

OXY Occidental College

Women in Philanthropy: Values, Vision, and Voice

November 12, 11:00AM - 12:30PM

Panelist Bios

Opening Speaker: Gloria Duffy '75



Title: President and CEO of The Commonwealth Club, Occidental College Trustee, 2020 Occidental College Alumna of the Year

Gloria Duffy has been president and CEO of The Commonwealth Club since 1996. She oversees the organizational strategy, programming, publications, outreach, membership and fundraising for the nation's largest and oldest public affairs forum.

All enabled by key philanthropic support, Dr. Duffy has initiated several special projects at the Club, including Voices of Reform (now the independent organization California Forward), a PBS film and a book of the first 100 years of the Club's speeches. She led the site search, \$32 million capital campaign, and construction project for the Club's headquarters at 110 The Embarcadero in San Francisco, the first time the organization has owned its own home. She is honored that the Club hosts ClimateOne, created and run by fellow Oxy alum Greg Dalton, the most active dialogue on climate change threats and solutions. During the COVID period, the Club immediately pivoted to an online format, and has produced over 230 livestreamed talks, interviews and panel discussions on the health, environmental, political and other issues facing us.

Prior to becoming president and CEO of The Commonwealth Club, Dr. Duffy was U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense and special coordinator for cooperative threat reduction, overseeing a \$400 million US annual budget to assist the former Soviet countries in dismantling their weapons of mass destruction. She has done a public charitable foundation start-up - Ploughshares Fund in 1982 - and served as its first Executive Director. She worked for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation creating a funding program in her field. She served as Board Chair of the Civilian R&D Foundation, part of the US National Science Foundation. She was Treasurer of the Compton Foundation, a private philanthropic foundation. Her personal philanthropy follows her professional and personal engagement - Oxy, Ploughshares Fund, the Club, her hometown public library, hometown park conservancy, etc.

Dr. Duffy received her A.B. magna cum laude in 1975 from Occidental College and her M.A. (1977), M.Phil. (1980), and Ph.D. (1991), all in political science, from Columbia University in New York. She also holds a Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa), awarded by the University of San Francisco in 2006.