

Laura Dover

From: Elmina B. Sewall Foundation <info@sewallfoundation.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 11:29 AM
To: Laura Dover
Subject: Elmina B. Sewall Foundation Newsletter

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Sewall Foundation Welcomes Dr. Gabriela Alcalde



The Elmina B. Sewall Foundation (EBSF) is pleased to announce that Gabriela Alcalde has been appointed Executive Director and will join the team on August 1, 2019. Gabriela brings over 20 years' experience as a leader, grantmaker, and scholar working at the intersections of public health, community organizing, advocacy, racial equity, and systems change. Her approach recognizes the interrelated, systems-driven and community-centered nature of human and environmental health and wellbeing.

"Gabriela brings a powerful combination of experience leading and inspiring systems change, amplifying community voices, and working collaboratively to advance more vibrant, healthy, inclusive, and equitable communities. She is the ideal leader to shepherd EBSF through its next stage of development and impact," said Carol Wishcamper, Chair of the Board of Directors.

A native of Lima, Peru, Gabriela emigrated to the U.S. as a child with her family, and after living throughout the South for much of her adult life, she will relocate to Maine this summer with her husband, two sons, two dogs and a cat. Her family enjoys rock climbing and hiking together, and all look forward to experiencing Maine's natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

"I am excited to be joining the dedicated team at EBSF and honored to work with the Board as we deepen and more fully integrate equity into the work to improve the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment," says Dr. Alcalde. "I look forward to us working in relationship with communities and organizations across Maine."

[Continue reading about Gabriela](#)

A Grateful Farewell From Jay Espy

As we welcome our new Executive Director, Gabriela Alcalde, to the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, I want to take just a moment to thank you, my friends and colleagues, for the eleven wonderful years I've enjoyed serving in this role.

Thinking back to my earliest days at Sewall - equipped with a laptop and coffee shop wifi - I am awed by the privilege I have had. I could not have imagined then how many creative, caring people I would meet in these ensuing years – folks who work tirelessly every day to make Maine a more prosperous, resilient, healthy, inclusive and just place. It is you who have inspired me and made my time here so rewarding.

I am proud of the path the Sewall Foundation has followed and humbled by the help we've had all along the way. Mainers are generous people and I am certain that by continuing to work together across differences and with common purpose the future is bright. I'm counting on it - Maine is home!

With heartfelt thanks to each of you,

Jay



Speaking of Staff Changes . . .

Has your organization recently experienced a change in staff? If so, please [email Laura](#) so we can update our contact records accordingly.

Our grants database holds a contact specific to your grant request, and an organizational contact (usually the Executive Director). We periodically send reminders and notifications to these contacts. We don't want you to miss important information!

Healthy People Healthy Places

Sewall staff has been hard at work this year exploring equitable and creative ways to narrow the focus of the Healthy People Healthy Places grants program. They have developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the thinking behind the refinements process and anticipated timeframes for the redesigned program to begin. [Read their responses to the FAQ's.](#)





Staff Picks

We surveyed our staff to find out what articles, blogs, movies, podcasts, or books have captured their attention and inform their thinking. Please [email us](#) with your recommendations!

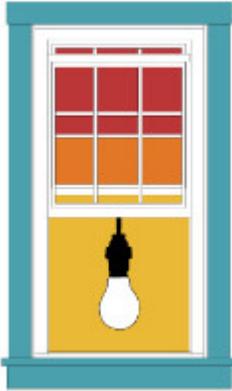
[The Grid: The Fraying Wires Between Americans and Our Energy Future](#) by Gretchen Bakke. This deeply-researched book describes the haphazard evolution of the U.S. electrical grid, the fragility of our current electrical infrastructure and the systemic challenges we face in adapting both this infrastructure and our culture to a new clean-energy future. Bakke offers an entertaining and understandable dissertation on a highly complex topic of urgent importance to the health of our society and natural world.

[Watership Down](#) by Richard Adams. Set in the Hampshire Downs in Southern England, an idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of “suspense, hot pursuit, and derring-do” (Chicago Tribune) follows a band of rabbits in flight from the incursion of man and the destruction of their home. A great source of renewal for anyone seeking a boost in hope and wisdom, as only our animal teachers can provide.

[Living on Earth](#), Public Radio International's weekly environmental news program. Each piece brings to life the interconnectedness of community and environmental well-being. A particularly powerful episode [featured an interview with the late Wangari Maathai](#) from December, 2011. She was the first African woman, and first environmentalist, to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Professor Maathai inspired women in Kenya to plant millions of trees as a means of improving community health and well-being.

[Katahdin Gazetteer: A Roadmap to the Future](#) (A Vision & Action Plan). The Katahdin Gazetteer is a once-in-a-generation body of work produced from hundreds of conversations, survey responses, sticky-dots and edits from community members throughout the Katahdin Region. It

provides an ambitious vision for the region's future and lays out achievable actions that provide a roadmap to start the journey.



Upcoming Events

The Maine Department of Economic and Community Development is hosting a series of regional meetings the week of June 24 to invite stakeholder input into developing a new ten-year strategic plan for economic growth and opportunity in the state. Learn more about the [Strategic Planning Task Force](#), and [find a regional meeting](#) near you.

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