

ROBERT & PATRICIA
SWITZER
FOUNDATION

A vibrant community of environmental leaders

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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 750 Switzer Fellows working to solve today's environmental challenges.

Connecting to Meet the Moment



A fellow-created collage from Fellowship to Friendship

As the past year brought unprecedented challenges for the environmental community, the Switzer Foundation supported our network of fellows with opportunities for connection, resources, and support.

In March 2025, dozens of Switzer Fellows convened in Rincón, Puerto Rico, for the foundation's first in-person, cross-cohort gathering. The purpose of "Fellowship to Friendship: A Switzer Network Celebration" 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. A slow, intentional planning process grounded in shared leadership generated a deeply meaningful, connective and thoughtful gathering. It was a joyful start to a tumultuous year and powerful to see the connections fellows made with one another.

The current federal administration's actions affect many groups within the Switzer Network, including government employees, researchers and non-profits reliant on federal grants, and fellows working on issues ranging from climate change to public health and environmental justice. In response, the foundation redirected our staff capacity and funding resources to expand Switzer Network offerings to support fellows in this moment. We convened several events to provide practical support (e.g., legal advice and career coaching), restoration (e.g., mindfulness and somatics), and opportunities for connection (e.g., regional gatherings and affinity groups). We also provided support to individual fellows via coaching with staff members and a dedicated peer listserv for job seekers. We heard that it has been especially important for Switzer to be a visible and vocal source of support and encouragement for fellows throughout the year.

Looking ahead, we are excited to expand eligibility for the Switzer Fellowship to environmental leaders at universities throughout the United States and U.S. territories in order to increase equity, strengthen the network, and accelerate environmental impact. This represents the biggest change the foundation has made to its core grant program in decades. A working group of staff, trustees, and Fellows Advisory Committee members is guiding the implementation planning, and we expect to officially announce the geographic expansion very soon.

The Switzer Foundation believes that talented and committed individuals can create positive change in the world. In 2026, we look forward to opening the Switzer Fellowship to new fellows from new geographies and perspectives and supporting their lifelong journeys as leaders.

Sarah Reed and Roger Perez
Executive Director and Board Chair

Switzer Network Stories

Celebrating the 2025 Switzer Fellows



We were delighted to welcome the 2025 Switzer Fellows into the Switzer Network this year. Please enjoy this video highlighting each fellow, and dig deeper into their expertise, studies and motivations in their profiles.

Leadership Grants

Leadership Grants advance the skills and leadership of Switzer Fellows by creating a project or position for the fellow at a nonprofit organization. Three fellows received grants in 2025:



Meghna Marjadi:
Creating place-based watershed curriculum



Jade Roccoforte:
Supporting Tribal beneficial uses of waters



Luis Alexis Rodríguez-Cruz:
Changing tides in the Caribbean

Network Events



Fellowship to Friendship planning committee

In 2025, the Switzer Network hosted 19 online events, five in-person gatherings, and several conference meet ups, engaging 328+ participants. Highlights include Fellowship to Friendship, a cross-cohort community call, and a series of events to support fellows impacted by recent federal actions.

Professional Development Fund



Environmental leaders benefit from new skills and networking, but professional development funding is not always available. This fund aims to close that gap for Switzer Fellow alumni. We were proud to support 17 Switzer Fellows in FY25. See highlights from their grants here, and join us in celebrating their growth!

Financial Report

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

- **\$10,195,000 in Switzer Fellowships**
- **\$6,955,000 in Leadership Grants**
- **\$411,000 in Collaborative and Network Innovation grants**
- **\$240,183 in Professional Development Fund grants**

Financial Statement	FY 2024	FY 2025
Assets (at market value)		
Common Stocks	\$ 12,657,960	\$ 14,297,593
Fixed Income & Alternatives	\$ 6,498,910	\$ 6,042,373
Liquidity	\$ 442,060	\$ 462,102
Other Assets	\$ 572	\$ 3,652
Total Assets	\$ 19,599,502	\$ 20,805,720
Liabilities and Equity (at market value)		
Liabilities	\$ 182,076	\$ 183,158
Equity (unrestricted net assets)	\$ 19,417,426	\$ 20,622,562
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 19,599,502	\$ 20,805,720
Statement of Revenue and Disbursement		
Income from Investments		
Interest Income and Dividends	\$ 411,477	\$ 400,173
Capital Gains Distribution	\$ -	\$ -
Realized Gain/Loss	\$ 952,819	\$ 694,984
Other Income	\$ (28,196)	\$ (19,411)
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 1,336,100	\$ 1,075,746
Disbursements from Income		
Grants Paid	\$ 461,887	\$ 476,156
Investment Management Expenses	\$ 82,275	\$ 84,641
Taxes	\$ 15,374	\$ 14,477
Admin and Program Expenses	\$ 602,193	\$ 642,298
Total Expenses	\$ 1,161,729	\$ 1,217,572

Financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Leadership & Staff

Fellows Advisory Committee

Daisy Benitez
 Genie Bey
 Timnit Kefela
 Nathan McClintock
 Keith Parker
 Bruni Pizarro
 Edgar Reyna
 Karen Diaz Ruvalcaba
 Ruth Steiner
 Elisabeth (Lisa) Stoddard



Trustees and staff at a board retreat, June 2025

Board of Trustees

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

Staff

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

