

**Oregon and SW Washington Chapter Meeting**

August 21 2019

OMSI, Portland, OR

**Attendees:**

Jennifer Narron, Providence; Liz Yoshihara, Bustin Barriers; Michael Paul, Providence; Elsa Frey Medical Teams International; Cindy Dauer, THPRD; Kris Ashley, Belvedere Editorial; Nicole Lutten, Oregon Humane Society; Darcie Spar, Oregon Food Bank; Kwang-yi Ger Gale; Jodi Tanner Tell; Sara Heinicke, Lloyd Eco District; Kelly Harms, World of Speed; Lewis Ferguson, World of Speed; Melody Ayers, Adventist Health Tillamook; Eric Buenostro, OMSI; Lorrie McCoullough, OMSI; Jennifer Mangieri, Metropolitan Family Services; Lisa Kron, Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette; Carol Cheney, Meyer Memorial Trust; Carly Brown, Oregon Community Foundation; Jenni Green, Oregon Food Bank; Leah Altman, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation; Marciela Ortega, Verde; Doris Brook, A to Be Partners; Maggie Bonjean, Oregon Food Bank; Heidi Wilcox, Western Rivers Conservance.

**Announcements**

**National conference**: GPA will send out emails so members who are attending can coordinate with each other. If you are attending the conference, we will ask if you are willing to share information learned from the conference.

Melinda Stoops is presenting at the national conference

**Scholarships**:

* + **Michael Wells Chapter Conference Scholarship** 
    - Michael Hertlein won the scholarship
  + **National Scholarships:** 
    - Membership Scholarships is currently open- offered two times per year from February 28-March 30, 2018 & August 15-September 30, 2018
    - For more info: http://grantprofessionalsfoundation.org/available-scholarships/

**Membership update:** Three new members, Michael, Jenny and Cindy. Our membership count is 48, which is about average for us.

**Programming**

Next meeting in December will be recap of National Conference.

Survey is complete. The programming committee will meet to review suggestions and ideas, and plan 2020 chapter meeting programs.

Drawing winners from the survey

* $25 Starbucks gift card: Melody Ayers
* GPA membership: Mivsam Yekutiel

Working with WVDO on their new cohort and certificate with PSU for a 9-week grants class. Some of our leadership and membership will be presenters. Arthur also teaches a class with PCC.

**Program**

Introductions. People shared how their organizations are working on equity.

Darci shared Equity Grant RFP. The equity grant committee talked about their process. They tried to make a broad outreach and had a diverse grant review committee.

Feedback was that smaller organizations found it daunting, the application was too much, with limited staff time and no grant writers on staff. Need to offer more flexibility, more support for applicants, technical assistance on gran twriting. Next time, we’ll have a 2 page application with lots of guidance (sentence by sentence & paragraph by paragraph), have a more streamlined and flexible application process, with both structured and flexible portions, and providing more support up front.

Splitting the grant made less funding available to the project. A smaller grant may have more impact for a small organization, such as one with no or only 1 or 2 FTE. Providing comped seats for the conference was a good benefit, and could benefit small organizations, even if the organization does not get the grant.

Recommendation: hold meetings closer to where communities of color are located.

**Meyer Memorial Trust:**

Partnership is really important. How do we do grant making in a way that is authentic?

More information comes from site visits than from written proposals. There is more of an opportunity for meaningful engagement.

Awareness that things are hard for organizations. There’s lots of need. We understand that bad things happen to all organizations, that organizations are figuring out how to deal with it, and that organizations maybe need some help. Most colleagues there have worked for nonprofits and have been there. Want to build trust, understand what’s not going well.

Trustees make the funding decisions. There’s not a lot of risk at MMT (ex: if a grant doesn’t go well, no huge consequences for MMT). Program officers do have a lot of influence. MMT is accountable to mission, vision and priorities. In partnership with MMT, ask, “is this a fit?”

Article by Cathleen Enwright: Source Codes of Foundation Culture. Help understand what’s going on in the world of foundations and especially around equity. Terms like due diligence and program officer come from era when wealthy people had a lot of power & it follows/evolves from that model. Question: how do we undo that?

Article: Trust-Based Philanthropy. Tenets: provide multi-year unrestricted funding, do the homework (due diligence is about what foundation knows about the issue), simplify and streamline paperwork, be transparent and responsive, solicit and act on feedback (do surveys, understand what’s hard), offer support beyond the check.

MMT is looking at how we undo the source codes and move toward the Trust-Based Philanthropy Tenets. It’s an evolution.

Patient urgency, practicality, organizational defensive routines (i.e. we have to do another focus group) that are used to not do the work. How are you setting up systems in your organization that support the work/evolution.

Article: GENA or DEI Readiness on MMT website.

In terms of direct service & system change, MMT has changed a lot. Building Community turned into a “catch-all” category. MMT is trying to figure out how to be more clear, how to achieve the change they really want to see.

One strategy for direct service organizations is a path analytic. When a person engages in the service, who gets to each stage & where are the breaking points? How do we get to true equity in outcomes, and where are things breaking along that path to equality.

**Oregon Community Foundation:** announced equity priorities approximately 5 years ago

DEI work can be hard for a dominant culture organization.

OCF has many different types of grant programs. There are about 3,000 different funds at OCF, each of which has a different purpose.

Streamline the application process: OCF values this. One way of streamlining is by acting as a match-maker: Grant applications are shared with living donors and their families who decide if they want to fund the application.

New: OCF has a donor relations department. They are trying to build bridges between living donors & organizations. Now have a spot online where nonprofits can fill out an organizational information form, and if the project/organization matches with a donor’s interest, OCF will share the information with them. Look under “Organizational Profile” on the OCF website.

The Community Grants Program is more likely to accept risk when it’s focused on DEI aspects.

**Both**

Long discussion about difficulties in application that may be a barrier, such as lots of questions or character counts.

Social Justice Fund: funds community organizing

There aren’t many DEI consultants out there with deep, long-term expertise. That creates problems for organizations, around organizational culture and for implementation. Carol recommends: DEI communities of practice of 10-12 people who are doing the work & figuring it out. People charged with the work, come together, and can discuss problems and have peer learning. Peer learning is the richest learning for this. How can foundations fund this?

**Upcoming 2019 Chapter Meeting Dates**

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| **Chapter Meetings**  *11:30 am - 1:30 pm* | **Executive Committee Mtgs**  *3:00 – 4:30 pm* |
| Wed, 12/4: Oregon Food Bank West: holiday party and recap of national conference | Friday, 10/25, Lucky Lab |