

CREATING AND SUSTAINING CHANGE

BY JOSIE FAASS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As has been the case for the last several months, it's a challenge to write a monthly update – the world is moving so fast, it feels like anything committed to paper is immediately outdated. As if a global pandemic and large-scale social unrest aren't exciting enough, RSF is in a period of rapid change too. Let me start with that.

The big news, at least from the perspective of the RSF staff, is that we've moved our office! For the first time since its founding in 1925, the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation now resides outside of Manhattan, in Princeton, New Jersey, to be exact. The move, which has been in the works for months (and stalled temporarily by COVID-19), is a welcome change, and it will benefit RSF operationally and financially.

Personally, I'm most excited that it will enable me to work side-by-side with Josh Vincent (Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Economics) on a daily basis. He will be joining us in Princeton to continue spearheading the efforts of the Center for Property Tax Reform.

RSF also recently bid goodbye to four wonderful Board Members: Ed Miller, Gregg Erickson, Ted Gwartney, and Wendell Fitzgerald. All of these individuals have been highly engaged in the Foundation's management and operations, and all will be sorely missed by their fellow Board Members and RSF staff. But, we are honored to welcome an amazing new cohort of Directors: Christopher England, Jeremy Lucas, Mark Mollineaux, Matthew Downhour, and Steve Sklar. Each brings with them a wealth of experience, a deep commitment to economic and social equity, and fresh ideas about how best to realize the Foundation's mission.

The Foundation also closed its fiscal year on June 30. We're beginning a new chapter now, which is reason for some forward thinking. Although the outside world may be pretty much impossible to predict, internally we're committed to making FY21 a year of new efforts and continuing commitments. What will we be doing? A lot!



- The GIS tool we're building to explore the implementation of land value tax in U.S. cities is expanding to include new locations, and we'll be creating a user tutorial and begin actively promoting it soon.
- We have two new academic research efforts in the works, so more to come on that soon.
- With the move came the ability to create an onsite library and archive, and those efforts are about to begin.
- A website redesign is underway and will be launched soon as well.
- We're scaling back our focus on book sales and distribution, although our titles will all be available as free PDFs on our website and for sale on Amazon (as print and E-Books).

Of course, none of RSF's work happens in a void. The pandemic surges on as our nation grapples with a period of profound social and political unrest. It is easy to feel helpless amid circumstances as uncertain and all-encompassing as these; but at the Foundation, we are choosing hope. We believe that our mission – to promote the ideas of Henry George, which are fundamentally about equity and justice – has never been more important than it is now.

The year ahead of us offers many opportunities to share that vision with a world that so badly needs it. I hope you'll join us as we continue to push the need for positive change and share our message with others who want to be a part of a solution to the current political, social and economic unrest.