



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Disability & Philanthropy Forum Appoints New Executive Director Sandy Ho

Chicago, IL (June 6, 2024) - The [Disability & Philanthropy Forum](#) announced today that Sandy Ho will assume the role of the new executive director of the Disability & Philanthropy Forum.

“We are lucky to have Sandy Ho join as the Executive Director of the Disability & Philanthropy Forum,” said Ryan Easterly, executive director of WITH Foundation and co-chair of the Presidents’ Council of the Disability & Philanthropy Forum. “Her experience in inclusive grantmaking and her demonstrated commitment to advancing disability inclusion and disability justice make her leadership critical as the Forum enters its next chapter. I, along with my peers on the Council, Advisory Committee, and within the Forum, look forward to working alongside Sandy as we all continue to advance disability inclusion, rights, and justice in philanthropy.”

When Sandy assumes the role on June 20, she will be responsible for guiding the next chapter of the Forum’s strategic plan, which was introduced in 2023. She will provide leadership to an all-disabled team of seven.

“The Forum’s work will be elevated by Sandy’s dedicated and driven leadership,” said Rich Besser, MD, President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and co-chair of the Presidents’ Council of the Disability & Philanthropy Forum. “With her extensive expertise and knowledge in both the disability community and the philanthropic sector, I am confident that she will capably lead the Forum toward the goal of increasing disability grantmaking in philanthropy.”

Most recently, Sandy was the program director of the Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF) at Borealis Philanthropy, where she helmed a \$4 million annual grantmaking strategy for disabled-led organizations building power to dismantle ableism across the United States. She also spearheaded [Joy Grants](#), and the launch of the \$1 million [DIFxTech Fund](#), further expanding pathways to inclusion and thriving disability futures. She was a member of the inaugural 2023 Obama Foundation USA Leaders program, and a 2022 Disability Futures Fellow supported by Ford Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

“I am honored to join the Disability & Philanthropy Forum and continue the momentum of shifting the philanthropic sector into a deepened alignment with disability justice, rights, and inclusion,” said Sandy Ho. “As funders aim to resource a world that is more accessible, inclusive, and equitable for future and current generations, disability communities and disabled wisdom must be centered in

that reimagining. I am excited to partner with those across the funding landscape to heed disability movement leaders as we work together to dismantle ableism.”

Sandy succeeds Emily Harris, the inaugural executive director of the Forum, who announced her retirement in September 2023.

About Disability & Philanthropy Forum

The Disability & Philanthropy Forum mobilizes philanthropy to dismantle ableism by increasing funding for disability inclusion, rights, and justice; amplifying the leadership of disabled people in the philanthropic sector; and educating philanthropy to build a culture of inclusion.

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