



# Continuing the Momentum of the First Five Years

Strategic Plan  
2023 – 2028



Clark-Fox  
Policy Institute

BROWN SCHOOL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## Letter from Director



*Dear Friends,*

*Five years ago, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute was launched. Founded through the generosity of Maxine Clark and Bob Fox, the institute was charged with the following goals: provide exceptional training in policy practice that prepares Brown School students for distinguished service and leadership in the field; maintain a trans-disciplinary network of scholars whose collaborations produce game-changing research and thought-leadership on critical policy issues; undertake meaningful public engagement that involves invested, impacted and interested community stakeholders in the advancement of effective policy solutions and practices; and support the continuous improvement of social systems and structures that impact community well-being.*

This year, under the guidance of the Brown School's Evaluation Center, we embarked on a journey to chart out the institute's next five years. By engaging with our invested parties within the university and the broader community, we gathered meaningful and constructive guidance that shaped the institute's anchoring pillars and strategic priorities aimed at addressing health, education, and social disparities for children and the adults that care for them.

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute functions as a means to accelerate the translation of existing research findings into policy actions. The specific characteristics, needs, and assets of greater St. Louis must be incorporated during this process. This begins by using existing data as a foundation and working closely with community members, leaders, and other stakeholders to understand factors unique to the local community.

Additionally, the institute serves as a training center, regional convener and catalyst addressing pressing social issues identified by our partner organizations. This important part of the policy-making process serves to unify and strengthen communities thereby increasing the success of policy implementation and high-impact positive change.

Looking back on our first five years, we are proud that our nonpartisan, community-engaged cross-sector collaborations that resulted in equity-driven policies that have been implemented on the local, state and federal level.

We look forward to continuing the momentum for the next five years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Parker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and 'P'.

Gary Parker  
Associate Dean for External Affairs  
Director, Clark-Fox Policy Institute  
Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis



# Maxine Clark and Bob Fox

After enjoying highly successful careers as innovative entrepreneurs, civic leaders Maxine Clark and Bob Fox founded the Clark-Fox Family Foundation in 2004. The Clark-Fox Family Foundation supports the economic development of the St. Louis metropolitan region through program development and investments in K-12, higher education, public health, immigration, social justice, community leadership, and entrepreneurship. Building on a legacy of generous support to Washington University in St. Louis, Maxine Clark and Bob Fox pledged funding for a new forum facility and policy-related programming at the Brown School. In recognition of their commitment, the Brown School Policy Forum was renamed the Maxine Clark and Bob Fox Policy Institute.

# Mission. Vision. Guiding Values.

## Mission:

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute aims to advance social and economic justice through practitioner training and working collaboratively to develop evidence-informed policy that bridges the gap between researchers and impacted populations by aligning scientific research with lived experience.

## Vision:

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute envisions a more just and equitable world in which policy solutions are community-driven, effective, and innovative.

## Guiding Values:

### Equity



Our equitable policy solutions are aimed at producing outcomes that are no longer predicted by race or personal identity. We intentionally use our privilege and access to amplify the voices of people who are most impacted by systemic oppression.

### Authentic Partnership



We cannot and will not do this work alone. We actively seek to develop, cultivate, and nurture authentic partnerships to co-create effective solutions that drive sustainable positive change.

### Accountability



We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve and humbly accept and acknowledge our limitations.

### Radical listening



We engage in radical listening to strengthen our capacity to build deeper connections, empathy and understanding of ourselves and those around us.

### Joy



We pledge to find joy and fun in our work. Consciously creating moments of joy is recharging and critical to self-care.

# Who, What, and Where

The Clark-Fox Policy Institute recognizes how policy and community engagement can and should be used as a vehicle to radically transform the St. Louis region into a more just and equitable region for everyone, especially those who have been most impacted by oppressive systems. Policy solutions developed using both community science and lived experience can further social and economic justice to resolve deeply entrenched health, education, and social disparities that are ultimately compromising the wellbeing of children and the adults that care for them. Our emphasis is on the St. Louis region. Additionally, we will continue to partner with organizations working at the local, state, national, and global levels.

## Our Anchoring Pillars



**Commitment to Equity** – We are committed to intentionally centering our efforts on equity. We are dedicated to elevating policy solutions that deconstruct racism and all forms of structural oppression. We recognize the importance of intersectionality and know that all forms of oppression are linked.



