

**AGF Public Policy Committee Meeting**  
**November 10, 2011, 10:00 a.m.**

In attendance: Kim VanPelt, Laura Atwell, Teresa Brice, Fred Karnas, Joyce Lopez Powell, Pat Miles, Mollie Trivers, Marissa Theisen, and Tom Torretta.

**Call to Order:**

Kim VanPelt started the meeting at 10:05am by having the committee members introduce themselves and the organization they represent.

**Review of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes and had no corrections.

**Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG) Conference**

Kim VanPelt briefed the committee members on the NFG conference. In attendance at the conference were Teresa Brice, Tony Banegas, Pat Miles and Kim VanPelt. They presented the fact that there is hope for Arizona to national funders. Some of the national funders represented included Atlantic Philanthropies, Marguerite Casey Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Funding Exchange, and the Needmor Fund. Peter Bloch Garcia with the Marguerite Casey Foundation and Frank Sanchez with the Needmor Fund sponsored the breakfast presentation.

Impressions: The presentation went well, although attendance was light.

The committee discussed the need to keep the national funders apprised of the events taking place in Arizona including the latest election and recall effort. Peter Bloch Garcia is willing to help Arizona funders think through the opportunities available to national funders. We need to determine the "ask".

The committee discussed several of the on-going public policy efforts going on including PAFCO, Promise Arizona, Alliance of AZ Nonprofits, O'Connor House, and AGF. Are there any connections or opportunities to connect these efforts? The Alliance of AZ Nonprofits and AGF are already starting to work together by having representatives at each other's public policy meetings.

Program idea: Convene and show local funders examples of the work being done in Public Policy in Arizona.

The committee discussed the need to keep the matrix up-to-date and accurate. They agreed that there is a lot going on, and it will be important to connect the dots. AGF will continue to focus on educating funders rather than being the convener of the various public policy efforts. The committee discussed the need to create a break down to show the "realm beyond programs" and how funders can be involved in and "plug into" the continuum. There may also be a funder collaboration opportunity. Public Policy determines what happens on the ground.

Next Steps:

- Dialog with Peter Bloch Garcia to determine where Arizona fits and decide on our "ask" of national funders.

- Matrix and what is happening in Arizona – need to clean-up and summarize the data. Pat Miles, Laura Atwell, Kim VanPelt, and Tom Torretta will work on this effort.
- Interviews – Find out what is going on and how everything is/could be connected
- Generate a list of known collaborations and ask others how they fit
- Pat, Laura, and Marissa will meet to discuss working with Peter Bloch Garcia
- Pat will follow-up with Mollie from NFG

The committee also briefly mentioned Lindsay Hodel from Nonprofit VOTE, Joe Rubio, and the fact that Valley Interfaith is not part of the effort.

#### Case Statement:

Kim VanPelt briefed the committee on the case statement she is developing. She told the committee about Community Catalysts's report which will be available soon. She will tailor the case statement based on the findings from that report. The committee then discussed if the case statement should be an internal document, external document or both. The internal case statement would show the need to protect investments and ask grantmakers to fund where they are comfortable along the continuum. The external case statement would contain a prioritized list of opportunities and detail why it is important to invest in Arizona's public policy.

The committee discussed the Arizona Republic article that detailed the events that led up to the recall in District 18. They also talked about the importance of leveraging the current momentum to work with external funders and keep them engaged. The committee will have to work together to develop a cohesive list of activities taking place in Arizona to create an "opportunities" list for the national funders. The committee spoke about the need to have assistance building capacity in Arizona as well as the importance of working collectively, not separately. National funders should work with existing organizations to help fill the gaps, not build new organizations.

#### Charitable Deductions Limits:

Patrick McWhortor sent an email that mentions Tim Delaney's letter regarding charitable deduction limits and the need to act. Joyce Lopez Powell shared that the Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) created a letter that she is willing to share. Marissa Theisen will craft a letter to AGF members with the various perspectives regarding charitable deductions, so they are educated on the options and can make a stand individually. A couple of organizations with good information include Independent Sector, and Urban Institute. Joyce agreed to circulate the VSUW letter to the entire public policy committee.

#### **Policy Works:**

Marissa Theisen presented the opportunity for AGF to join Policy Works through the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers. Policy Works is expanding to include all interested regional associations. By joining, members get access to the work being done by other RA's, case studies, templates and other useful resources. Members also get to participate in webinars, teleconferences and other programming. This membership will create a new learning community for AGF's interested members.

The only cost to AGF is attendance at the annual conference (two days earlier than the general Forum conference). The committee voted unanimously to join Policy Works.

**What is everyone working on**

The committee went around the room and discussed what they and their organizations are working on in regard to public policy. Many good ideas were shared.

**Next Steps**

The committee members who agreed to help with the various efforts around National Funder support will convene to discuss action steps.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35am.