



2025 | FINANCE FORUM

Building Resilient Communities

March 5, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS



OVERVIEW

The 2025 Finance Forum brought together the leading innovators, investors, and policymakers across the \$4 trillion public-finance sector who fund, finance, and deliver essential community infrastructure projects and economic development initiatives. The event served as a unique networking platform for cross-sectoral and public-private partnerships and included peer-to-peer events and strategy sessions focused on small business and entrepreneurship growth.

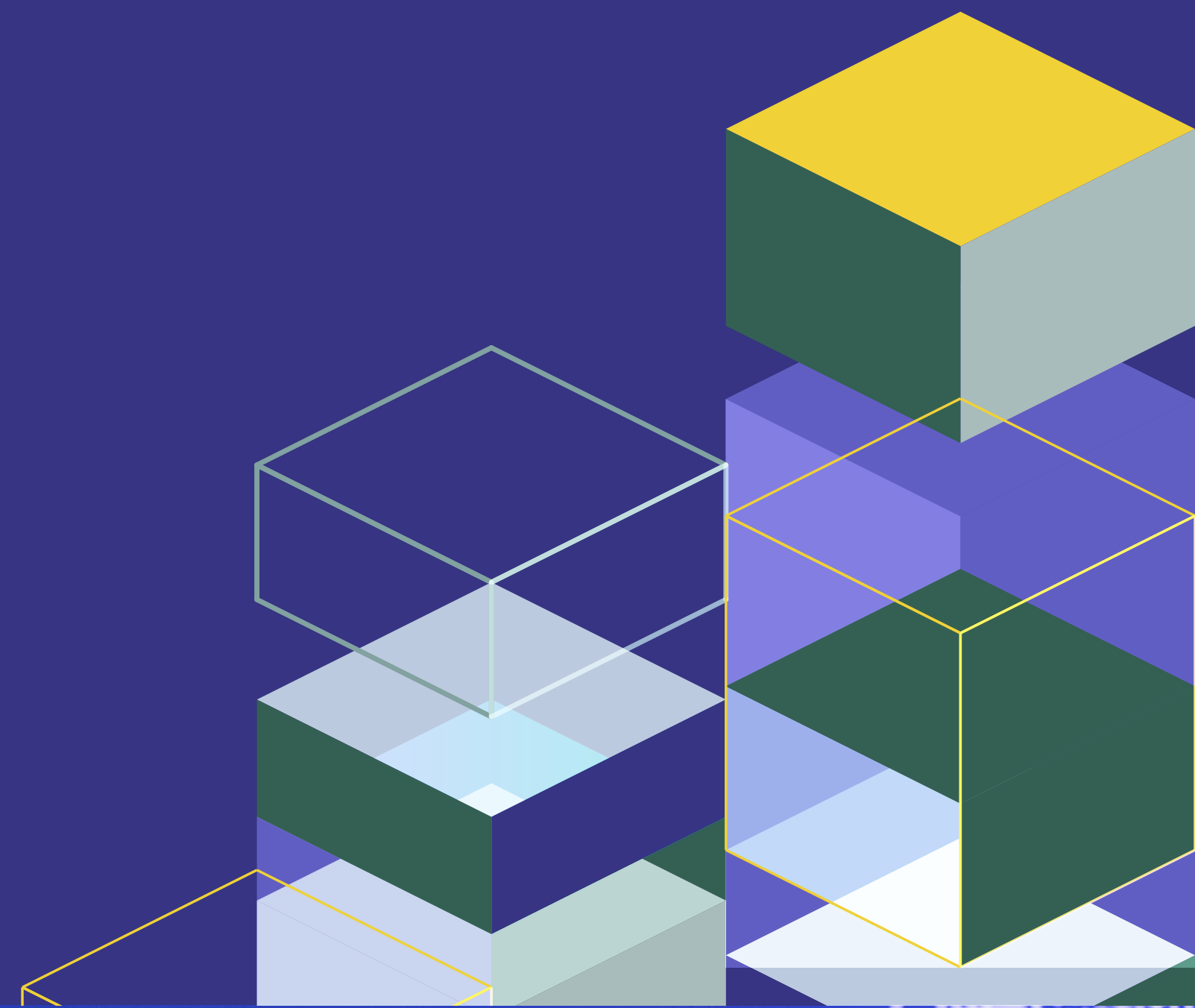
This year's event, with the theme of *Building Resilient Communities*, focused on US capital deployment and capacity challenges while exploring emerging opportunities and trends in international public finance. Key discussion topics included the acceleration of climate resilience, risk and insurance reforms, regional innovation, and bottom-up growth.



