

You're invited to participate in the
Community Change Learning Exchange
Discussions in Philanthropic Practice
July 25 – 26, 2016 in Cincinnati
Hosted by The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Theme: The Day Before, The Day After

In April 2001, Cincinnati was rocked by a series of civil disorders in and around the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. At the time, they were the largest urban disturbance in the U.S. since the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

The unrest occurred after an unarmed African American man was shot and killed by a police officer during an arrest attempt. The neighborhood was largely African-American, suffered high rates of unemployment and disinvestment. The poverty rate was attributed by some to be the result of the decade's long decline of manufacturing jobs in the city as well as cuts to youth employment and enrichment opportunities.

In the ensuing fifteen years, a similar narrative has played out in cities across the nation from Ferguson to Baltimore. In many instances, community based philanthropy was invested in neighborhoods similar to this the day before the incidents that sparked the unrest took place.

Over the last few decades, many foundations have invested in efforts to transform distressed neighborhoods into communities of opportunity that benefit, rather than exclude, low-income and historic residents of these communities.

The learning and discussion will focus on what was learned and practiced differently since that time in Cincinnati. It will offer those of us who have had similar experiences with uprisings to reflect and share what changed in our lens, in our experience and in our practice.

Although some of these lessons have been documented, many remain in the heads of foundation staff who supported or participated in these efforts. The Community Change Learning Exchange (CCLE) aims to unlock and share this tacit knowledge and to create a safe space for funders to discuss past and current challenges in their community change work. Ultimately, we aim to share some of these perspectives with the field of place-based philanthropy.

Schedule and Dress

Join us for the next gathering of this learning and sharing exchange. We will begin with lunch and an afternoon tour on the 25th. We will reconvene for a casual dinner and presentation of emerging work by our hosts. On the 26th, we will be led in a facilitated discussion to talk about practice, approaches and offer advice to one another and the field. We will conclude by 1 p.m. Dress is casual; there will be some walking. Stay tuned for more details!

How do I participate?

Beyond your travel and lodging, there is no cost to participate. All we ask is that you enter the CCLE with a shared sense of the principles and values outlined below. To cover travel costs for those with limited budgets, a limited number of travel stipends are available. For planning purposes

RSVP to [Scot Spencer](#) by July 12.

Hotel Information

A room block has been reserved at the [Hyatt Regency Cincinnati](#) for \$149 per night. Please call the hotel directly at 513-579-1234 by **** and give the group code ****.

If you have additional questions about the CCLE, don't hesitate to contact me at sspencer@aecf.org or 410.223.2904.

How does the Community Change Learning Exchange (CCLE) operate?

The CCLE is intended to serve as a safe space for dialogue among funders that will allow them to discuss — openly — opportunities, challenges and perspectives in community change work. In this spirit, the CCLE operates under the following principles and values:

1. **The learning exchange is not an initiative of the Annie E Casey Foundation.** The CCLE is directed by the contribution and engagement of a steering committee that is inclusive of members of the Grassroots Grantmakers, Neighborhood Funders Group and The Funders' Network. The Casey Foundation only serves as its convener and executive secretariat.
2. **The CCLE is not intended to supplant the work of any place-based affinity group.** The CCLE is open to all funders, including those in affinity groups, but particularly for those investing or interested in investing in community change work.
3. **There are no titles in the CCLE.** The CCLE is open to funders regardless of tenure or title in philanthropy. It is neither top-down nor bottom-up, aiming for an atmosphere that is open and inclusive of diverse perspectives.
4. **Place matters; your foundation's type and endowment does not.** The CCLE is open to foundations without regard to geography or structure. While the scale of our investments may be different, our relationship with and commitment to working in places are our common thread.
5. **Confidentiality is paramount.** For the CCLE to be meaningful for all participants, it is expected that the conversations, however frank, are kept among those present. While CCLE desires to capture and share the contributions of the exchange with funders in community change, we will not attribute the conversations to any individual participant or foundation.
6. **Creative tension is good.** The CCLE is meant to challenge our thinking, concepts and approaches in an open atmosphere. We will aim to foster an environment where the dialogue is respectful, thoughtful and engaging.
7. **The CCLE is a table of the willing.** There is no expectation for continued attendance in exchanges. As discussion topics change, participating funders may change, but the rules of engagement will not.

What are the desired outcomes of the exchange?

We hope that the occasional learning, sharing and challenging of one another through authentic conversations in a safe space will enable us to capture, cull and disseminate best practices to the field of place-based community change; glean learning opportunities from others to inform our own place-based community change work; and advance funder thinking and action on the importance and value of community change work in your own places.

Who is invited?

This is an exchange by funders and for funders. We're working with Grassroots Grantmakers, Neighborhood Funders Group and The Funders' Network to invite funders working on community change efforts or those interested in community change grant making. To maximize the active and earnest discussion that inspired the CCLE, we aim to limit the number of participating funders to 30.