuality and reproductive health and rights, educational access and opportunity, and religion. He was a driving force behind JustFilms, one of the largest documentary film funds in the world, ArtPlace, a public-private collaboration that supports cultural development in cities and rural areas in America, and many other initiatives. He also oversaw regional programming in the foundation's four offices in Africa and the Middle East.

Prior to joining the Ford Foundation, Mr. Walker was vice president for foundation initiatives at the Rockefeller Foundation, where he led both domestic and global programs. Beginning in 2002, he helped guide the foundation's programs in education, civil rights, workforce development and program-related investments. He also supervised Rockefeller's regional offices overseas, initiated new programming in urban development and arts and culture, and led its post-Katrina New Orleans Recovery Program.

After beginning his career at the international law firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Mr. Walker joined the Union Bank of Switzerland's capital markets division in 1988, staying there for seven years. When he left UBS, it was to volunteer at The Children's Storefront, an elementary school serving low-income families in Harlem. He entered the nonprofit sector as chief operating officer for the Abyssinian Development Corporation, a community development organization in Harlem.

Born in Louisiana and raised in Texas, Mr. Walker graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1982 and its School of Law in 1986. Today, he is a member of the boards of the Arcus Foundation, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Friends of the High Line and New York City Ballet, as well as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Passionate about his adopted city of New York, he lives in Manhattan with his partner, David Beitzel, a contemporary art dealer in Chelsea, and their English bulldog, Mary Lou.