

Minutes of AGF Program Committee Meeting
October 25, 2010
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Arizona Grantmakers Forum

In attendance: Patricia Miles, Belen Gonzalez, Brian Spicker, and Jacky Alling. AGF staff included Marissa Theisen and Tom Torretta.

Marissa Theisen called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Review of 2010 Program Statistics (Attendance and Ratings)

Marissa Theisen reviewed the attendance and ratings averages for 2010. The 2008-2010 data and graphs indicate that affinity group attendance is up 15% on average, while monthly programs attendance is down almost 30%. As for ratings, there is still an upward trend for both affinity groups and programs between 2008 and 2010.

Focus Groups and Board Retreat - Strategic Plan

Marissa Theisen spoke about the Board Retreat and some of the findings/outcomes. For example, during the focus groups, it was determined that members want to “go deeper”, including more collaboration among funders. They would like to know about opportunities where they can work together for more leverage. Based on this information, a possible 2011 programs may include place-based giving efforts such as the Phoenix Funders Collaborative.

Update on Upcoming 2010 Programs

The committee discussed the upcoming programs which include:

- November 3 – 4th Annual Art of Giving Luncheon
The World Needs Your Kid, Raising Children Who Care and Contribute
- November 18 - Supporting Community Engagement – Influencing Public Policy
- December 16 - Annual Meeting featuring Bruce Sievers
Civil Society, Philanthropy, and the Fate of the Commons

Committee members were encouraged to invite trustees and board members to these events.

Marissa Theisen spoke about the November 3 luncheon. It was reported that over 230 seats had been purchased and/or donated to date.

Pat Miles discussed the November 18 program. There will be a panel made up of the following:

- Frank Sanchez – Needmor Fund
- Roger Hughes - St Luke’s Health Initiative
- Jack Jewett - Flinn Foundation
- Pat Miles - McMiles Foundation

It was decided that there will be no legal representative on the panel to avoid either diving too deeply into the details or getting off topic.

The December annual meeting will feature Dr. Bruce Sievers, from Stanford University and will be held at the Phoenix Country Club, so we will have capacity for a larger audience.

Discussion – Programs for 2011

Marissa Theisen shared that the AGF board in its Oct. 12 strategic planning session had reviewed the program and affinity group attendance figures and agreed that AGF should reduce the number of general

program offerings in 2011. This made particular sense given that AGF was planning to add another affinity group, Grantmakers in Aging, next year. She asked the committee for feedback regarding reducing the number of general programs. After some discussion, they decided that it would be acceptable to plan for five or six programs instead of 12 per year. They discussed the possibility of getting foundation trustees more engaged in AGF, but no serious recommendations surfaced. Marissa suggested starting a CEO/President Leadership Circle affinity group, but the committee stated the presidents already meet informally as a group.

ASU Lodestar Partnership

The committee then discussed the idea of partnering with the ASU Lodestar Center as a way to bring funders and nonprofits together for meaningful dialogue. To be successful, members suggested we must set the context ahead of time and create the safe environment where people could ask the risky questions.

Before AGF can effectively do this, we need to have a clear understanding of our goals and outcomes of the partnership. For example, the end goal(s) could be:

- Improve communication and strengthen the entire sector
- Build trust between grantors and grantees.

Suggestions included:

- Sharing “Points of Light” into the foundation world
- Sharing characteristics
 - o Initiatives
 - o Investments
 - o Nonprofit partnerships
 - o Critical success factors
 - o Opportunities for funders to discuss how funding has changed
- Using assumption cards for both funders and grantees to start a conversation
 - o I think funders are focused on...
 - o I think funders communicate through...
- Panel of funders

During the meeting, the question came up: How can we get more funders to attend the ASU convening? Marissa suggested scheduling a morning program for funders (eg., Center for Effective Philanthropy) at the same location as the ASU event. Doing so would increase the likelihood that some of the funders would stay for the afternoon dialogue session.

The committee then brainstormed ideas for 2011 programs and generated the following list:

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| January - | Census Data, Propositions and Election Results and Impact |
| March - | ASU Lodestar Center/AGF joint convening |
| May - | Phoenix Funder Collaborative – Place Based Philanthropy |
| Social Event - | D-Backs Suite? Phoenix Coyotes Suite? |
| Autumn/Winter 2011- | Saving Philanthropy movie – Pat Miles House |

Committee Members

Belen Gonzalez and Pat Miles are currently set as co-chairs. Catherine Jahnes is interested in participating as a committee member. The committee is very much in favor of including Catherine. Tom Torretta will reach out to Catherine.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.