SPEAKERS

The Finance Forum brought together 79 dynamic speakers who explored pressing issues, including risk and insurance reforms, smart federalism, outcome-based budgeting, and small business creation.

Showcasing diverse perspectives, 46 percent of speakers were women, and most were new to the Milken Institute, reinforcing our commitment to bringing fresh voices and innovative ideas to financial policy discussions.



PANEL AND SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Forum featured a comprehensive program of 14 public panels and 16 private sessions, creating opportunities for attendees to examine pressing financial challenges and forward-thinking solutions. From climate resilience and risk and from insurance reforms to small business creation and innovation, the discussions provided valuable insights and actionable strategies to navigate an evolving economic landscape.

This year's Finance Forum convened influential government leaders from across the United States, fostering critical discussions on the policies shaping the economy. With a focus on actionable solutions, the event provided a platform for high-level dialogue on economic resilience, public finance, and the evolving role of government in fostering sustainable growth.

Topics of discussion at this year's Finance Forum included "Community Development Finance: A Fireside Conversation with US Senator Mark R. Warner"; "State of Play: US Budget and Economy" with Congressional Budget Office Director Phillip Swagel; "Catalytic Capital: A Conversation with Inter-American Development Bank President Ilan Goldfajn"; and "Global Debt Levels: Opportunity to Innovate" with German State Secretary of Finance Heiko Thoms.



Introducing the Pathways to Capital Platform

During the event, Milken Institute leaders announced the Pathways to Capital platform, a hub for direct services, partnerships, and actionable solutions that bridge people, businesses, and communities. The program accelerates capital deployment to overlooked entrepreneurs and small businesses and supports local economies with innovative financial models.

The platform comprises existing Institute programs to expand innovative solutions:

Inclusive Capitalism

10,000 Communities Initiative

Initiative for Inclusive Entrepreneurship

AUDIENCE

The Finance Forum brought together more than 340 in-person attendees for thought-provoking discussions and timely insights on the evolving financial landscape. Leaders in innovation, investment, and policy engaged in meaningful exchanges, forging connections and exploring solutions through a diverse lineup of panels and private gatherings. Attendees represented a broad cross-section of the country from key financial and policy hubs, including Washington, DC, New York, California, Virginia, Maryland, and Illinois, reflecting the Forum's national impact and reach.

The Milken Institute prioritizes accessibility to the event by streaming all public sessions via our website (milkeninstitute.org) and Vimeo. Viewers joined from around the globe, including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, and Singapore.

