



# Strategy & Impact

## January 22, 2021



SocialImpactArchitects

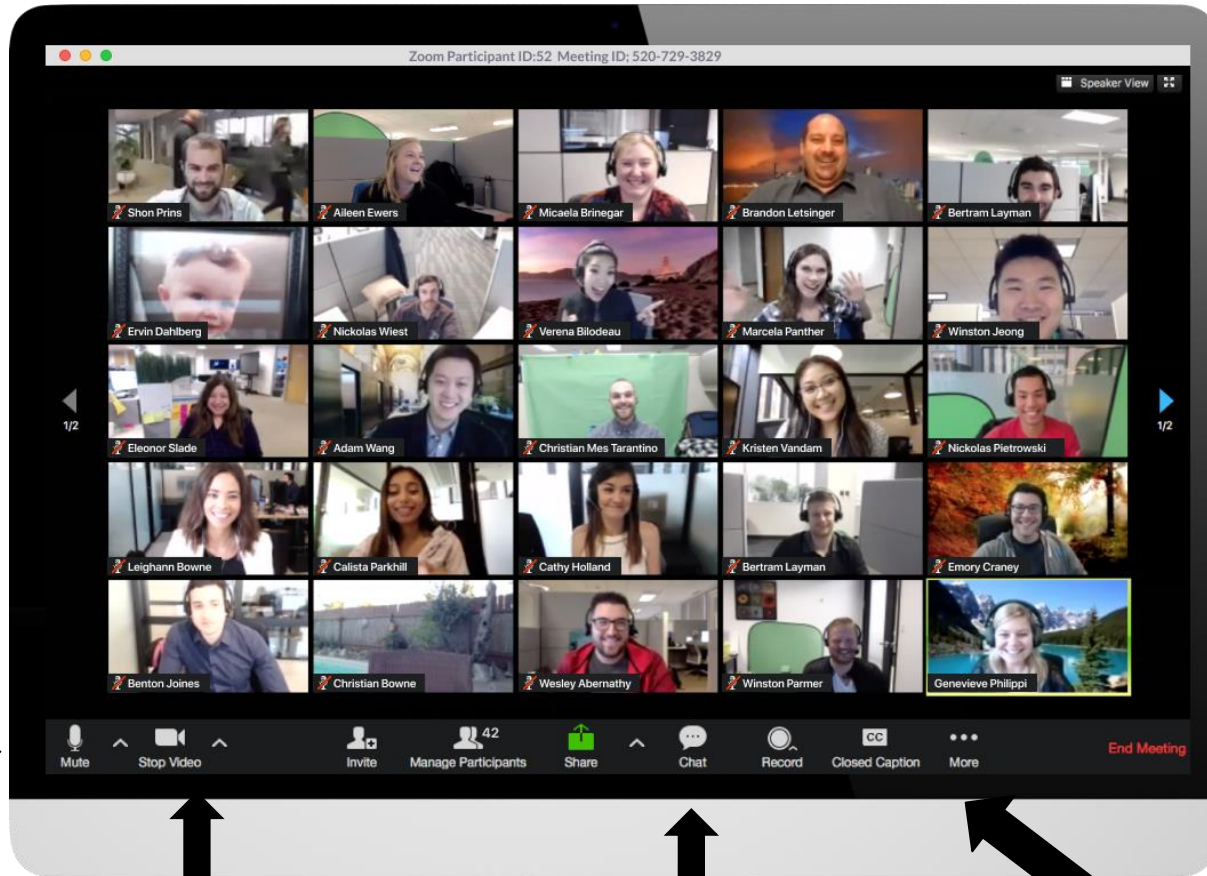


@sntexas @socialtrendspot



[socialimpactarchitects.com/blog](https://socialimpactarchitects.com/blog)

SUZANNE SMITH, MBA  
[suzanne@socialimpactarchitects.com](mailto:suzanne@socialimpactarchitects.com)



Toggle  
Mute/  
Mute Off

Toggle Start  
Video/  
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**Chat for  
Questions**

