

Session One: Getting Grounded

Advancing Practice Series

from the Nonprofit Quarterly and Luminare Group









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#### How to Get the Most Out of This Series

- Commit to a process
- Calendar the four sessions and Facebook Live events
- Print each session's handouts in advance
- Engage on social media! #AdvancingPractice



#### About the Series

Session 1 Getting Grounded May 23rd

Session 2 Organizational Identity & Strategy May 30th

Session 3 Strengthening Your Inquiry Practice June 13th

Session 4 Developing Practical Systems

June 27th

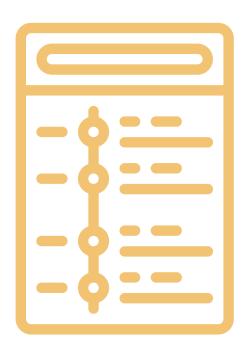


Facebook Live Q&A Sessions on May 23, June 4, and June 18.



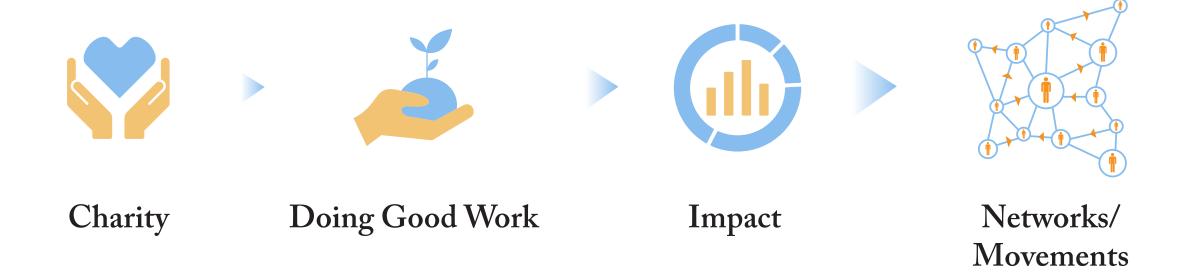
# Getting Grounded

- History, trends, and context
- The opportunity
- Exploring readiness





### Past to Present





## **Key Forces**



Demographic Changes



Leadership Changes



Political Context



Critique & Reflection



Racial Equity

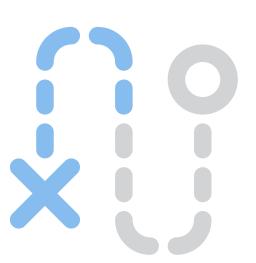


Urgency & Crisis Response



#### Where We Are

- Confusion about the roles & purposes of strategy, evaluation, and learning
- Data collection & databases are viewed as evaluative practice
- No specific or reasonable ends in mind
- No transferable knowledge base about what works and why
- Struggle to demonstrate progress





## Consequences for Nonprofit Leaders

- Biting off more than the organization can—and should—do
- Underselling our results
- Not playing to our true organizational strengths





## Changing the Narrative

#### Current

Lack of investment in developing an evaluative culture limits the ability of social sector and philanthropic organizations to understand and demonstrate their true effectiveness.

#### Reframe

Social sector and philanthropic organizations will never be wholly effective until they develop an evaluative culture.



## Opportunities of an Evaluative Organization

- Recognize the inherent value of evaluation as a core competence
- Commit resources to build the muscle organization-wide
- Link design and accountability at the onset
- Have conversations about the promises and limitations of your work



## Assessing Your Organization's Readiness

In the Homework Assignment for Session 1, you will explore:



Evaluative readiness



Evaluative practice and use



Leadership



Stakeholder relationships



# Next Steps







Complete the Homework Assignment



# Thank you!

We'll see you soon for Session #2. Don't forget to complete your brief evaluation.

This document and webinar series was created in partnership with Luminare Group.

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