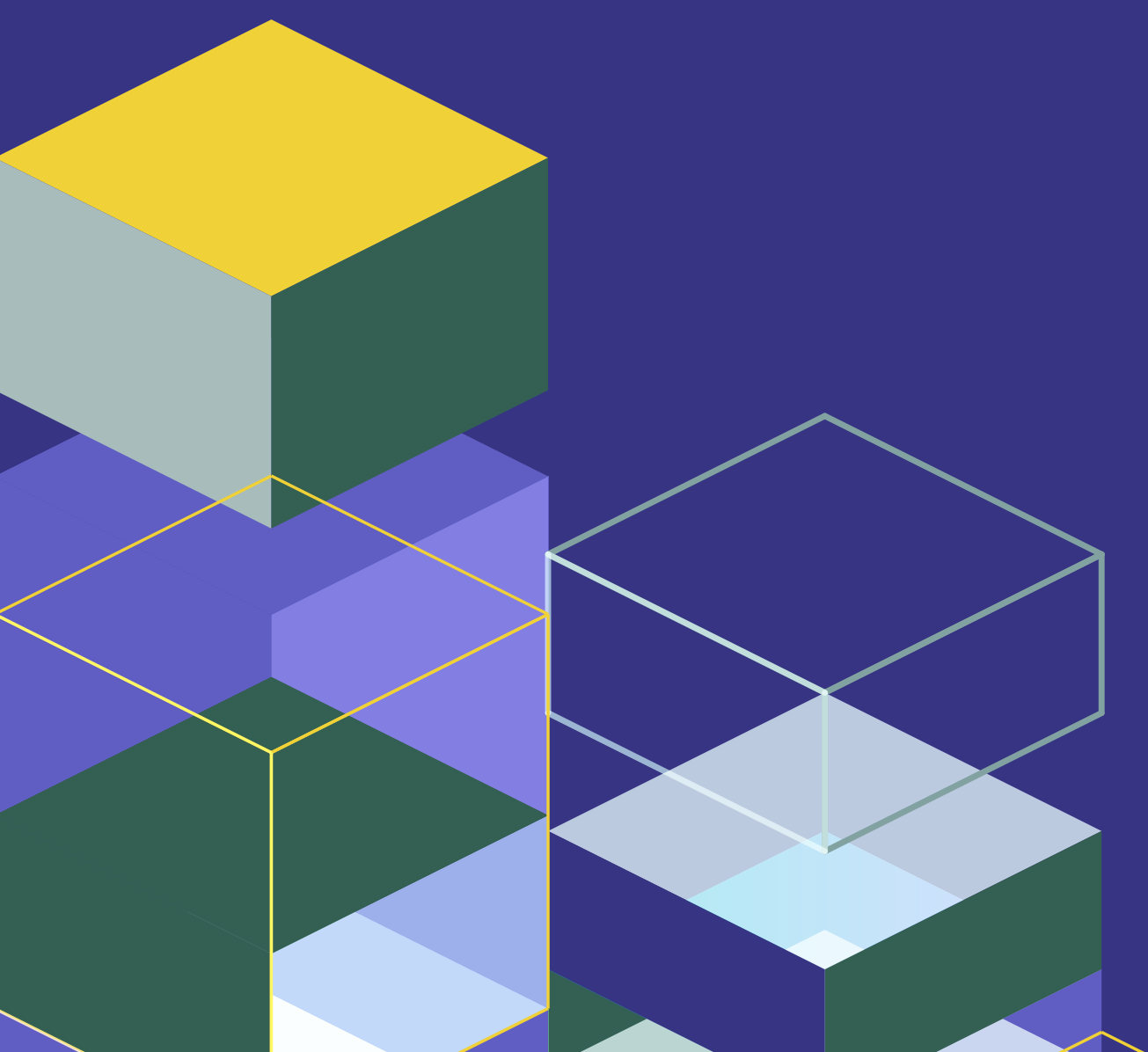
Top Five Sessions

- State of Play: US Budget and Economy
- Community Development Finance: A Fireside Conversation with US Senator Mark R. Warner, Virginia
- New Pathways to Help Forgotten America: A Dialogue
- Sovereign Wealth Funds: Lessons for the US
- 10,000 Communities Initiative: The Building Blocks of Community Infrastructure



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The Forum sparked lively discussions both online and in person as attendees eagerly shared their insights, takeaways, and enthusiasm for the event’s thought-provoking conversations and connections. More than 200 mentions came from 60 unique authors, including Tula Innovation Labs, Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan, Montgomery County Green Bank, Inter-American Development Bank President Ilan Goldfajn, Misson Driven Finance, and more. This resulted in 3,600 engagements across platforms.






