



Program Agenda

July 26, 2018 | Arapahoe Community College

Proudly presented by Colorado Association of Funders, Colorado Nonprofit Association, and Community Resource Center

9:00 – 9:30	Registration and Networking Breakfast <i>Attendees are encouraged to sit with funder and nonprofit peers working in similar issue areas</i>
9:30 – 10:15	Welcome and Setting the Tone Interview with CEOs of Community Resource Center, Colorado Nonprofit Association, and Colorado Association of Funders: <i>Why this topic? Why now? What are you seeing in your respective roles?</i>
10:30 – 12:00	Morning Breakouts Select one of the following workshops (descriptions below): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond the Paper Application: How Funders Are Getting to Know Grantees* • Community-Driven Grantmaking: Colorado’s Take • Convening for Systems Change • Fail Better • Feedback Loops: Strategies for Better Communication • Redefining Roles • Reimagining Funder-Nonprofit Relationships
12:15 – 1:45	Lunch Keynote Fund for Shared Insight on elevating the voices of those least heard.
2:00 – 3:30	Afternoon Breakouts Participants can select one of the following workshops (also offered in the morning): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-Driven Grantmaking: Colorado’s Take • Convening for Systems Change • Exploring Openness: Key Takeaways* • Fail Better • Feedback Loops • Redefining Roles • Reimagining Funder-Nonprofit Relationships
3:45 – 4:30	Wrap-up and Closing Forward together

*Indicates workshop is only offered once. All other workshops are offered in morning and afternoon



Workshop Descriptions

Beyond the Paper Application: How Funders Are Getting to Know Grantseekers*

From accepting video applications to holding public grant deliberation sessions, Colorado foundations are innovating in the grant application space to make the process more inclusive, meaningful, and impactful for grantees. Join this session to learn why funders adapted their processes and how they've implemented them. Participate in a dialogue about how the sector can continue to move forward in this regard.

Community-Driven Grantmaking: Colorado's Take

Funding movements which are most relevant to the community. Empowering residents to shape the future of their communities. Capturing insight that can only come from living, working, and volunteering at a local level. This is how Colorado funders describe their efforts to utilize expertise from local communities to drive the grantmaking process. In this session, learn how foundations are implementing community-driven grantmaking, how local nonprofits have informed and engaged in the process, and the ultimate results when communities lead.

Convening for Systems Change

Foundations and nonprofits are leaning into their powerful role as conveners to bring together partners within issue areas and across siloes to address complex problems. This session will highlight organizations who are convening organizations and community members. Speakers will discuss how they framed their approach, what they've seen so far, and any plans moving forward. Participants will also have a chance to participate in mini-convenings during the session to identify unlikely partners and solutions.

Exploring Openness: Key Takeaways*

Over the last year, a cohort of foundation and nonprofit leaders from organizations across the state convened around the topic of openness between nonprofits and foundations. As the meetings progressed, their conversations evolved from specifically openness to foundation and nonprofit relations in general. At the end of the year, the cohort produced a report listing critical components of strong nonprofit-foundation partnerships in Colorado. In this session, cohort members will share what they learned during the year-long process and how they've adapted their work as a result.

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Fail Better

If you have negative connotations when you hear the word “failure,” you’re not alone. In this session, we’ll explore how nonprofits and foundations can get better at talking about failure. Kara Penn, Principal Consultant & Owner of Mission Spark and co-author of *Fail Better: Design Smart Mistakes and Succeed Sooner* will describe the conditions, culture, and habits needed to systematically, ruthlessly, and quickly figure out what works. Throughout the session, participants will engage in dialogue about risk – how it currently plays out in the nonprofit sector and what it could look like in the future.

Feedback Loops: Strategies for Better Communication

Imagine nonprofits listening to, learning from and acting on what they hear from the communities they serve. Imagine foundations routinely more open about what they do, how they work, and how decisions get made. In this session, participants will learn and engage with tools to solicit, internalize, and implement feedback to strengthen programming and align organizational practice with community priorities.

Redefining Roles

Both funders and nonprofits are re-thinking their roles in the sector, including how they approach complex problems, collaborate, get community input, and address root causes. In this session, hear from leaders who are blazing trails and thinking differently in the nonprofit sector. Participants will leave with inspiration and ideas to redefine their own organization’s role in the community.

Reimagining Funder-Nonprofit Relationships

There are no presenters for this interactive session. With the support of a facilitator, you, the attendee, will guide the conversation. The session will begin with small group conversations about what enables and what prevents strong partnerships between nonprofits and foundations. Session attendees will then come together to imagine *the ideal funder-nonprofit relationship, methods to strengthen partnerships, and explore how our sector gets beyond institutional barriers to achieving missions*. Help shape the questions and the answers in this forward-looking session.

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