

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Overview of Results

Respondents to this Member Engagement survey hold very positive perceptions of Philanthropy New York (PNY). In particular, respondents praise PNY's high-quality, relevant programs and network-building opportunities as well as its responsive, approachable staff – who are viewed experts in the New York philanthropic sector. Nearly all respondents reported making changes in response to their engagement with PNY; the substantial majority made at least one new connection with another funder or made a change in their own work as a result of Philanthropy New York's programming.

In the words of one respondent, "The strength of PNY is in its people and networking opportunities. Because foundations vary widely in the issues that are represented in grantmaking, the one consistent feature is the ability to connect people and build skills in functional roles."

Looking toward the future, respondents suggest opportunities to target programming to a broader range of roles and levels, particularly more programs and networking opportunities designed specifically for program staff and specific career stages.

Importantly, many respondents also stress the importance of PNY's current work and urge PNY to continue it. Respondents recommend, "The programming is great - just keep doing what you're doing!" and "Continue what you're doing, but constantly strive to include more groups, opinions, audiences in events and work."

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (2)

Major Strength in Building Connections

In quantitative and open-ended measures, survey respondents report positive perceptions of Philanthropy New York's networking offerings and its ability to facilitate connections across members. Respondents rate the importance of professional peer networking groups most positively among PNY's resources, and they rate these networking groups as highly effective in enhancing their understanding of the New York philanthropic community and forging new connections with others. Additionally, respondents hold the most positive perceptions of program formats that encourage peer discussion: workshops with small group interaction and two-hour panel presentations.

Opportunity for Additional Support in Members' Collaborative Activities and Joint Funding Projects.

Although more than three-quarters of respondents have connected with another funder as a result of Philanthropy New York's programs and services, a smaller proportion indicated that these connections lead to deeper action. Fewer than half of respondents indicate that they have collaborated with their peers on a program or project. In their suggestions, many respondents request that PNY "facilitate connections between grant-makers in particular thematic sectors."

Strong Professional Development Ratings with Opportunities to Target More Programming to Specific Groups of Members

Survey respondents rate Philanthropy New York highly for the overall quality of its programs, including program content, organization, and the quality of speakers and session leaders. Respondents strongly agree that PNY's programs are relevant to the latest trends in the field, and they provide high ratings for staff's knowledge of the New York philanthropic sector. However, perceptions of career development programming vary by respondents' length of involvement with Philanthropy New York and by their function at their foundation.

Most Positive Perceptions by Members with 1-5 years of Involvement with PNY

Respondents who reported that they have been involved with Philanthropy New York for one to five years provide significantly more positive ratings for the helpfulness of the content of programs on effective practice, peer networking sessions, and career building programs on their professional growth. This group of respondents is also more likely to agree that skills and knowledge-building professional development programs are important to enabling their career paths. Respondents who are brand new to PNY and those who have been engaged with PNY for more than five years report less positive experiences.

Opportunity to Focus Additional Offerings on Program Staff

Across PNY's membership, program staff are a very diverse group, with a variety of fields, experiences, and needs. Respondents who work in a program capacity at their foundation – more than half of the members who responded to this survey – provide ratings that trend higher than other groups for the importance of many of Philanthropy New York's resources. However, program staff are significantly less likely to agree that the content of career building programs is helpful for their professional growth and that skills and knowledge-building professional development programs are important to enabling their career paths.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (3)

Looking Forward to PNY's Future: New Opportunities and Current Strengths

In response to open-ended questions about opportunities for Philanthropy New York in the next year and the next five years, the largest proportion of respondents suggest that Philanthropy New York can improve its work by enhancing programs' content and format. These include more tangible and clear program takeaways and next steps, technological improvements to PNY's livestream/webinar capacity, and creating multi-day series.

In addition, several other themes arose in a minority of respondents' comments:

- Target content and focus on connections. In the next year, respondents also request programs targeted to a wider range of specific roles and levels, and more opportunities for funders to network and connect with each other.
- The role of philanthropy. Over the next five years, respondents suggest that PNY could focus on the role and impact of the philanthropic ecosystem more broadly, including:
 - The role that foundations play (with some suggesting a particular emphasis on philanthropy's role in New York), and
 - Opportunities for PNY to build collaborations with similarly-oriented philanthropic affinity groups, professional associations, and public sector institutions.
- Continue current work. Finally, many respondents encourage PNY to continue its current work, suggesting that the organization should primarily continue its role as a "connector and curator of knowledge and talent in the NYC philanthropic sector." In the words of several respondents, "Keep up the good work!"

Potential Opportunities for PNY Suggested by These Results

Networking and More Formal Collaboration

- Enhancing the value of the PNY network and connections, focusing on ways to connect members more deeply within role-based or programmatic themes.
- Increasing the frequency of informal social and professional networking opportunities: meet-and-greet sessions, lunches, and small-group discussions.
- Exploring additional strategies to identify and connect funders for joint funding possibilities: extending beyond informal networking and connections to formal collaborations.

Programming

- Creating new programming for members who have been engaged with PNY for five years or more, targeted particularly to foundation staff between the introductory and executive level at their foundations.
- Identifying opportunities for more long-term members to engage more deeply with PNY – and other member foundations – by sharing their experience and expertise.
- Evaluating ways that PNY's "welcome" experience and content are presented to newer staff at PNY's member foundations, and exploring new ways of sharing PNY's work with this audience.
- Reviewing and refining programming for program staff, with potential opportunity for content focused on education, healthcare, or data/evaluation/metrics.