Jane Veron · 3rd+
Cofounder/CEO The Acceleration Project | Former Mayor | Board Mem...
1w · 🌐

The energy was palpable today at the [Milken Institute](#) 2025 Finance Forum. Great panels on 10,000 Communities Initiative and Big Opportunity for Small Businesses expertly moderated by [Rachel Halfaker](#) and [Troy Duffie](#). ...more




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1 comment · 6 reposts




Dr Stella Tsani · 3rd+
Associate Professor, Department of Economics, National and Kapodist...
1w · Edited · 🌐

Happy to see a great panel of experts speaking at the [Milken Institute](#) Finance Forum in Washington, DC on [#SovereignWealthFunds](#): Lessons for the US. In 2022 we discussed SWFs with focus on the MENA and East Med ...more



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Investing locally to drive innovation globally 📍

At the [Milken Institute](#) 2025 Finance Forum, Tulsa Innovation Labs ...more



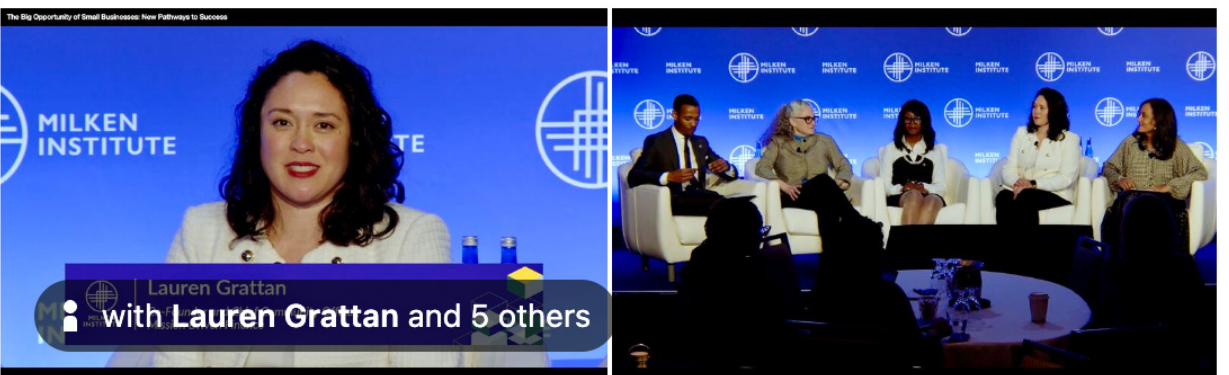
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3 comments




Mission Driven Finance®
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Earlier today, [Mission Driven Finance®](#) Co-founder and Chief Community Officer [Lauren Grattan](#) spoke on a panel at the [Milken Institute](#) 2025 Finance Forum with [Samantha Berg](#) ([Next Street](#)), [Kim Folsom](#) ([She/Her](#)) ([Fou ...more](#)



