

Welcome  
2020 Planned Giving Day Conference  
Passport to Philanthropy  
Wednesdays, October 14 – November 18, 2020

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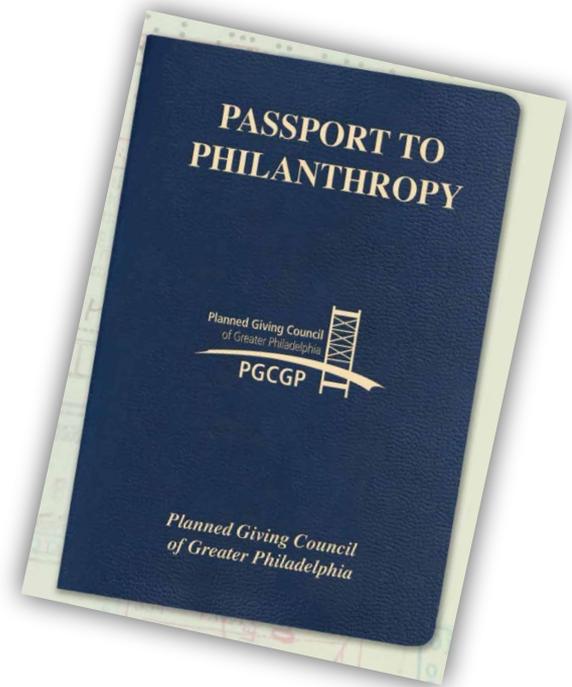


Where Loving-Kindness Gives



## Exhibitor





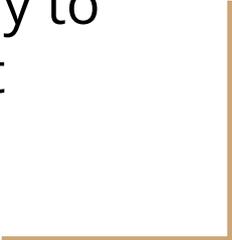
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# Youth Philanthropy

From Beneficiary to  
Active Agent

*Fall 2020*



*“We must work to build new systems that are good for all people, and not just a few. Just Transition must actively work against and transform current and historic social inequities based on race, class, gender, immigrant status and other forms of oppression. Just Transition fights to reclaim capital and resources for the regeneration of geographies and sectors of the economy where these inequities are most pervasive.”*

*- Justice Funders, Resonance Framework*

Youth philanthropy programs support young people making grants directly to nonprofit organizations and projects, while also mentoring and supporting the youth grantmakers.

# The Sillerman Center & Youth Philanthropy

The Sillerman Center, founded in 2008, aims to inform and advance social justice philanthropy. We aspire to be a helpful, collaborative, forward-looking and trusted partner in this necessary work. As a part of this work, we are committed to engaging both young people and adult constituents in youth philanthropy.

Our Social Justice Funders Opportunity Brief, "[From Beneficiary to Active Agent: How Youth-Led Grantmaking Benefits Young People, Their Communities, and the Philanthropic Sector](#)" explores Youth Philanthropy as a model with the potential to make grantmaking more democratic, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of underserved communities.



# Current Landscape of Youth Philanthropy

- There are 512 youth grantmaking programs in the United States.
- The amount and form of power granted to young people varies
- Nearly all of the programs report a “high level” of youth engagement
- About 80% of these grantmaking programs serve teens, ages 13-18

# Models of Youth Philanthropy Programs

- Family Foundation Programs (i.e. Andrus Family Fund)
- Community Foundation Programs (i.e. Central Susquehanna)
- Private Foundation Programs (i.e. Heinz Endowments)
- Faith-based Programs (i.e. Jewish Teen Funders Network)
- University-based Programs (i.e. Ohio University/Learning by Giving)
- Community and school-based programs (i.e. Boys & Girl Clubs)

# Building Democratic Programs:

“I think we are 11 really passionate people. And sometimes that can be good, and sometimes that can be really bad. So we’ve really had to navigate how to listen to each other’s voice and work cohesively.”

“I’ve worked in groups my whole life but this is the first time I have ever actually really worked in a group because we really all had to come together, we had something that we really needed to decide on collectively and we figured out how to do it.”



# Equity, Inclusion & Diversity

“I would say all...the kids are coming from pretty rural places so lots of farm families, low to middle class socioeconomically. You know, I think the diversity is as open as...the school’s demographic make-up is.”

“I think the overarching value is authentic youth voice and bringing to the table the perspectives and decisions and voices of communities that have not always been represented.”

# Community Building

“The result we have seen is that [our youth philanthropists] go on to college, [and] most of them in their first year, in their college get involved in community service...And then, because they have been doing it so long it comes full circle, then they pick jobs that have service and philanthropy as a part of the mission of the organization.”

“I feel empowered when I am grant making, I like the fact that I am making change in the world and it connects to the community and being able to change it for the better.”



# Barriers to Access

- Time
- Program outreach
- Financial barriers
- Sibling care
- Food
- Transportation
- Parental/guardian understanding
- Adult support/mentorship models
- Understanding privilege

# Leadership Development - Skills Learned

- Public speaking
- Confidence
- Working in a team
- Decision making
- Asking for help when needed
- Writing skills
- Work setting experience
- Time management
- Community understanding and engagement

# Philanthropy's Future Workforce

"The impact that [participating in a youth philanthropy program] has had on me personally, has been a greater sense of confidence within my decision making. They taught me a lot of how to be professional in the work environment, which I value greatly because I am going to college. So, the realization that I will be part of a workforce, a part of a group of colleagues from my community, [as part of a team] we have to work together to create different decisions. I thought that was a really great opportunity to build on that skill."

"Part of me hopes that in the future I can be a part of a workforce or job where I am able to help others in a community in any way possible...I am really interested in forming relationships with community leaders and talking with other people, helping them, and finding out problems in their communities and alleviating them."

# Lessons from the Field

- Grantmakers interested in equity and providing counterforces to the inequality inherent in philanthropy should consider investing in youth grantmaking programs
- Youth philanthropy programs can reverse and realign power imbalances and result in well-rounded, participatory, and more democratic grantmaking
- Funders who prioritize youth development and youth engagement, as well as public service and civic engagement more generally, should consider funding or starting their own youth philanthropy programs
- Young people must be supported by a strong mentor and resources such as stipends, food, and leadership development activities
- Youth philanthropy programs should center and honor youth-voice and decision making
- Through strong youth philanthropy programs, young people gain leadership, professional, self-advocacy, and decision making skills

# Youth Philanthropy Benefits all of Philanthropy

- Power-sharing
- Community-centric grantmaking
- Democratic and inclusive practices



# Questions? Feel free to contact us!

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