Stylianos Vassilakis

Protopapadaki 16 121 33 Peristeri Athens Greece 210.574.8016 697.235.8656

My international experience in philanthropy is deep as well as wide-ranging, as are my abilities to develop and manage complex capital projects.

I joined the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) almost 13 years ago, initially as a program officer, but also to assist in the massive venture of building and developing SNF's signature global project, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC), specifically, the design of the new facilities of the National Library of Greece. My strategic and analytical focus quickly led to my participating in every aspect of the Foundation's work, and to moving up the ladder. Whether it was communications; planning and implementing complex initiatives; organizing the international conference that is now a key annual SNF event; or representing the Foundation at various venues globally, I consistently sought to ensure the most professional approach and results. As global head of the programs department, which is the heart of the Foundation's mission, I unified a dispersed staff working at three different locations (New York, Monte Carlo, Athens) and recast our team's approach to grantmaking in ways that went beyond ostensible (and often immaterial) metrics (KPIs, for example) and toward as detailed, comprehensive, and direct an understanding as possible of the social landscape within which a potential grantee was operating — and the conditions on the ground from the perspective of a local as opposed to outside observer. I thus played a critical role in convincing the management team to undertake certain projects such as, for example, a WPA-like approach to youth unemployment during the Greek crisis, given the disastrous socioeconomic context in which, to put it simply, nothing else was working.

In general, my entire professional life has been defined by work that has a visible and tangible social or community impact, whether teaching, working for the Vryonis Center, publishing, or, finally, my time at SNF. I do not believe that it is enough for alienated and ignored voices to be heard. What is needed is to (re)solve seemingly intractable problems—which is precisely why, while I've decided to leave the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, I am *not* retiring.

What I believe I can continue to do is analyze complex issues, break them down into their various components, anticipate potential problems, and therefore help create a clear map for understanding and trying to address them. Most of all, I believe I can bring people together and provide a sense of leadership that helps and inspires them.

EDUCATION

1998: PhD in Classics, New York University 1989: MA in Classics, New York University 1987: BA in Liberal Arts, SUNY at Stony Brook

Strategic consultant for cultural and educational institutions in the United States and Europe, 2022-today

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION (SNF), NEW YORK, NY

Founded in 1996, SNF is a fully endowed international philanthropic organization that has committed more than \$3.2 billion through over 5,100 grants in 135 countries.

Chief Programs Officer and Director of Strategic Initiatives, 2014–2022

I was involved in every major Foundation decision, both from a managerial and programmatic perspective. Specifically:

- ◆ Member of six-person Program Management Team (PMT), including President and Global COO, that directly managed all grantmaking and communications, and many operational, functions. PMT manages 37 staff, oversees hundreds of grants, and screens all grant applications.
- ◆ Member of team that executed full reorganization of the Foundation, including rewriting global organization chart.
- ◆ Managed Foundation's global grantmaking across three offices (New York, Athens, Monte Carlo), overseeing team of 20 program officers.
- ◆ Developed and managed implementation of SNF's \$100 million COVID-19 Global Relief Initiative (207 grants).
- ◆ Developed and managed implementation of SNF's two relief initiatives to address the Greek socioeconomic crisis (\$100 million each, and 336 and 172 grants, respectively).
- ◆ Developed and managed implementation of SNF's *Recharging the Youth Initiative* (77 grants), addressing high Greek youth unemployment. As part of initiative, developed and managed three large WPA-type projects of significant impact.
- ♦ Developed, organized, and managed SNF's annual international conference for 12 years.
- Managed New York communications staff.
- ♦ Member of Board of Directors of Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center A.E., a nonprofit limited liability company that undertook the SNFCC's \$750 million construction, funded exclusively by the Foundation, until the SNFCC was donated to the Greek state in February 2017.
- Member of Board of Directors of Health Initiative A.E., a nonprofit limited liability company that oversees development and execution of the Foundation's \$500 million landmark health initiative, including construction of three new hospitals.

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Co-Director of Communications 2011-2014

Developed a robust portfolio of numerous multimillion-dollar grants, and co-managed the Foundation's daily communication's work, including writing and editing biannual grantmaking reports.

Programs Officer, 2009-2011

Managed a diverse and global portfolio of multimillion-dollars grants.

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CEO, greekworks.com, start-up multimedia cultural, educational, and information company, New York City, 2000-2009

- ◆ Very soon after its establishment, *greekworks.com* became the premier scholarly publisher of Greek and Greek-related books in the US, generating approximately \$1,500,000 in sales. With all titles in second or third printings, the company also added a new imprint, *Commons*, and expanded its publishing program in Greece.
- ◆ As CEO, collaborated extensively with the American Library Association. By participating in numerous workshops and forums, I acquired experience in a number of issues that concern libraries today, from collection development to digitization, epublishing, digital libraries, and public programs.
- ♦ Organized public lectures in collaboration with over 200 Greek American communities throughout the US.

