



## ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN PACE

Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (PACE) is a community of funders working together to strengthen American democracy through active civic participation. We learn with purpose, collaborate across differences, and experiment boldly to advance freedom, fairness, and belonging for all.

PACE funders believe democracy flourishes when people are empowered, engaged, and united in pursuit of the common good.

We strive for a future where all Americans feel connected, take responsibility for protecting and regenerating democracy, and contribute to the health of our country and to the vitality of our communities.

To learn more about PACE's vision and mission, check out our [2026-2030 strategic plan](#).

### WHY PACE?

We recognize that many outstanding organizations support philanthropy in this field—and that your time and budget are limited. Choosing the right partner matters. Here are a few reasons funders turn to PACE:

- **Longevity.** Founded in 2005, PACE brings more than 20 years of experience supporting philanthropy focused on democracy and civic engagement in the U.S. We have navigated multiple political and philanthropic shifts, helping funders adapt to changing contexts while staying focused on their long-term goals.
- **Community.** PACE members include funders from across the country—large and small, established and emerging—who come together as colleagues to learn, share, and support one another. The community is intentionally sized and curated so members can form genuine, lasting connections.
- **Fresh Perspectives.** As the field has grown more siloed, opportunities for meaningful dialogue across differences have narrowed. This is where PACE stands apart. We proactively recruit an ideologically diverse membership and foster conversations that are rigorous, respectful, and constructive.
- **Experience.** PACE is led by Shannon Green, a widely respected democracy expert with more than two decades of experience strengthening democracy and protecting civic space. Prior to joining PACE, she led USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance. She brings deep expertise not only in understanding how democracies crumble, but also in how to rebuild them.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

PACE members approach civic engagement and democracy in a multitude of ways. Their varied perspectives, experiences, and strategies create a dynamic environment for connection, learning, experimentation, and action.

PACE membership offers opportunities for individual and small-group learning; network gatherings and creative exploration; applied practice; and field leadership. Specifically, members benefit from:

- **A dedicated space within philanthropy** for a pragmatic, collaborative focus on strengthening democracy
- **Learning, networking, and relationship-building** with funder peers grappling with similar opportunities and challenges
- **Access to curated events, briefings, and insights**, including PACE's landmark [Civic Language Perceptions Project](#) and the [Democracy Futures Toolkit](#)
- **Platforms to share, elevate, and amplify your work** and influence the field
- **Opportunities to partner with PACE and fellow members** on projects and experiments that advance your goals and the collective goals of the network

## MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

PACE is committed to partnering with funders nationwide to advance a citizen-led renewal of democracy and civic life. If this aligns with your priorities, we would welcome a conversation about membership.

Membership is open to philanthropic individuals and institutions who view their work as enabling civic participation and healthy democracy, and who distribute at least \$100,000 in philanthropic resources annually in a strategic and organized fashion (grants and/or related charitable investments). PACE welcomes institutions with diverse approaches to philanthropic giving, including private, family, operating/research, community, and corporate foundations, as well as individual donors and intermediary funders, as long as fund/resource distribution is a central part of their operations and strategy.

PACE members pay dues based on the organization's overall annual grantmaking budget, guided by the chart below.

## ANNUAL GRANTMAKING BUDGET AND CORRESPONDING DUES AMOUNT

Up to \$1 million	\$1,250/year
\$1 - \$5 million	\$3,200/year
\$5 - \$10 million	\$6,500/year
\$10 - \$20 million	\$13,500/year
\$20 million and up	\$15,000/year

### MEMBERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

As a philanthropic community, PACE's strength comes from the engagement and commitment of its members. We invite members to actively participate by:

- Sharing information about their investments and the thinking behind them
- Joining relevant discussions with funders, donors, researchers, and practitioners
- Co-hosting or leading conversations of interest to the PACE community
- Supporting and participating in collaborative projects and experiments

### OUR COMMUNITY

The PACE network is guided by these values:

**Learning with Purpose:** We approach learning with open minds and curiosity, aiming to discover insights that enhance funders' work and help communities and democracy thrive.

**Collaborating across Differences:** We create space for diverse viewpoints and proactively seek partnerships with those who see the world differently. In doing so, we practice pluralism—the cornerstone of a healthy democracy and civic culture.

**Experimenting Boldly:** We embrace thoughtful experimentation and innovation in overlooked areas of civic participation and democracy. Knowing that not every problem has a ready-made solution, we meet uncertainty with creativity and a willingness to take smart risks.

**Creating Community:** We nurture relationships and care for one another, knowing that time together strengthens our resolve, renews our spirit, and sustains us for the hard work of defending our freedoms and shaping a better future.

**Leading with Courage:** We act with integrity and take principled stands for fairness, liberty, and equality. We show courage not only in what we say, but in how we listen, share power, and make decisions with the communities we serve.

We believe these are important tenets of what it means to embrace an entrepreneurial orientation and posture of continuous learning; they are also components that advance PACE's working commitment to racial equity.