

Contemplation, Collaboration, and Change

Produced by the Presencing Institute exclusively for Lenz
Foundation grantees and their partners in social change

Program Overview and Agenda
April 2013

Contemplation, Collaboration and Change

Program Overview & Objectives

Program Overview

- **Why?** To strengthen capacity of our grantees to collaborate with one another, and others outside of our network, in order to have more impact.
- **How?** By participating in a 9-month capacity building program that integrates contemplation, collaborative learning and change management methods in order to encourage “collaboration for impact”
- **Who?** Lenz Foundation grantees as well as potential partner organizations
- **What?** Fund of \$100,000 for collaboration grants (criteria will be developed in collaboration with grantees and foundation at first retreat)

Program Objectives

- Leverage our collective strengths and resources to achieve more effective and scalable projects and programs.
- Understand what is needed for collaborations and partnerships to be successful.
- Learn specific skills and methods for how to collaborate effectively.
- Gain experience and expertise in launching and sustaining collaborations with each other and with other institutions.
- Help to bring American Buddhist principles and practices more fully into the mainstream.

What can collaboration do for my organization?

Collaboration . . .

- Can help organizations work together to advance their missions and achieve greater impact.
- Has the potential to reduce duplication, decrease competition, and increase problem solving and impact.
- Takes time, can be difficult to achieve, and may require new skills.
- Cannot be created by funders alone—needs to voluntarily arise out of new possibilities and relationships between grantees.

We've designed this program with your feedback in mind

Feedback from Grantees . . .

- In February and March, 2013 eight grantees were asked to give feedback on their impressions of the collaboration program. They all expressed appreciation for the Lenz Foundation's continued support and capacity building and excitement about the program overall. Many of those interviewed articulated a strong desire to strengthen their relationships with other grantee organizations and to allow time and space to explore emergent collaborations that could be mutually beneficial. They wanted to learn in-depth skills that will foster long-term collaborations within their organizations as well as with potential partners but had some concerns about setting expectations appropriately so that all grantee organizations can engage positively with the program and receive benefit, whether or not they receive a grant. In addition, they expressed a desire to explore how collaboration can contribute to their long-term economic sustainability.

Response to Grantee Feedback . . .

- Collaboration is an ongoing core value of Lenz Foundation that will be supported beyond this grant cycle. To that end we will put the focus on building a collaborative community among our grantees throughout the process. We have increased the grant pool to \$1000.00 and all "worthy projects" will be considered for funding. In addition, potential external partners can be invited to the entire program, even if they don't have a specific collaboration project identified. The grant criteria will be jointly created during the initial workshop at Garrison. Grantees will also be involved in giving feedback and enhancing all proposals during the workshop at Shambhala Mountain Center and an advisory group of grantees will be identified to assist with the selection process after that workshop. Our commitment is to strengthening our grantee community and helping to foster an ongoing, resilient pool of collaborations that will have impact for years to come.

Program Elements

Summary

- 2 weekend onsite workshops
- 4 webinars
- Ongoing coaching for collaboration grantees after grants are awarded
- Final webinar to share learning from program in Fall, 2014

Workshop/ Retreat #1 (Garrison Institute, September 27-30, 2013)

- The Workshop/Retreat will provide opportunities for grantees and potential external partners to get to know each other personally and organizationally, create criteria for the grant selection and learn and practice collaboration skills.

Webinar Series (November, 2013-April, 2014)

- The purpose of the interactive Webinar Series is to provide training in the process of collaboration and in specific collaboration skills and to support grantees as they explore possible collaborations with each other and with external partners. All webinars will be held at 11am PT/2pm ET and will be recorded for later viewing by participants.

Workshop/Retreat #2 (Shambhala Mountain Center, June 6-9, 2014)

- The purpose of the second Workshop/Retreat to continue to deepen grantee's understanding of the collaboration process and skills, review and enhance proposals that grantees have been working on and to celebrate the learning and the community that has evolved over the process.

Garrison Retreat Agenda

Friday Sept.27	Saturday Sept 28	Sunday Sept 29	Monday Sept 30
	8:00 Awareness Practice Overview of Theory U 4 Levels of Listening Dialogue Walk	8:00 Awareness Practice Theory U and Collaboration Skills Guided Journaling Fishbowl – Benefits & Examples of Collaboration	8:00 Awareness Practice Generate Criteria for Proposals Next Steps - Learning Journey Prep - Webinar Topics, Dates - Proposal Process Reflection & Closing
	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
3:00 – 5:00 Registration and Check In 6:00 Welcome, Introductions, Overview, Dinner, Agenda	Embodiment – 1 Dialogue / Speaking Principles Collaboration Model and Skills Identifying Organizational Needs and Offers 6:00 Reflection & Closing	Embodiment – 2 Proposal / Grant Process Open Space – Possibilities for Collaboration Collaboration Skills 6:00 Reflection & Closing	

Webinar Series Schedule

Webinar #1 (November 6, 2013)

- Clarify the Purpose of the Collaboration
 - Assess personal and organizational capacity for collaboration
 - Establish guiding principles for the collaboration
 - Identify and recruit partners, evaluate partner readiness
 - Analyze and engage stakeholders

Webinar #2 (January 8, 2014)

- Create a Collaboration Framework
 - Develop the agreement
 - Create shared vision
 - Establish shared measurements
 - Clarify roles

Webinar #3 (February 26, 2014)

- Formulate a Structure and Plan
 - Negotiate and establish financial agreements
 - Create a project timeline and feedback loops
 - Establish governance model
 - Clarify decision making processes

Webinar #4 (April 30, 2014)

- Implement and manage the Collaboration
 - Lead the project
 - Review performance measures
 - Conduct mid-point review and negotiations
 - Evaluate results