Objective
The mission of *Nonprofit Policy Forum* (NPF) is to serve as an international journal that publishes original research and analysis on public policy issues and the public policy process critical to the work of nonprofit organizations. NPF provides a forum and an authoritative and accessible source of information for scholars, leaders, and policy-makers worldwide. A primary goal of NPF is to provide nonprofit leaders and policy-makers with readily accessible and relevant scholarly research. In addition to being an accessible source of information, NPF creates a publishing venue for the expanding population of nonprofit-public policy scholars. Because the field of nonprofit studies is interdisciplinary in nature, the range of disciplines for both authors and readers spans a wide array of interests. Increasingly, the global community recognizes that progress in achieving goals and solving serious social and economic problems will require more than government action alone. The people employed in the sector and the millions of volunteers it mobilizes have the ability to extend the government’s reach, engage grass-roots energies, build cross-sector partnerships and reinvigorate democratic governance. The intent of NPF is to help policymakers design more effective policy, stimulate greater public involvement and support, promote more favorable policies, and thereby increase the contribution that nonprofits make in addressing social, economic and environmental problems and enhancing democratic practice.

Each issue of NPF offers five research-based articles and a special feature, alternating among book reviews, interviews, case studies, and research reports. Topics include analysis and evaluation of tax policies, reviews of regulatory policies and their impact on nonprofit organizations, national security policy and civil liberties, policy advocacy and lobbying, government funding of nonprofit organizations, the role of faith-based institutions in service delivery, church and state relations, disaster relief, the role of nonprofits in economic and community development, and alternative organizational arrangements for nonprofit and social enterprise activity. Additionally, public policy issues in specific sub-fields such as health care, social justice, the environment, education, and the arts are
included. Moreover, it is important that NPF feature articles of comparative public policies affecting the nonprofit sector in different countries, and the influence of transnational NGOs on global policy issues.

Nonprofit organizations play an increasingly critical role in the development of national economies and societies worldwide. Recently, we’ve witnessed the growing significant of nonprofit sector influence in shaping international affairs in fields as diverse as international trade and environmental conservation. Nonprofit Policy Forum (1) brings a focus to this area of knowledge, (2) gathers the growing number of new contributions in this field in one place, and (3) stimulates further research and analysis. Our hope is that through this journal an even greater number of scholars in the field are encouraged to devote their attention to the policy issues that affect nonprofit organizations. Therefore, we see NPF as an investment in knowledge building.

Nonprofit Policy Forum is published with major support provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926 in Flint, Michigan, by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. It supports nonprofit programs throughout the United States and, on a limited geographic basis, internationally. Grantmaking is focused in four programs: Civil Society, Environment, Flint Area and Education. In addition to Flint, offices are located in metropolitan Detroit, Johannesburg and London. With year-end assets of approximately $2.7 billion in 2015, the Foundation made 400 grants totaling more than $119 million. For more information, visit www.mott.org.

The Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) is the U.S.-based, national and international association that connects scholars, teachers, and practice leaders interested in research on nonprofit organizations, voluntary action, philanthropy and civil society. Founded in 1971 as the Association of Voluntary Action Scholars, ARNOVA is a neutral, open forum committed to strengthening the research about and helping shape better practice in these realms. We bring together both theoretical and applied interests, helping scholars gain insight into the day-to-day concerns of third-sector organizations, while providing nonprofit professionals with connections to research they can use to improve the work of their organizations and the quality of life for citizens and communities. Principal activities include an annual conference, publications, electronic discussions and special interest groups. ARNOVA sponsors an annual issue of policy briefs in Nonprofit Policy Forum.

The nonprofit Urban Institute is dedicated to elevating the debate on social and economic policy. For nearly five decades, Urban scholars have conducted research and offered evidence-based solutions that improve lives and strengthen communities across a rapidly urbanizing world. Their objective research helps expand opportunities for all, reduce hardship among the most vulnerable, and strengthen the effectiveness of the public sector.
The Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota ranks among the country’s top 10 professional public policy and planning schools and is long noted for equipping students to play key roles in public life at the local, state, national, and global levels. Its Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center creates and nurtures excellence in public affairs management and leadership through research, teaching, professional development, and outreach, and is a vital resource for community partners.

The Stockholm Center for Civil Society Studies is based at the Stockholm School of Economics. It is funded primarily by external grants. The overall ambition is to contribute to a better understanding of the roles and positions assumed in society by associations, foundations and other third sector organizations. The empirical focus is organized civil society, and the scholars come from a range of social science areas including political science, sociology, management, history and organization studies. Apart from conducting research, center scholars are also active in disseminating knowledge through public lectures and seminars. Center web page: www.civilsociety.se

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Editor-in-Chief
Dennis Young, Georgia State University (emeritus)
denisryoung@gsu.edu

Managing Editor
Linda Serra, Independent Consultant
lindaserra@gmail.com

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