

# NFG'S NEW DEMOCRATIZING *Development Program*

**A**cross the country, we are witnessing community residents and institutions organizing deeper together to create a people-powered vision for local development. This vision is not driven by profit, speculation and the influx of new corporate capital, but centered on community needs and opportunity. At the heart of this shift is local development driven by the leadership and vision of residents who typically are at the margins of the social and political process.

The Neighborhood Funders Group has launched the Democratizing Development Program (DDP) in response to these current challenges and opportunities for better local development. Rooted in a racial and economic justice framework, the goals of the program are to increase and strategically leverage philanthropic resources for more inclusive, community-led and equitable approaches to development, so that decision making regarding our urban and suburban built environments becomes democratized in places across the country.

Working with NFG members from philanthropic institutions around the country, this program works with field leaders to strategically elevate the power and capacity of low-income communities of color and other marginalized communities to gain control of decision-making, policy and implementation efforts within development.

## THE DDP ADVANCES PRIORITY STRATEGIES AND PRINCIPLES:

1) Build community power.



2) Expand resource equity, community control and racial justice.



3) Clearly articulate appropriate philanthropic roles as a community-centered philanthropic partner.



4) Address strategies, actions and policies at different stages of community development.



5) Scale the investment and partnerships needed to transform and democratize community development.



6) Strengthens and integrate built infrastructure investments within a region.



7) Expand and leverage existing successful campaigns and build upon emergent work.



# PROGRAM STRATEGIES

## Strategy 1



### Knowledge Building and Philanthropic Strategies:

Build a deep network of funders learning and working within and across regions to share best practices, scale solutions, deploy resources (beyond grantmaking) and engage with field leaders to build an interconnected movement of development practices and new narrative that supports people and communities.

## Strategy 2



**Cross-Country Alliances:** Develop strategic partnership and shared practices among funders, community organizing groups, policy advocates and other stakeholders working on democratizing development across the country. Work to deepen funders impact by networking together to share strategy with each other and to build a national dialogue and narrative to democratize development for people.

## Strategy 3



**National Fund:** Explore and create a national pooled fund for re-granting and technical assistance to support regional and national aligned strategies.

## Strategy 4



**Expand the Field and Philanthropic Investment:** Influence the broader field of philanthropy to understand better and adopt community-centered resource deployment practices.

# KEY THREE-YEAR OUTCOMES

## ● Outcome 1

Build a robust national network of funders and field leaders with in-depth knowledge, growing relationships and shared framing of democratizing development bring much higher levels of funding to the issues.

## ● Outcome 2

Increase NFG members and field partners engaged in democratizing efforts in particular regions and cities and are establishing an active national community of practice across regions.

## ● Outcome 3

Develop National Fund alliances and a national agenda to advance the innovative work in different areas work to improve democratized community development.

## ● Outcome 4

NFG is a home to building funders and field leaders shared learning on racial and economic justice in neighborhood development.

## ● Outcome 5

Energize NFG members in practicing community-centered, field-connected philanthropy.

## DDP LEARNING COMMUNITY APPROACH

The DD program will deepen member knowledge of best practices, success stories, and emerging solutions to build greater alignment between philanthropy and field leaders. Collaboratively, we can expand philanthropic leadership and investment in support of democratized community development campaigns and efforts.

## ACTIVITIES

*Webinars*

*Networking and Convening*

*Monthly Strategy Calls*

*Learning Tours*

*Funder Engagement*

*Engagement with Leaders in the Field*

### *For more information, contact:*

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*For 35 years, the Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG) has promoted and supported community-centered game changing equity and justice approaches in philanthropy that build the power and capacity of disenfranchised communities to be change agents and active participants in our democracy.*

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