



Philanthropy New York's 43rd Annual Meeting

PURPOSE AS COMPASS

➤ MAY 3, 2022 ◀

Discussion Guide





Purpose as Compass

*The most common way people give up their power
is by thinking they don't have any.*

-Alice Walker

Welcome to Philanthropy New York's 43rd Annual Meeting – *Purpose as Compass*.

The Annual Meeting of the Philanthropy New York community will serve as a moment to pause and ask ourselves: What desired social outcome serves as my compass, and how can I hold on to that larger purpose in my daily work?

We will build on the collective acknowledgement of racial inequity among many in the philanthropic sector, examining how we recognize, share, and build power with those who are most harmed by racialized policies and practices. Collectively, we will reimagine a philanthropy in service to racial equity and purpose.

Join us as we engage in movement, art, and our dynamic signature PhilTalks to help us unpack the assumptions and conventional wisdom that often shape philanthropic practice and imagine new ways of working.

This journal has been created as a guide for our time together and a space for you to collect your thoughts or jot down memorable moments from the day. We hope you enjoy our time together and learn something new along the way!



9:25 AM: Artist: An Invitation to Movement

Camille Cyprian (Founder and Healer-in-Residence, [Centered Spaces](#)) will lead us in a joyful, facilitated movement. Join us in both individual and collective movement and be immersed in the exploration of mind, body, and spirit as we prime our hearts to be open and receptive to what is possible, to change.

Reflection Questions:

- *Did you notice a change in your body? If so, what did you notice?*
- *What was it like moving together as a group?*
- *What wisdom is your body sharing with you about "purpose as compass?"*

You may also use this space for jotting down phrases or ideas that stick with you from **Camille Cyprian's** invitation to movement.



9:40 AM: PhilTalk: Why We Exist and Who We Center

Karla Nicholson (Executive Director, [Haymarket People's Fund](#)) and the Haymarket People's Fund have been reimagining anew a philanthropy based on anti-racist principles. Solidarity, not charity. Accountability to an interdependent community and to purpose, not to organizational systems and controls. The result: trust-based, localized philanthropy that grows with their community across the years. Come hear what behaviors and practices philanthropy can adopt to work in service to its purpose and the areas in which there is still more work to be done.

Reflection Questions:

- *Your organizational mission is the perfect place to start considering purpose. Your mission is dynamic, relevant, and aspirational. Name an element in your mission that depicts your organization's purpose.*
- *If everything we seek to accomplish actually occurs, what would this vision look like?*
- *Considering your organization, what about your work is transactional? In what ways can you move it towards transformational/systemic change?*

You may also use this space for jotting down notes and takeaways from **Karla Nicholson's** PhilTalk.



9:55 AM: Artist: In Absentia

Immerse yourself in the art of Nigerian-American artist and researcher [Mimi Onuoha](#), whose work highlights the social relationships and power dynamics behind data collection. What happens when data is made to disappear by those who seek to obscure the intertwined workings of racism and power? What are our assumptions about how to interpret data, in both its presence and absence? Through her powerful work, *In Absentia*, Mimi will invite us to make visible the relationship that exists between those who collect data and those who are the collected and better understand our responsibility to listen and advocate for racial justice.

Reflection Questions:

- *Name a time when you recognized that having the data was not enough. How does that inform your sense of purpose? What shifts did you have to make?*
- *What are the patterns of absence that you find in your day-to-day work as it speaks to your organizational purpose?*

You may also use this space for jotting down notes and takeaways from **Mimi Onuoha's** *In Absentia*.



10:10 AM: Reflective Practice

Join your colleagues in a facilitated reflective practice to apply what you hear to your own work, to lift up learnings, and to strengthen your relationships within the community.

Reflection Questions:

- *What has fundamentally changed about the way I practice my role?*
- *What about our work is transactional? In what ways can we move it towards transformational or systemic change?*
- *What could philanthropy do differently if we were operating in service to purpose?*

You may also use this space for jotting down notes and takeaways from your Breakout Group.



10:35 AM: PhilTalk: Asking Different Questions

Listen as **Chi-Ante Singletary Jones** (Chief Reparations Officer and Founder, [Cypress Fund](#)) shares her journey towards a purpose-driven philanthropy, building power with their communities by asking different questions that challenge our current orthodoxies: What if our grantees got to decide how much of our endowment we spent? In what ways are our structures reflective of our trust in movements? What are the false barriers? Who holds the ultimate decision-making power? Whose interests are centered and protected? What beliefs power the system?

Reflection Questions:

- *Creating change is significant. What is one takeaway that could be realistically implemented in the short-term?*
- *What is one question that you want to ask differently?*
- *What are the unspoken questions that have shifted your work or created a space for new possibilities in your work?*
- *How does your purpose show up in your work? How are you honoring the purpose of your colleagues and grantees through your work?*

You may also use this space for jotting down notes and takeaways from **Chi-Ante Singletary Jones'** PhilTalk.



Additional Note Space

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Additional Note Space