



Donald Boesch: I am Donald Boesch, better known as Don Boesch and I am with the Emeritus Professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. I was on their board of directors since 2007 I think. So that's about 12 years. Well, I was on the board during the time when the board decided that it was going to end. The foundation was going to end and so I had a role to play in the planning for the spend out of the foundation and the critical decisions we made to try to make our investments in a very strategic way that would have longterm benefits. So in that sense, the activities of the board, the grant making, changed pretty considerably, especially over the last eight years or so when we very definitively tried to focus on those kinds of investments that would have longterm benefit.

Donald Boesch: Anytime you're entered that sort of a decision, there are obviously differences of opinion of board members. There's also the community that depended on the foundation, the grantees. they were all trying to figure out what that meant for them and how to prepare their futures with that source of funding going away and also how to take advantage of the gifts that we made at the end. So all of those things of course, result in lack of understanding, some differences of opinion. But there was actually, overall, it was a very smooth process with lots of substantive discussions about board members, about what our priorities were. We work together, determine the process by which we made the last grants from the foundation. And in the end, I think we were very satisfied with the outcome. And that was really, to me, it was reinforced, that feeling was reinforced by wonderful event we had at the conclusion. But we had many of the grantees, not only the ones that got grants, but the ones who had had grants in the past come together and really express a great appreciation for the work of the foundation.

Donald Boesch: Well, I think from the standpoint of the Town Creek Foundation and what we did, we were trying to think of those things. And so we focused, the Town Creek Foundation focuses on things that are specific to Maryland, what we should be doing with respect to our role and responsibilities to deal with the climate crisis. We also focused on the Chesapeake Bay and what was needed to be done to honor and fulfill our commitments to restore the bay. And then of course, in addition to that, we were thinking about sustainability of our enterprise and how do we do that.

Donald Boesch: So in those ways, they all related. And so I think the common theme given what we're facing today is the urgency at which we have to address the climate crisis because it affects everything. It affects the sustainability of our societies, it affects the bay obviously as well. And so I think that was the coherent message that we don't have much time. We're out of time and we need to take really kind of bold, definitive steps to address the climate crisis by reducing emissions very quickly so that we can limit climate change and the particular important



role Maryland plays in leading that effort as a state which has a long tradition of being progressive about the environment, but also a state frankly that has a social responsibility because it's the best educated, most affluent state in the most powerful nation in the world.

Donald Boesch: I think everyone, man, woman and child, literally, as we see now with Greta Thunberg and so on and children understanding this, this is their future, needs to understand the climate change crisis that we're engaged in right now, needs to understand that involves both individual responsibility and decisions about what we do in our daily lives to lessen the impact that we have, but also the need to demand that our society and our governments at all levels actually show leadership and take the lead in reducing our emissions very quickly and beginning to adapt to the changes that we'll be facing.

Donald Boesch: Maryland is set on a good path in a certain way, but important paths are never easy to travel. And so we are now here in 2020, we're trying to figure out what we need to do to fulfill the commitments we made some years ago to put us on a trajectory, the state of Maryland on a trajectory of reducing its emissions and doing its part to limit climate change. And now we have to face alternative strategies and plans how to do that, whether we're moving fast enough or not. So it's never easy. It's hard to me to say we're absolutely on the right path. Directionally we are, but the pace and the urgency I think needs to be a more seriously taken up.

Donald Boesch: Well, I think first of all, the environment, my field is never been a time when there's more of a need for a bright young people to work on these problems. These are not simple problems, they're not easy, we would have fixed them if they were easy to do. So there are tremendous opportunities for young people to get involved. It doesn't necessarily need to be a scientist or an activist, but they can be involved in many ways in their professions as they go forward. And so I'm very encouraged by what I see now in this youth movement for climate, for example, that young people really get what's going on and they get the urgency of it. And of course, in universities where I've worked most all of my career, the students in universities also understand that this is part of the challenge that we face and they face as citizens.

Donald Boesch: I'm encouraged by the interest, enthusiasm, and urgency by which the younger generation is bringing to bear on this challenge. Because if we look at the problems, why we aren't moving fast enough, it's mostly because people my age, older people are not necessarily getting in and supporting the changes. You can look at the polling that's been done and seeing that the group that's most resistant to change, that the changes we need to make are older people. So I spend a lot of time talking with groups of older people actually, whether they could be religious organizations and so on. And it's really important and I find



that I get more receptivity when I get them think about the changes, the challenges we face in the context of the people they love.

Donald Boesch: So I talk about, I say, "How how many of you have grandchildren?" Of course, they all have grandchildren. And so I then put in the time frame the 2050 to 2100 time frame, about your grandchildren would be the ones to experience these. Don't you love your grandchildren? Don't you want a better world for them? Don't you know that? And map them understand that the actions and the things we do now will determine that future. By that time, it's too late. We need to do that now. So I think the intergenerational concern and ethic that we all have as human beings, I think it's important to touch on that.

Donald Boesch: Well, I spent my whole career working in higher education and working in science and working in the environment. And so I've been involved in research and training our future students to deal with environmental science. I felt fortunate to spend a large part of my career here in Maryland the last 20, 30 years really as a state where this is valued, that they value good science to support important decisions. So now that I've retired from my positions, I'm not retired as a citizen and I'm still engaged in helping our leaders, political leaders, business leaders, thought leaders in helping to come to grips with the environmental problems that I've worked on my whole career.

Donald Boesch: I'm also very fortunate to have had this engagement with the Town Creek Foundation as an important part of that responsibility. Because what Town Creek has done is, it supported the organizations that are at the forefront of bringing the scientific knowledge, what we know about the environment, bringing the implications of that, what needs to be done into action and inspiring and supporting the important government policies, legislation, individual programs and practices that we need to do it. So it's been a good, interesting and unexpected and unusual, but really important part of my career to be involved in the Town Creek Foundation. It's been really a wonderful insight and a personal gratification and learning to see what a couple of individuals who have a commitment and have the resources can do to dedicate those resources. So Ted and Jennifer Stanley, the two founders of the Town Creek Foundation, whose wealth we've really been spending on good things. I just have two enormous respect for what they've done and for what a difference they've made in our state in dealing with our environment.