

# SPECTRUM OF COLLABORATION

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The diagram below represents five different ways donors can collaborate. Note how each method of collaboration has different implications for your decision-making autonomy.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WAYS TO COLLABORATE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT IS IT?</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEARN FROM OTHERS</b></p>	<p>Donors partner to learn from each other and exchange ideas and experiences; funds are not pooled or necessarily aligned and all funding decisions are made separately.</p> <p>This is the most common approach to philanthropic collaboration.</p> <p><i>Example: Donors join an affinity group or follow philanthropy/issue-related blogs, podcasts, talks, and articles, and share what they learn through their own giving.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALIGN FUNDING</b></p>	<p>Donors create a shared strategy and fund aligned causes; each individual still carries out their own gift-making separately.</p> <p><i>Example: Donors agree on a philanthropic mission and carry out the rest of their philanthropy separately, meeting regularly to share insights and learn from each other.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CO-INVEST IN AN EXISTING INITIATIVE</b></p>	<p>A funder raises money from other donors. There is high coordination; often, funds are pooled and joint donor reports are created.</p> <p><i>Example: Donors use their personal networks to raise funds for an organization they already support.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CO-CREATE A NEW INITIATIVE</b></p>	<p>Funders co-invest in a new body that makes gifts or runs programs; collaboration is strong and decision-making can be shared according to the agreed governance structure.</p> <p><i>Example: Donors create a giving circle and engage in shared decision-making about their pooled funds.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FUND ANOTHER FUNDER</b></p>	<p>Donors invest their money in the strategy and mission of an experienced, funder who retains full decision-making authority.</p> <p><i>Example: A donor gives directly to a private foundation or limited liability company (LLC) that is not their own.</i></p>

## ENGAGING OTHERS SUMMARY

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Now that you have completed this module, turn to the Engaging Others Summary on the next page. Complete the survey to help you consider the different ways you can collaborate with other donors in the future. Tear out the summary to include in your Philanthropy Planner at the end of the toolkit.



# ENGAGING OTHERS SUMMARY

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Reflect on the various considerations for collaborating with other donors. If you answer “yes” in the short-term or long-term, use the column on the right to take note of any considerations to moving forward. You can also leave this column blank for now.

	YES (SHORT-TERM)	YES (LONG-TERM)	NO
<b>ARE YOU WILLING TO INVEST TIME TO:</b>			
Learn more about your selected issue area?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learn from philanthropists working on your selected issue?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learn from philanthropists in your geographic location?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build the relationships of trust necessary for effective collaboration?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>DO YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH OTHER PEER DONORS:</b>			
Lessons you learn in your philanthropy about promising giving practices or warning signs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decision-making in your philanthropy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your philanthropic legacy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your personal networks, skills, and expertise?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>DO YOU WANT TO PARTNER WITH OTHER PEER DONORS TO:</b>			
Scale an initiative?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elevate voices from communities affected by your issue(s) and provide space for their leadership?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase your influence on key stakeholders?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand the skills and networks available to your philanthropy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pilot a new initiative?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



# ENGAGING OTHERS SUMMARY

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Once you have completed the survey, look back at the Spectrum of collaboration to see which approaches, if any, might suit your current interests in collaboration. Then, think through the questions below.

**SHORT-TERM APPROACH**

*What approach would you like to take to collaboration over the next cycle of your philanthropy?*

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**LONG-TERM APPROACH**

*What approach would you like to take regarding collaboration over the next 5–10 years?*

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**METHODS OF COLLABORATION**

*What are some concrete ways you would like to collaborate with others, in the short and/or long term?*

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**ACTION STEPS**

*What steps do you need to take to move forward?*

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