



June 24, 2019

Dear Community,

We are thrilled to announce that Connie Malloy will be joining us as our new Executive Director on October 1, 2019. We had many exceptional candidates step forward thanks to the diligent work of the Koya Leadership Partners search firm. We also want to wholeheartedly thank *you*, our community, in identifying our next intrepid leader and supporting Panta Rhea's continued evolution as a philanthropic partner in the vision for a just and sustainable world. The Panta Rhea team is extremely excited to welcome Connie and the many new perspectives, connections, and experiences she brings to this role.

Connie is a seasoned social and environmental activist, urban planner, philanthropist, writer, and mother. Adopted as a child from Colombia's Afro-Caribbean islands by a Caucasian family in New Orleans, she has always experienced the world as a complex mosaic. She grew up in the Deep South, Midwest, East Coast, and Pacific Northwest and has been a proud Californian for over two decades. That global, multi-racial lens shapes her essence and inspires her drive for a thriving, equitable, and sustainable world.

Connie brings an exciting and impressive set of skills, experiences, and networks:

- She comes to us from the James Irvine Foundation where she worked for seven years. There she led the California Democracy Program, which included voter and civic engagement, immigrant integration and elections policies and practices, along with the Leadership Awards, Pay for Success, and Community Leadership Projects. More recently, as Portfolio Director, she collaboratively piloted, developed, and launched the Fair Work grantmaking strategy to engage low-wage workers and employers in securing fair wages, rights, and protections.
- She was previously Senior Director of Programs at Urban Habitat, a San Francisco Bay Area environmental justice organization and previous Panta Rhea grantee. There she led organizing, policy campaigns, and litigation to expand public transportation and affordable housing; nurtured grassroots community leaders to serve on public commissions and nonprofit boards; hosted delegations to the US and World Social Forums; and published *Race, Poverty, & the Environment*.

- She's finishing a ten-year term on California's inaugural Citizens Redistricting Commission, for which she currently serves as Chair. In 2011, for the first time in U.S. history, Connie and thirteen other everyday people drew California's Assembly, Senate, Congressional and Board of Equalization electoral maps in a fair, transparent process. This innovative model is inspiring other states to take back redistricting and ensure voters choose their elected representatives, not the other way around.
- She has mentored hundreds of families and their adoptive children and teens of color, providing ongoing support, education, and community-building on matters of identity and race. She also co-founded a grassroots, all-volunteer national network for adopted and fostered adults from the African diaspora to connect with and support each other. For two years she worked in the Bolivian Amazon Basin in support of a "green chamber of commerce" through the development of local community businesses and ecotourism microentrepreneurs.
- She is currently finishing the first draft of a book inspired by her family's story and will be spending part of the summer at an artist retreat at remote Lake Clark in Alaska. The other part of her summer will be spent in the Colombian islands of her heritage: San Andres, Providencia, and Santa Catalina.

There is much more to share about Connie. You will hear from her directly and her vision in the fall. But for now, we look forward to her joining us in October and continuing the work of Panta Rhea as Executive Director from Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband Nile Malloy from Flint, Michigan and their three children: Darshan (12), Osai (9) and Sade (6).

It was a daunting task to find someone to follow the skill, courage, creativity, generosity and intellect (I could go on!) of Diana and the example she has set as a leader and grantmaker with the highest practice of integrity, beauty, and solidarity. Thankfully, in Connie we have found a skilled, collaborative, and emergent leader with deep experience in social and environmental justice grantmaking and activism as well as a demonstrated integrity, compassion, and creativity in her approach to life and work. Please join me in welcoming Connie to the Panta Rhea team and continuing to honor and celebrate the incredible work and accomplishments of Diana.

Warmly,

Lisl Schoepflin  
Board Chair  
Panta Rhea Foundation