

Laura Yates Clark

President, Foundation For The Carolinas

Laura Yates Clark serves as president of Foundation For The Carolinas, leading civic engagement efforts and overseeing initiatives for the fifth-largest community foundation in the U.S. As a member of executive management, Clark works closely with the CEO to set and implement the strategic direction of the organization.



Clark previously served as President and CEO of United Way of Greater Charlotte, leading efforts to improve economic mobility and advance racial equity across four counties. A Charlotte native, Laura was named the sixth leader in the nearly 90-year history of United Way of Greater Charlotte in August 2018. Prior to the role, she joined the United Way team in 2016 as executive vice president and chief impact officer and led the transformation of the organization's community impact strategy to more directly address economic mobility challenges across the Charlotte region. Under Laura's leadership, United Way increased its investment to expand two major community initiatives: United Neighborhoods to drive neighborhood transformation and revitalization and Unite Charlotte to improve racial equity and increase social capital.

A proven leader and longtime advocate for children and families, Clark previously served as CEO of the Renaissance West Community Initiative, director of The Larry King Center at Charlotte's Council for Children's Rights and an earlier stint with United Way as director of evaluation and community impact. She previously served as the chair of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Charlotte Branch, and as a member of the board for NC Child. She currently serves as a member of the Purpose Built Communities Board of Directors and was previously on the board of United Way of North Carolina.

Clark earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Appalachian State University and a master's degree in clinical/community psychology from UNC Charlotte. In her downtime, Clark enjoys reading novels, cooking, traveling to the beach and relaxing with her two rescue dogs, Mabel and Henry.