



(720) 943-9865

proposals@calderfdn.org

1331 17th Street, Suite 602
Denver, CO 80202

Vision & Mission

Our Vision: We envision a nation where every child has the opportunity to obtain an excellent education, enabling them to walk a path to economic independence and success of their own choosing.

Our Mission: We invest in organizations that seek to provide high-quality learning opportunities for children in under-resourced communities.

Our Beliefs

- An excellent education is the most effective lever for creating a path to economic independence and success of one's own choosing.
- Powerful learning opportunities can be found both inside and outside of schools.
- Making efficient investments with broad impact, we also ground ourselves in the immeasurable value of positively impacting even a single child.
- There are certain core tenets of a high-quality learning opportunity, and the expression of those tenets can and should take diverse forms based on the needs and values of different communities.
- In investing across the risk spectrum, we are willing to take significant risk when there is the potential to realize proportionate impact.

Our Educational Tenets

We believe leaders need to ensure that the following practices are woven into any learning opportunity to create the optimal conditions for success, though the specific form they take may vary significantly. We take an evolving approach, revisiting our assumptions periodically and embracing new practices when evidence for their efficacy emerges.

Curriculum – Rigorous, coherent, culturally relevant, high-quality curriculum is utilized to build knowledge and skills.

Engagement – Student engagement and achievement are prioritized and thoughtfully cultivated.

Community – Diverse perspectives are welcome, a strong sense of community and inclusion is present, and families are valued as partners.

Character – Students are developed broadly and holistically, beyond academics.

The Founder

The Louis Calder Foundation was established in 1951 “for educational, charitable, and benevolent uses and purposes.” To this day, The Foundation continues to follow and expand upon Louis Calder’s beliefs and efforts in promoting childhood education.

The aggregate and appraised value of Louis Calder’s gifts to The Foundation is \$36,399,017.

The Life of Louis Calder (1879-1963)

Mr. Calder was born in New York City on March 8, 1879, to James Calder and Mary Helwig Calder who immigrated to the United States from Scotland and Ireland, respectively. He broke into the “paper business” at the age of 8 by selling newspapers, which he continued to do all through his school years. Just before he reached the age of 18, he was offered two jobs – one with a railroad at \$50 a month and another as an office boy with Perkins-Goodwin at \$4 a week. As he averaged \$15 or more a week selling newspapers, the decision was a difficult one to make, but the paper business, in spite of its lower financial return, had the greater appeal. His interview at Perkins-Goodwin was all he needed to know it was his best opportunity, a choice he never had a reason to regret.

Perkins-Goodwin was one of the largest marketing and management organizations in the pulp and paper field, serving as an essential link between pulp and paper mills and their markets. Starting as an office boy, between 1897 and 1907 he saved enough money to buy his first shares of company stock and was elected a director two years later, rising to become President and controlling shareholder almost 25 years after joining the firm. He successfully positioned Perkins-Goodwin as an industry leader throughout his tenure and continued as Board Chairman until he died in 1963.

Driving Innovation Within the Paper Industry

The annual output of the United States paper mills running on wood pulp in the late 1920s was around 3 million tons, but more than half the materials used were imported. The timberlands of the northern United States, stands of slow-growing spruce, were being greatly reduced. Recognizing the seriousness of this situation, Mr. Calder decided it was necessary to investigate alternative sources outside the boundaries of the United States, particularly the Scandinavian countries where Perkins-Goodwin was well and favorably known. In 1929 Perkins-Goodwin acquired the Scandinavian Pulp Agency, Inc. resulting in Perkins-Goodwin representation of a large portion of the Scandinavian Paper Mills in the United States.

Mr. Calder had witnessed the development of kraft paper from its earliest days. When he first started working for Perkins-Goodwin, paper making had been largely confined to the Middle Atlantic and New England States, and production consisted mostly of newsprint and book papers. While making a survey of the South in 1934, Mr. Calder became convinced that the idea of making newsprint out of lesser used Southern Pine was a sound one and that its successful development would mean the beginning of a great new industry for the South. He was among the first to recognize and supported the work that would revolutionize the use of fast-growing southern pine as a resource for producing newsprint and kraft paper, reducing the industry’s dependence on Northern Spruce at a time when paper was becoming hard-to-find.

In the 1930s, as a controlling shareholder in Union Bag & Paper Corp., he was instrumental in the building of the company’s Savannah, Georgia, paper plant. Completed in 1936, it remains an economic driver for the region. He also became a founder and director of Southland Paper Mills in Lufkin, TX, through his partnership with East Texas timber interests. No one could have foreseen that World War II would break out in 1939 and that a few years later pulp and paper would become essential products and two of the most strictly rationed commodities. Being at the hub of the wheel around which the problems of the suppliers and users gyrated, Perkins-Goodwin did its part and enabled the industry to meet the multiple requirements of the armed forces and civilian needs, in spite of labor and material shortages and the fact that pulp imports from Scandinavia were completely cut off.

Pioneering the First Gas Stations

While establishing Perkins-Goodwin as a leader in the industry, Mr. Calder was also a successful pioneer in the retail gasoline market. During World War I, he originated one of the first drive-in, metered gas stations in New York. This venture, known as the Kesbec Oil Company, grew to 55 stations by 1931, when Mr. Calder sold a controlling interest to Standard Oil. Mr. Calder continued as president, and ultimately more than 80 gas stations served customers on New York and Westchester County parkways.



A Love for Nature

Mr. Calder was an avid outdoorsman and naturalist; his love for nature was well known and appreciated by family, friends, and colleagues. Alongside his talents, drive, and savviness as a businessman and innovator, Mr. Calder found great solace, peace, and humility in the presence of nature.

In 1967, The Foundation gifted his 113-acre estate to Fordham University with the understanding that the “premises will be used primarily as a reserve for the study of the natural environment and other fields of ecology...” for the university’s faculty and students. Now known as the Calder Center for Ecological Studies, the facility is renowned for its biological and ecological research. The Calder Center’s continued research helps to comprehend, explore, and preserve the natural world Louis treasured throughout all his days.

Staff

Barbara Atkeson
Senior Program Officer

M. Alexander Calder
Executive Director

Claire Cohen
Finance and Operations Manager
Holly Nuechterlein
Program Director

Kristin Pazulski
Grants Administrator

Trustees

Peter D. Calder
Trustee

Frank E. Shanley
Trustee

M. Alexander Calder
Trustee

Assets under management and a comparison to local community and private foundations:

The Louise Calder Foundation

2020 990 SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Net assets without donor restrictions 216,288,032

<https://www.louiscalderfoundation.org/>

Patterson Foundation

ASSETS \$274,127,553 semi-restricted

Sarasota

ASSETS \$386,793,850 donor advised and unrestricted

Charlotte Community Foundation

ASSETS \$19,872,971 donor advised and unrestricted

<https://www.guidestar.org/search>