

The Fundamentals of Philanthropy 2023 Sessions

Learn the Essentials – Make New Connections

All sessions will take place virtually from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Monday February 26 through Friday March 1, 2024.

Join the Council for our popular Fundamentals of Philanthropy Series. Taking place over five sessions that build on each other, this series provides key background and essential information for effectively working in philanthropy. Each session will also include time to get to know your fellow participants and grow your professional networks.

This series is for anyone who has joined the sector in the last few years, or who is interested in reviewing the fundamentals. It is open to all staff and board of philanthropic organizations, including those in leadership, program, grantmaking, administrative, financial, human resources, communications, development, and trustee roles. We can't wait to see you!

Speaking the Same Language: The Role and Basics of Philanthropy

Session 1: Monday, February 26, 9:30 to 11:00 am

What is “philanthropy” and what motivates philanthropists? We'll explore the history of philanthropy and the role it currently plays in conjunction with the nonprofit, private, and public sectors. We'll also dive into important questions of equity and power around the establishment of philanthropy as a sector in the United States, and outline the different types of grantmaking organizations.

Speakers:



Annie Adams
Program Manager
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy



Toby Mathew
Communications Manager
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy



Michael Zuber - Zander
Operations Manager
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy

Foundation Governance and Legal Issues: What Foundations Can and Can't Do

Session 2: Tuesday, February 27, 9:30 to 11:00 am

Who is philanthropy accountable to? What's a conflict of interest? How important are board meeting minutes anyway? These and many other thorny questions are addressed in this discussion about how foundations ensure they're meeting their financial, legal and ethical obligations. We'll also touch on how foundations can use advocacy as a tool and the basics of the rules governing this area of work.

Speakers:



Julie Loughran
President & CEO
Connecticut Community Foundation

Fundamentals of Grantmaking: Making Decisions, Managing Relationships

Session 3: Wednesday, February 28, 9:30 to 11:00 am

Learn the art and science of grantmaking and the underlying theories that drive the process. Once we understand the fundamentals, we explore the impact of implicit bias in grantmaking and strategies we can use to address it, as well as important considerations in managing relationships with grantees and applicants.

Speakers:



Alexis Bivens

*Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy*

Power and Your New Community: Identity, Roles and Building Trust

Session 4: Thursday, February 29, 9:30 to 11:00 am

What does it mean to work in philanthropy, and how do our professional roles impact our sense of identity, and vice versa? We'll strengthen understanding of how we see our professional roles, ourselves within philanthropy, and the broader organizational system. Participants will explore elements of power dynamics and ways to be a mindful and productive partner with organizations and communities.

Speakers:



Ellen Carter

*Vice President of Program
CT Health Foundation*



Chinedum Nnodum

*Director, Community Strategies
Fairfield County's Community Foundation*

Impact Strategies: Exploring the Great Debates in Philanthropy

Session 5: Friday, March 1, 9:30 to 11:00 am

In philanthropy, there are many ways to approach the work and achieve impact. In this lively discussion, our seasoned philanthropists will dive into important debates around timely topics in philanthropy, including existing in perpetuity vs. spending down over time; mission-related investing vs. investing solely for maximizing returns; and the pros and cons of the growing use of 501(c)4 designations in the funding space.

Debaters:



Nora Moreno Cargie

*Vice President of Corporate
Citizenship and Foundation President
Point32Health*



Lauren Patterson

*President & CEO
New Canaan Community Foundation*



Saran White

*President
Leever Foundation*