

A group of people is walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a forest. The trees have yellow and orange autumn leaves, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. The scene is bright and natural.

ROBERT & PATRICIA

SWITZER

FOUNDATION

*A vibrant community of environmental leaders*

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation identifies and nurtures environmental leaders to create positive environmental change. We award academic fellowships and project grants, sponsor professional development activities, and foster a vibrant network of more than 700 Switzer Fellows working to solve today's environmental challenges.

# Cultivating Connection

The past year brought new opportunities to bring Switzer Fellows together and cultivate lasting connections within the Switzer Network. The Switzer Foundation believes that talented and committed individuals can create positive change in the world, and we invest in supporting their lifelong journeys as leaders. Through events like in-person networking gatherings, professional development courses, fellow-led affinity groups and other offerings, fellows engage in shared learning at all stages of their careers.

At the fall retreat, we witnessed the importance of investing in fellows' relationships as they join the Switzer Network. Hosted at Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts, the goals of the retreat were to build community in the cohort, create connections to the Switzer Network, and explore leadership through an equity lens. Fellows described it as "an amazing opportunity to get to know other new Switzer Fellows as the wonderful people that they are" and said they were "able to make genuine friendships instead of just meeting work colleagues."

We also saw fellows creating connections across cohorts, as we sponsored our first in-person regional network gatherings since the COVID-19 pandemic. Hosted by local fellows, the gatherings took place in Seattle and Oakland, metro regions with substantial clusters of Switzer Fellows. Hosts created welcoming and fun invitations, and they were thoughtful and responsive about planning. Attendees were delighted to return to in-person gatherings, and the events were well received.

Fellows volunteer their time to the foundation in many ways in order keep the Switzer Network thriving. In addition to the our fellowship selection process, which engages dozens of alumni annually, fellows engaged in shared leadership in some special ways this year: piloting the [Fellowship Ambassador Program](#) and helping us [launch a new website](#). We also welcomed new fellows and family members to the [Board of Trustees](#) and [Fellows Advisory Committee](#).

Finally, 2023 brought bittersweet news, as we learned that our longest-serving colleague, Program Director Erin Lloyd, will be moving on after 20 years of service to the Switzer Foundation. Staff play a critical role in building connections within and among cohorts, and no one knows our community better than Erin. Please join us in congratulating Erin on her many contributions to the foundation's work and wishing her the best in her next adventure!

Looking ahead to the next year, we are excited to welcome a new member of our staff team and to collaborate with fellows to plan the first cross-cohort network gathering, entitled "Fellowship to Friendship: A Switzer Network Celebration," to be held in Puerto Rico in March 2025.

## Scott Fruin & Sarah Reed

Board Chair / Executive Director



*Switzer Fellows hold hands during an activity at the 2023 Fall Retreat.*

# Switzer Network Stories

## Meet the 2023 Switzer Fellows



We are delighted to share the 2023 cohort of Switzer Fellows with you! Please enjoy [this video](#) highlighting each fellow, and dig deeper into their expertise, studies and motivations in their [Switzer Fellow profiles](#).

### Leadership Grant



#### **Realizing a Resilient Edgemere: an Intersection of Housing, Equity and Environment**

Doug McPherson will lead the ReAL Edgemere Community Land Trust in designing resilient coastal infrastructure and accessible open space to benefit the community and environment of Edgemere.

### Network Events



In 2023, the Switzer Network hosted 22 [virtual events](#), 2 in-person regional gatherings, and conference meet ups, engaging 557 participants. Highlights include [Transformative Climate Adaptation with Linda Shi](#), a [Switzer Network Board Service Panel](#), and affinity and topic based networking events.

### Leadership Grant



#### **A Roadmap for Climate Justice: Science as a Catalyst for a More Just World**

Alongside his research work, Nigel Golden will integrate climate justice principles across Woodwell Climate Research Center functions, ensuring that policies, research, and advocacy align with fairness and equity.

# Financial Report

**With more than 700 Switzer Fellows across the country and around the world, we have awarded:**

- **\$9,515,000 in Switzer Fellowships**
- **\$6,745,000 in Leadership Grants**
- **\$411,000 in Collaborative and Network Innovation grants**
- **\$197,140 in Professional Development Fund grants**

Financial Statement	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>Assets (at market value)</b>		
Common Stocks	\$ 10,736,601	\$ 11,324,378
Fixed Income & Alternatives	\$ 6,737,762	\$ 7,239,729
Liquidity	\$ 911,943	\$ 285,433
Other Assets	\$ 5,220	\$ -
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 18,391,526</b>	<b>\$ 18,849,540</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity (at market value)</b>		
Liabilities	\$ 207,904	\$ 182,775
Equity (unrestricted net assets)	\$ 18,183,622	\$ 18,666,765
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 18,391,526</b>	<b>\$ 18,849,540</b>
<b>Statement of Revenue and Disbursement</b>		
<b>Income from Investments</b>		
Interest Income and Dividends	\$ 319,777	\$ 361,351
Capital Gains Distribution	\$ -	\$ -
Realized Gain/Loss	\$ 927,075	\$ 1,019,548
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 6,846
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,246,852</b>	<b>\$ 1,387,385</b>
<b>Disbursements from Income</b>		
Grants Paid	\$ 385,075	\$ 493,565
Investment Management Expenses	\$ 60,438	\$ 62,039
Taxes	\$ 14,449	\$ 13,089
Admin and Program Expenses	\$ 667,116	\$ 583,339
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,127,078</b>	<b>\$ 1,152,032</b>

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

## Board of Trustees

Michael Billingsley  
Ekow Edzie  
Scott Fruin (Chair)  
Maria Martinez  
Roger Perez  
Dave Switzer  
Linda Switzer Clopton

## Fellows Advisory Committee

Carolina Balazz  
Daisy Benitez  
Demi Espinoza  
Lisa Feldstein  
Erik Martinez  
Nathan McClintock  
Kimberley Miner  
Bruni Pizarro  
Elisabeth (Lisa) Stoddard  
Olivia Walton

## Staff

Laine Kuehn, Admin Coordinator  
Erin Lloyd, Program Director  
Cora Preston, Network Manager  
Sarah Reed, Executive Director

## Contact us

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