**Community at the Center** – We strive to function as a community catalyst that uplifts the lived experiences and stories of those in the St. Louis region. This is a critical framework that will strengthen and build grass-roots advocacy efforts to deconstruct policies that perpetuate disparate outcomes for children and the adults that care for them.



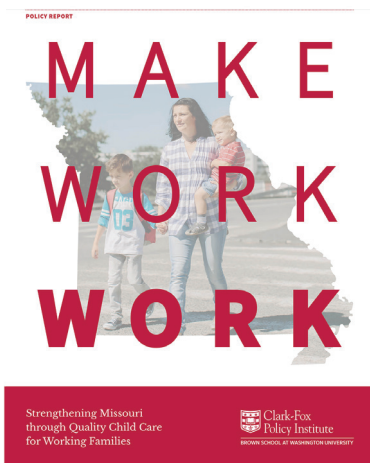
**Evidence-Informed Policy** – We acknowledge that policy is a powerful tool that must be grounded in science. Effective policy is driven by aligning scientific research with lived experiences. Community voices are centered and paired with scientific evidence to establish policy solutions.



**Education and Training** – We provide exceptional training in community-focused policy practice that prepares students, scholars, community members, and future policymakers to navigate the policymaking and implementation process.

## Strategic Priorities

- Identify and support existing community campaigns, coalitions, and action groups.
- Engage with researchers, policymakers, and the community to produce evidence-informed reports, policy briefs, and other policy products.
- Train existing and future policy practitioners, researchers, and community members in effective evidence-informed policy development, legislative advocacy, and community organizing.
- Build a national network of policy-focused social work organizations, researchers, and Brown School alumni dedicated to the development and implementation of evidence-informed policy solutions.



- ▲ Make Work Work: Strengthening Missouri through Quality Child Care for Working Families



- ▲ Launching Lifelong Success: Ensuring St. Louis' Kids are Ready by Five

## Our Logic Model

### Engage the Community



Through radical listening, we engage community members and partners to collectively identify issues, needs, and solutions to advance equitable policies and practices.

### Analyze



We build upon the intellectual capital of the Brown School and its partners by analyzing current scientific research to inform our evidence-informed policy solutions.

### Translate



We serve as an engine of translation, combining research and community voice into accessible, informative, and effective products that serve as policy tools in the hands of informed citizens, lawmakers, scholars, and civic leaders.

### Elevate Policy Solutions



We elevate policy solutions that lift up racial equity by encouraging discourse on policy as a structural solution to racism and all forms of oppression.

### Improve Outcomes

Our goals are improved child wellbeing and healthy youth development while addressing systemic inequity to ensure that all children – and the people that care for them – have the opportunity to thrive.



# Goals



The Clark-Fox Policy Institute utilizes an intersectional, racial equity lens, to ensure that health, educational and financial outcomes for children and the adults that care for them, are not predicated on race or personal identity.

Through our intentional efforts we are charting a path towards the following outcomes:

- Expanded coordination, alignment, and unity among community organizations and policymakers working on improving child wellbeing.
- Increased understanding and appreciation of lived experiences through deep community engagement practices.
- Reduced health, education, and social disparities that disproportionately impact Black and Brown children and families in the St. Louis region and beyond.
- Alignment with the strategic plans of the Brown School and Washington University in St. Louis.



**“It’s time to double down on our role and impact in St. Louis.”**

*Andrew D. Martin*  
Chancellor  
Washington University  
in St. Louis.



▲ **Graduate Policy Scholars**

The first cohort of Graduate Policy Scholars inducted into the Clark-Fox Policy Institute. There are now over 250 Graduate Policy Scholars highly trained and skilled policy practitioners ready to advance equitable evidence-informed policy solutions.



The Clark-Fox Policy Institute embraces the bold goals of the strategic plans of the Brown School and Washington University in St. Louis. These plans make a stated commitment to contributing to meaningful impact and a vibrant region. The Clark-Fox Policy Institute will lean into the collective work of addressing racial inequities and economic mobility with the school and university.





▲ **Mayor Jones presenting proclamation.** Mayor Tishaura Jones presents a proclamation in recognition of exceptional service improving the lives of children and families in the City of St. Louis

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