



Sylvia Meiling Yee is vice president of programs at the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, which works to advance rights and create opportunities so that all people can live with dignity. Over a period of more than two decades, she has played a key role in building the Fund’s programs on education equity, leadership, immigrant rights and integration, and gay and lesbian rights. Her work at the Fund reflects a lifelong commitment to social justice and is deeply linked to her many

community and nonprofit leadership roles.

In the course of her work at the Fund, Sylvia has helped spark several major local initiatives. For example, she played a lead role in establishing the San Francisco Beacon Initiative, a public-private collaboration to turn schools into community centers for youth development. She also is a founder of the Oakland-based Coaching Corps, which aims to level the playing field in sports opportunities for girls and low-income youth in California.

Prior to joining the Fund, Dr. Yee was a program executive in education and health at the San Francisco Foundation. She taught and administered programs at the elementary, secondary and university levels in the US and in the People’s Republic of China. She also directed a community-based nonprofit agency, now known as Mission Graduates, which provides educational services to immigrant and low-income youth in San Francisco's Mission District.

Sylvia has served as board chair—and in many cases, co-founder—of numerous national and local organizations, including Family Support America, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, and Asian Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy. She is currently a board member of Teaching Channel, BoardSource, and SPARK SF Public Schools.

Sylvia earned a Ph.D. in educational administration and policy from Stanford University, a master’s degree in teaching at Reed College and a bachelor’s in history at Stanford University. She co-authored the multi-ethnic book, *Got Me a Story to Tell: Five Children Tell About Their Lives*, and wrote *Careers in the Classroom*, published by Teachers College Press. She has received numerous awards for her civil rights work and community leadership.

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