

Sarah Hopper, Founder & CEO

Sarah Hopper is the Founder and CEO of Sound Philanthropy, LLC. A recognized expert in philanthropic consulting, Sarah works with giving-focused families and individuals to guide them in meaningful philanthropic journeys. She previously held the leadership position of Vice President of Philanthropic Services at the Seattle Foundation.

Since 2002, Sarah Hopper has helped hundreds of clients achieve their giving objectives by creating effective proprietary tools, methods, and workshops for maximizing impact, engaging the next generation, and cultivating sustainable family legacies.

Sarah founded Sound Philanthropy in 2011. She takes the time to truly know her clients, their values, family dynamics, and lifestyle. Coming from a third-generation philanthropic family herself, Sarah has an innate grasp of the psychology of giving as well as its rewards: thoughtful, intentional philanthropy — philanthropy as a participatory personal journey — benefits donors as much as it does the world.

Sarah understands and supports the important role philanthropy plays in peoples' lives, in the continuity of families, and as a connector across generations — one that brings family members together in a way that's bigger than they are and expands their horizons. She sees philanthropy not only as a way to change the world, but also as a tool for dealing with the complexity around wealth and family business, as a springboard into governance and teamwork, and as a training ground for the next generation.

One of Sarah's greatest strengths is her ability to understand her clients and their philanthropy holistically, entwined together, while maintaining the highest level of attention to every detail, every intricate family dynamic. She sees the forest *and* the trees.

In 2022, Sarah formed the Racial Equity Action Community (REAC), a learning community of leaders and philanthropists who strive to reimagine and actualize how a cross-racial group can address racial justice issues through love, compassion, and philanthropy.

In addition to her private client work, Sarah is a sought-after speaker, educator, and [thought leader](#) on topics related to philanthropy and family wealth. She has appeared in multiple media, including [Philanthropy News Digest](#), [ParentMap](#), [Geekwire](#), [Seattle Magazine](#), and [The Seattle Times](#) (as Sarah Wirz), and has been interviewed for [The Philanthropy Works Podcast](#). She is a Board member of the Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network.

A Seattle native, Sarah lives on Bainbridge Island in Washington State with her husband, three children, and two dogs. She has a BA in Economics from Smith College.



Speaking Engagements

- *Philanthropy: A Panel Discussion with Howard Wright and Kate Janeway*, Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network, Event Designer & Moderator, 2021
- *Philanthropic Redlining & Philanthropy as Reparations: A Panel Discussion with Andrea Caupain and Beth McCaw*, Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network, Event Designer & Moderator, 2021
- *Philanthropy During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network, 2020
- *Stories of Philanthropic Women*, Bainbridge Community Foundation LeadHERship Series, 2019
- *Avoiding Family Philanthropy Pitfalls*, NW Family Business Advisors Panel, 2019
- *Extraordinary Philanthropic Women*, Bainbridge Community Foundation LeadHERship Series, 2018
- *Innovative Philanthropy Panel*, Giving Tech Labs, 2018
- *A Conversation with the Wright Family*, Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network, Panel Moderator, 2017
- *A Conversation with Kate Janeway*, Presenter, Washington Women's Foundation "Discovery Days," 2015
- *The Role of Philanthropy in Family Business*, NW Family Business Advisors, 2013
- *How to Start a Conversation about Philanthropy with your Clients*, SWA NW Regional Conference, 2012
- *Effective Ways to Engage Children in Philanthropy*, Seattle Children's Conference on Philanthropic & Legacy Planning for Professional Advisors, 2012
- *Engaging Family of All Ages in Philanthropy*, Washington Planned Giving Council, 2012