

# Morning Keynote Plenary

## Robert Egger

### Founder and President of L.A. Kitchen

L.A. Kitchen recovers fresh fruits and vegetables to fuel a culinary arts job training program for men and women coming out of foster care and older men and women returning from incarceration. Egger is also the CEO of Strong Food, L.A. Kitchen's social enterprise business, which employs graduates of the L.A. Kitchen training program, and competes for food service contracts to serve healthy meals to seniors in Los Angeles. Egger pioneered this model during his 24 year tenure as the President of the DC Central Kitchen, the country's first "community kitchen", which has produced over 30 million meals and helped 1,500 men and women gain full time employment. In addition, Egger founded or led numerous efforts (including The Nonprofit Congress and and CForward) to rally employees of nonprofits to educate candidates about the economic role that nonprofits play in every community, and to support candidates who have detailed plans to strengthen the economy that includes nonprofits. Currently, Egger serves on the Board of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, Kitchens for Good, the Philanthropic Collaborative, and Chef Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen. Egger is the author of, *Begging for Change: The Dollars and Sense of Making Nonprofits Responsive, Efficient and Rewarding For All*. Egger speaks throughout the country and internationally on the subjects of hunger, sustainability, nonprofit political engagement and social enterprise.