

ROBERT & PATRICIA  
**SWITZER**  
FOUNDATION

*A vibrant community of environmental leaders*

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

A photograph of three people in a lush, green field. In the center, a young man with curly hair, wearing a blue patterned headband and an orange polo shirt, is smiling and looking towards the right. He is holding a white document. To his left, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a colorful floral patterned top, is looking towards the center. To his right, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue top with a white leaf pattern, is looking towards the center. The background is filled with green foliage and trees.

**The Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation identifies and nurtures environmental leaders to create positive environmental change. We award academic fellowships and project grants, sponsor professional development activities, and foster a vibrant network of more than 700 Switzer Fellows working to solve today's environmental challenges.**

# Celebrating the Network



**The past year brought new faces to the Switzer staff and board and new opportunities to gather as a community of fellows.**

Following the departure of long-time staff member Erin Lloyd, we welcomed Maya Higgins as the foundation's new Program Manager in April. Maya is a trained facilitator, mediator, educator, organizer, and network weaver, and she brings extensive experience with facilitating retreats focused on cultivating belonging, working across difference, and building community for fellowship and leadership development programs. As Program Manager, Maya leads recruitment and selection for the Switzer Fellowship, designs and hosts retreats and professional development, and administers the post-fellowship grant programs.

We also welcomed two new members to the foundation's Board of Trustees in July. Dawn Chávez and Donna Vorhees are Switzer Fellows alums who bring new expertise and experience in environmental health, leadership, and organizational development to contribute to the foundation's strategy and governance. Dawn Chávez is a 2003 Switzer Fellow and current Executive Director of the Environmental Leadership Program, a peer fellowship program that provides environmental and social change leaders with support to launch new endeavors, achieve new successes, and rise to new leadership positions. Donna Vorhees is a 1992 Switzer Fellow and past member of the Fellows Advisory Committee; she currently leads the Health Effect Institute's work in providing impartial science about potential community exposures and health effects associated with energy production.

Planning and hosting the Switzer Network's first cross-cohort gathering was a major focus of our program work this past year. We worked with a committee of seven Switzer Fellows to plan "Fellowship to Friendship: A Switzer Network Celebration," held in Puerto Rico in March 2025. The gathering's purpose was to create authentic, supportive connections between fellows across cohorts, geographies, and expertise, while encouraging shared learning, respectful engagement, and meaningful interaction with the people, place, and environment of Puerto Rico. An intentional planning process grounded in shared leadership and purpose led to a deeply meaningful and connective gathering.

Looking ahead, we will continue to implement priorities that emerged from the foundation's strategic review by planning for geographic expansion of the fellowship program. We will celebrate the foundation's 40th anniversary by extending eligibility to students at universities outside California and New England through substantial changes to our outreach strategy, application format, and review process.

**Sarah Reed, Executive Director**

# Switzer Network Stories

## Celebrating the 2024 Switzer Fellows



We commend the [2024 Switzer Fellows](#) on their selection as fellows and achievements during their fellowship year! Please enjoy this video highlighting each fellow, and dig deeper into their expertise, studies and motivations in their [profiles](#).

### Leadership Grant



#### Community-led Groundwater Stewardship and Safe Drinking Water Solutions

Vida Sánchez joined the Community Water Center to support community-led groundwater stewardship and safe drinking water solutions in California rural low-income communities.

### Network Events



In FY2025, the Switzer Network hosted 20 online events, three [in-person regional gatherings](#), and several conference meet ups, engaging 331+ participants. Highlights include [Fellowship to Friendship](#), [Digital Storytelling for Environmental and Climate Justice](#), and a series of events to support fellows impacted by recent federal actions.

### Leadership Grant



#### Resilient Roots: Youth Climate Justice Leadership

Catalina Garzón-Galvis lifts up youth voices and leadership in taking climate action through digital storytelling and media arts in order to strengthen resiliency in communities that stand to be hit first and worst by the climate crisis.

# Financial Report

**With more than 750 Switzer Fellows across the country and around the world, we have awarded:**

- **\$9,855,000 in Switzer Fellowships**
- **\$6,845,000 in Leadership Grants**
- **\$411,000 in Collaborative and Network Innovation grants**
- **\$214,027 in Professional Development Fund grants**

Financial Statement	FY 2023	FY 2024
<b>Assets (at market value)</b>		
Common Stocks	\$ 11,324,378	\$ 12,657,960
Fixed Income & Alternatives	\$ 7,239,729	\$ 6,498,910
Liquidity	\$ 285,433	\$ 442,060
Other Assets	\$ -	\$ 572
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 18,849,540</b>	<b>\$ 19,599,502</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity (at market value)</b>		
Liabilities	\$ 182,775	\$ 182,076
Equity (unrestricted net assets)	\$ 18,666,765	\$ 19,417,426
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 18,849,540</b>	<b>\$ 19,599,502</b>
<b>Statement of Revenue and Disbursement</b>		
<b>Income from Investments</b>		
Interest Income and Dividends	\$ 361,351	\$ 411,477
Capital Gains Distribution	\$ -	\$ -
Realized Gain/Loss	\$ 1,019,548	\$ 952,819
Other Income	\$ 6,846	\$ (28,196)
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,387,385</b>	<b>\$ 1,336,100</b>
<b>Disbursements from Income</b>		
Grants Paid	\$ 493,565	\$ 461,887
Investment Management Expenses	\$ 62,039	\$ 82,275
Taxes	\$ 13,089	\$ 15,374
Admin and Program Expenses	\$ 583,339	\$ 602,193
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,152,032</b>	<b>\$ 1,161,729</b>

Financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

## Board of Trustees

Michael Billingsley  
Dawn Chávez  
Ekow Edzie  
Maria Martinez  
Roger Perez (Chair)  
Dave Switzer  
Donna Vorhees

## Fellows Advisory Committee

Daisy Benitez  
Genie Bey  
Demi Espinoza  
Nathan McClintock  
Kimberley Miner  
Keith Parker  
Bruni Pizarro  
Karen Diaz Ruvalcaba  
Ruth Steiner  
Elisabeth (Lisa) Stoddard

## Staff

Laine Kuehn, Admin Coordinator  
Maya Higgins, Program Manager  
Cora Preston, Network Manager  
Sarah Reed, Executive Director

## Contact us

info@switzernetwork.org  
www.switzernetwork.org  
P.O. Box 293 Belfast, ME 04915  
(207) 338-5654