

DEMOCRACY FUNDERS NETWORK

Managing Director

A project of Third Plateau and Contina Impact

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ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Democracy Funders Network (DFN) is a cross-ideological learning and action community for donors who care about the health of American democracy. Its members include about 80 philanthropic institutions and 200 individual funders, and more than 600 funders follow its work. They hold a wide range of political views, focus areas, and theories of change.

~80	200	600+
philanthropic institutions	individual funders	funders follow its work

DFN starts from a clear premise: strengthening democracy is different from helping one side win. The network acts as an honest broker for the field. It shares evidence on what works, airs fair questions about strategies and organizations, and helps funders weigh the long-term effects of their giving. DFN was created as a place where funders could make sense of the moment alongside people who see it differently, and hear from a wider range of voices than they would in their usual circles.

DFN is a project of Third Plateau and Contina Impact, an impact consultancy that partners with philanthropy, nonprofits, and communities. It sits within Third Plateau's Field-Building Initiatives Division. Mike Berkowitz, who co-founded DFN, serves as Executive Director. A Leadership Group of about a dozen core funders, chaired by founding funder Rachel Pritzker, sets the network's broad direction.



THE OPPORTUNITY

DFN is entering a new chapter. After the 2024 election, the network sharpened its view of what the moment requires. Defending democratic institutions still matters, and the field also needs a constructive project that earns the trust of a broad majority of Americans. With a broad view of the field and the belief that no silver bullet solutions exist, DFN is shifting more of its programming toward that longer-term work. It is also deepening its commitment to ideological breadth by welcoming more centrist and conservative funders to a network that already brings together donors from across the spectrum.

The Managing Director is DFN's senior day-to-day leader. Reporting to the Executive Director, the Managing Director leads the staff and consultants, turns strategy into work plans, stewards members, and builds the systems a growing network needs. The role calls for a trusted partner to DFN's founders and Leadership Group who also brings structure and clarity to how the network runs. The Managing Director will help DFN broaden both its membership and its programming, so members hear perspectives they would not encounter elsewhere.



Key responsibilities

01 Lead the team.
Supervise and develop the senior program staff, program staff, membership and operations staff, and the consultants and fellows who support DFN. Build a team where senior leaders own their work and have the support to deliver it.

02 Partner on strategy and governance.
Work with the Executive Director to set priorities, convene quarterly Leadership Group meetings, and align programming with the direction the group sets. Bring clarity to how decisions are made and keep each stakeholder informed at the right level. Build direct, trusting relationships with the Chair and the Leadership Group.

03 Steward the network.
Build relationships with funders across the political spectrum, connect members to one another and to leaders in the field, and represent DFN at a high level. Oversee the member experience from recruitment to renewal, serving as a trusted advisor to members throughout their engagement and managing the member portal.

04 Shape programs and learning.
Work with the senior program staff to scope working groups, funder conversations, convenings, and written resources. Speak and facilitate in settings that range from small virtual meetings to multi-day gatherings.

05 Run operations and resources.
Manage the budget, revenue projections, and the infrastructure behind DFN's work, including data, events, and safety and security. Structure fundraising with the Executive Director and work with Third Plateau's research and evaluation team to measure impact.

Qualifications

- Seven plus years of leadership experience, including managing teams, budgets, and organizational strategy.
- Experience in democracy or civic life, drawn from policy, philanthropy, journalism, law, technology, or the nonprofit sector.
- Professional relationships and credibility across the ideological spectrum.
- Experience building or working within bipartisan or multipartisan coalitions.
- The ability to take seriously ideas you disagree with and to represent them in good faith.
- The ability to relate well to multiple constituencies: to speak the language of philanthropy while helping funders understand how a wider range of Americans see the country.
- An optimistic, future-oriented view of American democracy and society, with fresh ideas for programming that go beyond defense.
- A record of partnering with founders, boards, or governing bodies, and of bringing clarity to roles and decisions.
- Financial management experience, including budgeting, forecasting, and resource allocation.
- Strong written and spoken communication, including public speaking and facilitation.
- Experience representing or raising funds for philanthropically funded work, and familiarity with philanthropy, ideally including grant-making or donor advisory experience. A career in philanthropy is welcome and not required.

Location

This is a remote position open to candidates anywhere in the United States. Benefits include platinum-level health insurance, generous paid time off, a wellness stipend, professional development, and 401(k) matching.

TO LEARN MORE

To apply or to recommend a candidate, please contact:

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