



Grantmakers Forum of New York
919 Winton Road South, Rochester, NY 14618-1633
phone: 585-232-2380 ♦ fax: 585-232-8413
email: gfny@grantmakers.org ♦ web: www.grantmakers.org

Engaging funders in the quest for philanthropic excellence

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Contact: Liz Wilder, Executive Director
585.232.2380

Private Foundations Invest in Economic Development

Rochester, NY – The Gebbie Foundation built an ice rink in the center of Jamestown. Rochester area foundations and corporations collaborate to fund local CDCs. In Albany, funders provide planning grants to county governments. Private funders in Upstate New York have a growing interest in community and economic development.

Next week, 100 New York state funders including local Central New York and Southern Tier foundations will meet at the Statler Hotel in Ithaca to hear Kenneth Schoetz, Upstate Chief Operating Officer for Empire State Development Corp. speak about Governor Spitzer’s vision for improving the economy. Schoetz will be joined on the podium by Susan Christopherson, J. Thomas Clark Professor, Dept. of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University. Her work concentrates on strategies for revitalizing the economy of upstate New York.

The session is part of a two-day conference, *Philanthropy in the Looking Glass*, hosted by grantmaker associations in upstate NY, that brings philanthropic organizations together to discuss their role in society. Other speakers include Cornell University’s President David J. Skorton, and Joel L. Fleishman, former head of U.S. programs for Atlantic Philanthropies. Fleishman’s new book, *The Foundation: A Great American Secret—How Private Wealth is Changing the World*, tells the unique story of the evolution of American philanthropy.

For more information, contact Liz Wilder, executive director, Grantmakers Forum of New York, 585-232-2380. Grantmakers Forum of New York represents private foundations, corporate giving programs and community-based funders throughout New York. It is one of four associations in the state that unite and empower grantmakers to achieve their philanthropic aspirations.

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