Caroline Valvardi and 65 others

4 comments · 1 repost





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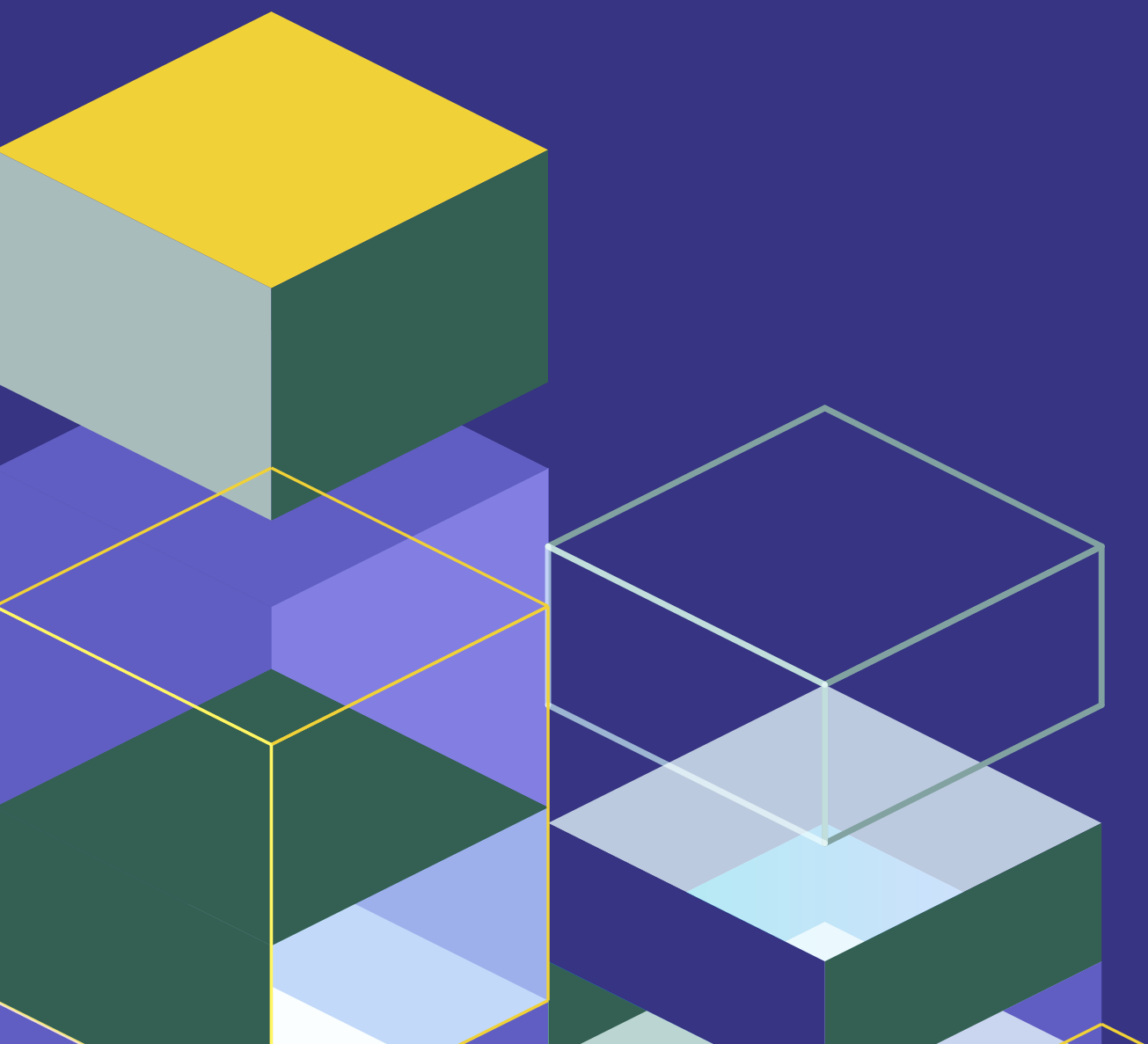
Repost

Comment as Milken Institute...



NEWS MEDIA

The inaugural Finance Forum generated notable media interest and attendance. Politico mentioned the event in its Morning Money newsletter the morning of the event. *American Banker*, *Cultbytes*, and *ImpactAlpha* attended the event in person, and virtual attendees included the *AP*, *the Atlantic*, *Bloomberg*, *FundFire*, *LawTechnology.ai*, *Pensions & Investments*, and *Route Fifty*.



NOTABLE ATTENDING ORGANIZATIONS

Fortune and Global 500 Organizations	Blackstone	Goldman Sachs	Mastercard		
	Comcast	Home Depot	Uniper		
	Deutsche Bank	JPMorgan Chase & Co	Wells Fargo		
	Exxon	KKR			
Notable Organizations and Nonprofits	Amalgamated Bank	Council of Development Finance Agencies	The James Irvine Foundation	MassMutual Foundation	Skoll Foundation
	Ballmer Group		Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	Mission Driven Finance	Spring Lane Capital
	Banyan Infrastructure	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas	The Joyce Foundation	Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board	US Department of Commerce
	Bezos Earth Fund	IDB LAB	W.K. Kellogg Foundation	David and Lucile Packard Foundation	US Department of the Treasury
	Brookings Institution	IEDC	LISC	S2G Investments	Venture Climate Alliance
	Congressional Budget Office	Investor Leadership Network			World Bank

CALL TO ACTION

Join us this year at our upcoming events as we work together to build meaningful lives:

- Global Conference | Los Angeles | May 4–7, 2025
- Asia Summit | Singapore | October 1–3, 2025
- Global Investors' Symposium | Mexico City | October 22, 2025
- Future of Health Summit | Washington, DC | November 4–6, 2025
- Middle East and Africa Summit | Abu Dhabi | December 4–5, 2025

Partner with us to learn more about our Health, Finance, Philanthropy, and International programs.

Share your story and tag @milkeninstitute #MIGlobal.



