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Giving With Pride: Considering Participatory Grantmaking in an Anti-Racist, LGBTQ+ Community Foundation

Elizabeth J. Dale, Ph.D., Seattle University, and Nicole J. Plastino, M.N.P.L., Nonprofit Development Consultant

Participatory grantmaking and trust-based philanthropy are two paradigms that can shift the power dynamics in foundation giving. This article examines how Pride Foundation, a regional LGBTQ+ community foundation in the Pacific Northwest, restructured its grantmaking as part of a broader organization-wide commitment to racial justice. Through an embedded case study, this article documents the foundation's self-study year and details five issues that emerged as pivotal aspects of the grantmaking transition: staffing, communication, community participation, funding restrictions, and organizational readiness.

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Faith-Based Public Foundations: Identifying the Field and Assessing Its Impact

Allison K. Ralph, Ph.D., Aspen Institute; Brad R. Fulton, Ph.D., Indiana University; and Samuel Allen, B.A., Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Charitable activity is a core tenet of most faith traditions, and many charitable organizations have a religious identity. This article identifies the field of public foundations, differentiates between faith-based and secular foundations, and compares their characteristics by analyzing Form 990 data. An analysis of these data estimates that 24% of all public charities operate as foundations and that 17% of public foundations are faith-based. This article provides an important lens through which to examine the field of public foundations and can help scholars analyze relationships between religion and philanthropy, help grantmakers assess foundations through a faith-based–secular grid, and help grantees identify funders that share a similar orientation toward religion.

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Grassroots Environmental Justice Work and Philanthropy: Challenges and Opportunities

Jennifer S. Ramirez, Ph.D., Ana I. Baptista, Ph.D., Molly Greenberg, M.S.W., Adrienne Perovich, M.P.A., and Anna Yulsman, M.A., The New School; Antonio Lopez, Ph.D., Chicago Frontlines Funding Initiative, and Andrew Rosenberg, Ph.D., Union of Concerned Scientists

Despite the importance of grassroots environmental justice organizations, the philanthropic sector has devoted the lion's share of environmental funding to more mainstream nonprofits. Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice and the Tishman Environment

and Design Center at The New School conducted a landscape study of environmental funders and grassroots environmental justice organizations in the Gulf South and the Midwest. The foundations examined awarded the bulk of their environmental funding to mainstream organizations and a minuscule fraction to grassroots environmental justice groups. This article offers specific strategies and opportunities for funders to address the misalignments between funders and these grassroots organizations.

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Lead, Advise, Witness: Shifting Mindsets to Achieving Impact at Scale

Jeffrey Sunshine, Ph.D., and Bernadette Sangalang, Ph.D., David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation created Starting Smart and Strong, a 10-year, place-based initiative in three California communities, to develop and test solutions that support parents, caregivers, and educators as they prepare young children to be healthy and ready for school. Seven years in, the authors offer key insights into their experiences as program staff managing this complex initiative and how their approach to scaling impact has shifted over the course of the strategy. Listening deeply to communities and honoring how they define scale and drive their scaling efforts through the systems they built resulted in creative, locally owned solutions to achieve impact. The authors offer insights into how they are thinking about supporting communities' ownership of their own scaling journeys to sustain lasting change, and how roles changed as the strategy matured.

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