Director, New York office, The Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, New York City, 1997-2000

As director of the New York office, I developed and implemented, in collaboration with the Foundation for Hellenic Culture, an extensive and popular cultural and educational program, which included, among many other events:

- ◆ Stolen Art: Questions and Issues for the Next Century, series of symposia on major issues of stolen art and cultural patrimony.
- ♦ Who Owns Culture?, three-day international conference on cultural property and patrimony, in collaboration with the National Arts Journalism Program and Italian Academy for Advanced Study in America, Columbia University.
- → The Holocaust in Greece, series of public programs on the Holocaust in Greece in collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- ♦ *Modern Odysseys: New Faces*, group show of younger Greek American artists in collaboration with the Queens Museum of Art (QMA).
- ♦ Modern Odysseys: Greek American Artists of the 20th Century, group show of established Greek American artists in collaboration with QMA.
- ♦ Thessaloniki USA Film Festival, contemporary cinema from Greece and the Balkans in collaboration with Anthology Film Archives.
- ◆ Aegean: Trajectories in Light and Time, exhibition of contemporary Greek photography in collaboration with the Photographic Center of Skopelos.
- ◆ Contours of Hellenism: Classical Antiquity and Modern Greek Culture, three-day international conference in collaboration with the department of classics, UCLA.

Research Fellow, Director of Outreach Program, The Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, Sacramento, California, 1995-1997

As director, I developed and implemented the Center's extensive outreach activities, which included Modern Greek language classes, lecture series, academic conferences, film festivals, and art exhibits in collaboration with West Coast academic and cultural institutions.

As a research fellow, I made significant contributions toward developing the Center's outstanding library, with significant collections in the areas of Greek, Balkan, Turkish, and Near Eastern studies.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

- ♦ 1994. Graduate seminars on Byzantine institutions, society, and culture.
- ♦ 1993. Seminar in classical studies I, Constantine the Great.
- ◆ 1989-1992. Elementary Modern Greek I & II, Intermediate Modern Greek I & II.

I received the Outstanding Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching, College of Arts and Science.

PRESENTATIONS

- → The Study of Modern Greek in the United States: A Case of Arrested Development?, conference on Contours of Hellenism: Classical Antiquity and Modern Greek Culture, UCLA, 2000.
- ◆ Cannibalism in Antiquity?, interdisciplinary seminars, The Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, Sacramento, 1999.
- ◆ Embeirikos's <u>The Great Eastern</u>: The Construction of a Utopia of Perversion?, seminars on Modern Greek literature and culture, Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, 1998.
- ♦ Greek-American Novelists: The Struggle between an American Future and a Greek Past, Fourth International Conference of Greeks in English Speaking Countries, Adelaide, Australia, 1998.
- ◆ Constructing Women as the Other in Karkavitsas's Novel <u>The Beggar</u>, conference on <u>Images of Greeks in World Literature and History</u>, California State University, Sacramento, 1995.
- ◆ Plethon's Interpretations of Plato and Aristotle in <u>De Differentiis</u> as Historical and Cultural Phenomena, third meeting of the International Society for the Classical Tradition, Boston

- University, 1995.
- ◆ Plethon's <u>De Differentii</u>s: Interpretation or Manipulation?, meeting of the Byzantine Studies Association, Ann Arbor, 1994.
- ◆ Stratis Tsirkas: An Orientalist?, symposium of the Modern Greek Studies Association, Berkeley, 1993.
- ◆ Inappropriate Epithets in Homer, annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, Georgetown University, 1991.

PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Review of Kostes, K., "In the Time of Black Death: Images from the Societies of the Greek Peninsula, 14th-19th Centuries," *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, 2002.
- ◆ "The Study of Modern Greek in the United States: A Case of Arrested Development,"

 Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora, 2002.
- ◆ Editor, conference proceedings of Contours of Hellenism: Classical Antiquity and Modern Greek Culture, Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora, 2002.

SKILLS

To sum up, I only want to reiterate that my strongest skills lie in my ability to think analytically and strategically, which allows me to develop and implement complex projects in different areas, and to familiarize myself with new subject matters; in my understanding of leadership and motivation, which also entails knowing when to undertake tasks and when to delegate them, and how to provide structure and direction to complex projects; and, finally, in my writing and editorial capabilities, which allow me to present complex issues in a lucid manner that conveys substantive information.