Toggle Closed  
Caption



# Action Planning



# Sample

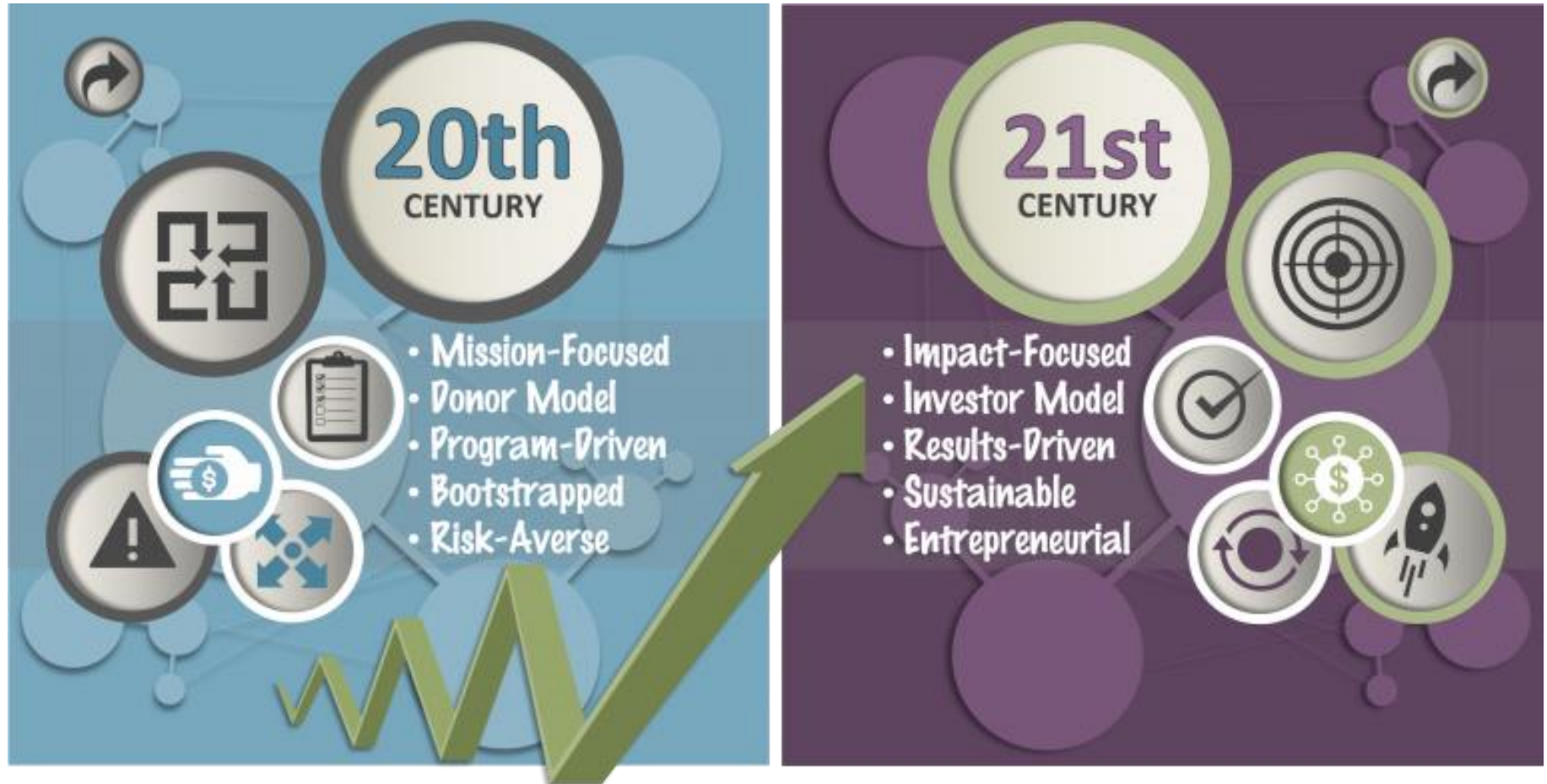




# Shifts in Social Sector



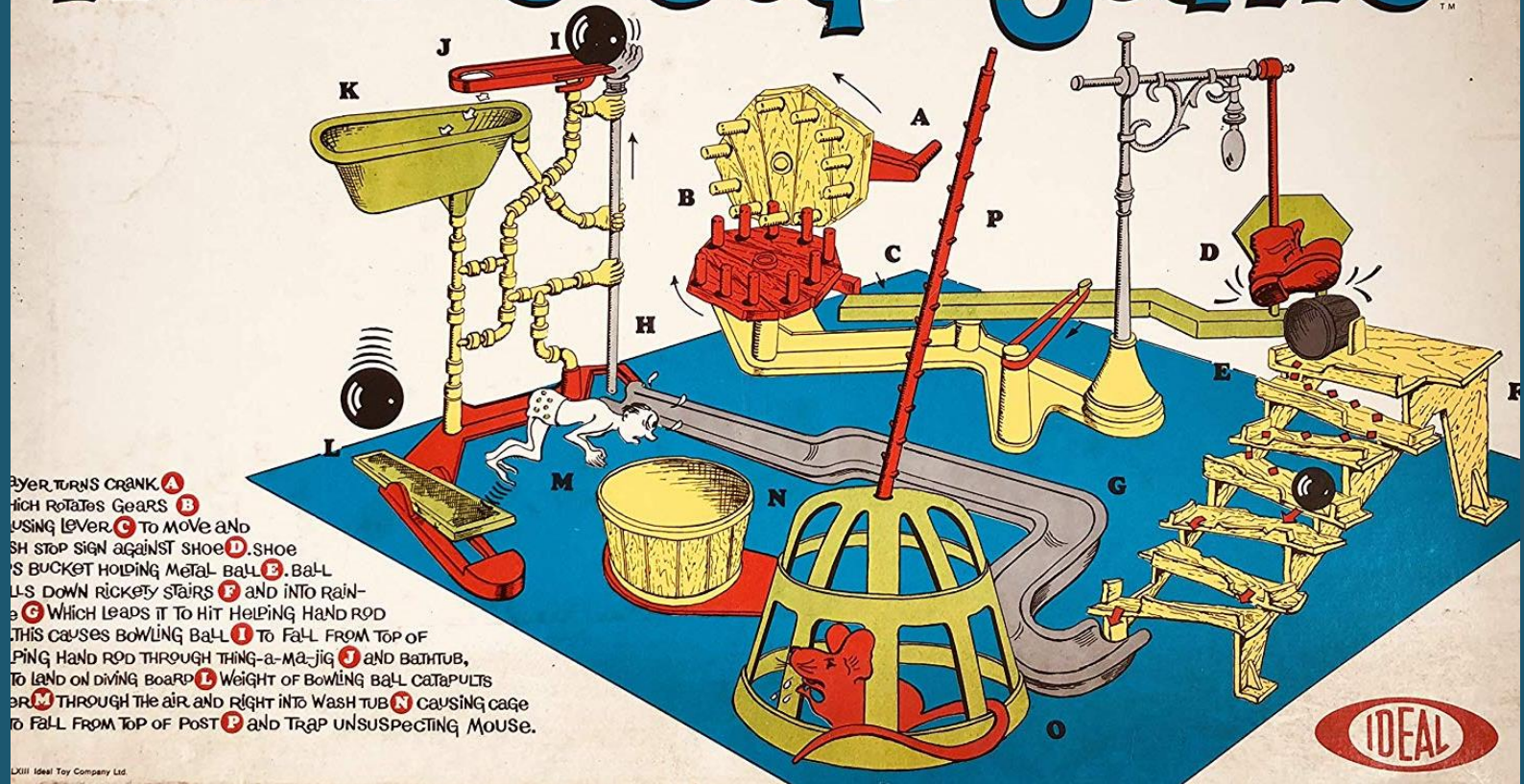
# Nonprofit Shifts





# Shift from Individual to Ecosystem

## mouse trap game

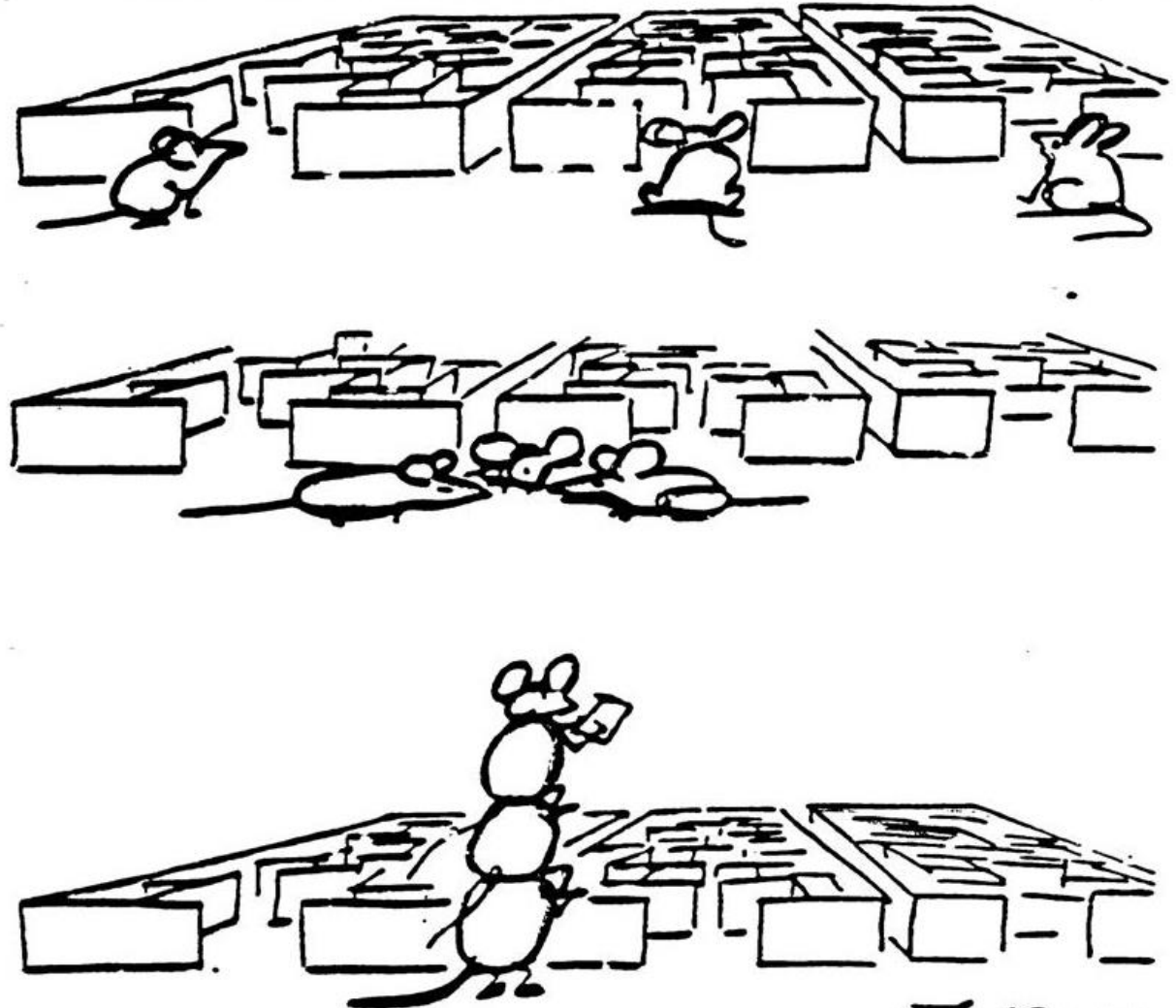


# How to Think About The Future

Individual Effort

Collaboration

System Change

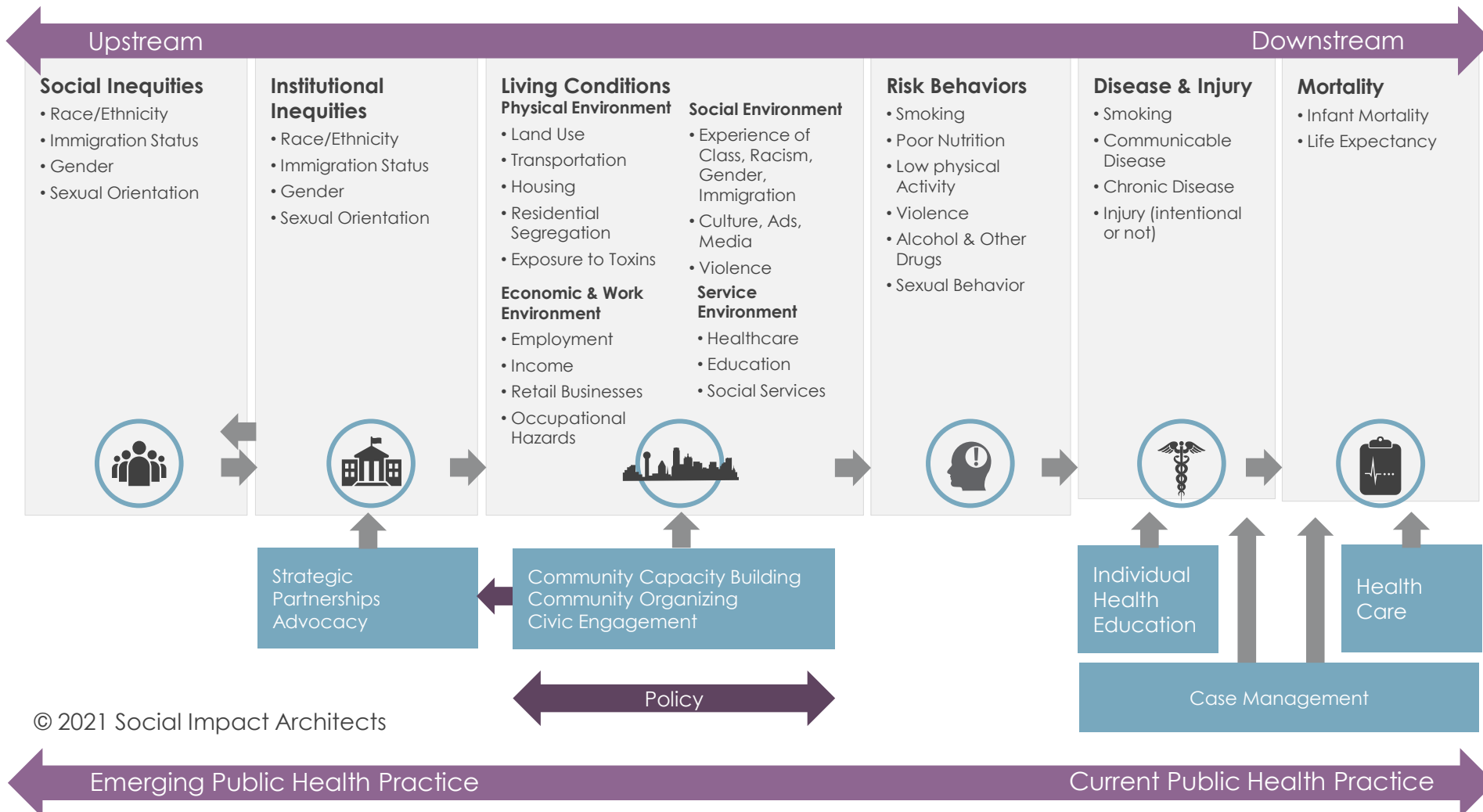




# Moving Upstream

## Focused on Individuals as a Function of Systems

A Public Health Framework for Reducing Health Inequities



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# Shifts due to COVID-19?



# COVID-19 Articles



Latest Trends in the Social Sector

- Q&A on COVID-19
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/covid-19/>
- Etiquette for Effective and Enjoyable Online Meetings
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/online-etiquette/>
- Keeping Nonprofit Volunteers Engaged During COVID-19
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/nonprofit-volunteers-covid-19/>
- 5 Tips for Corporate Sponsorship in the Face of COVID-19
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/corporate-sponsorship/>
- Hoping for the Best While Preparing for the Worst
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/nonprofit-security/>
- Do's and Don'ts of Remote Leadership
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/remote-nonprofit-leadership/>
- After COVID-19: Top 10 Aspirational Goals for Daring Greatly in the Social Sector
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/aspirational-social-sector-goals/>

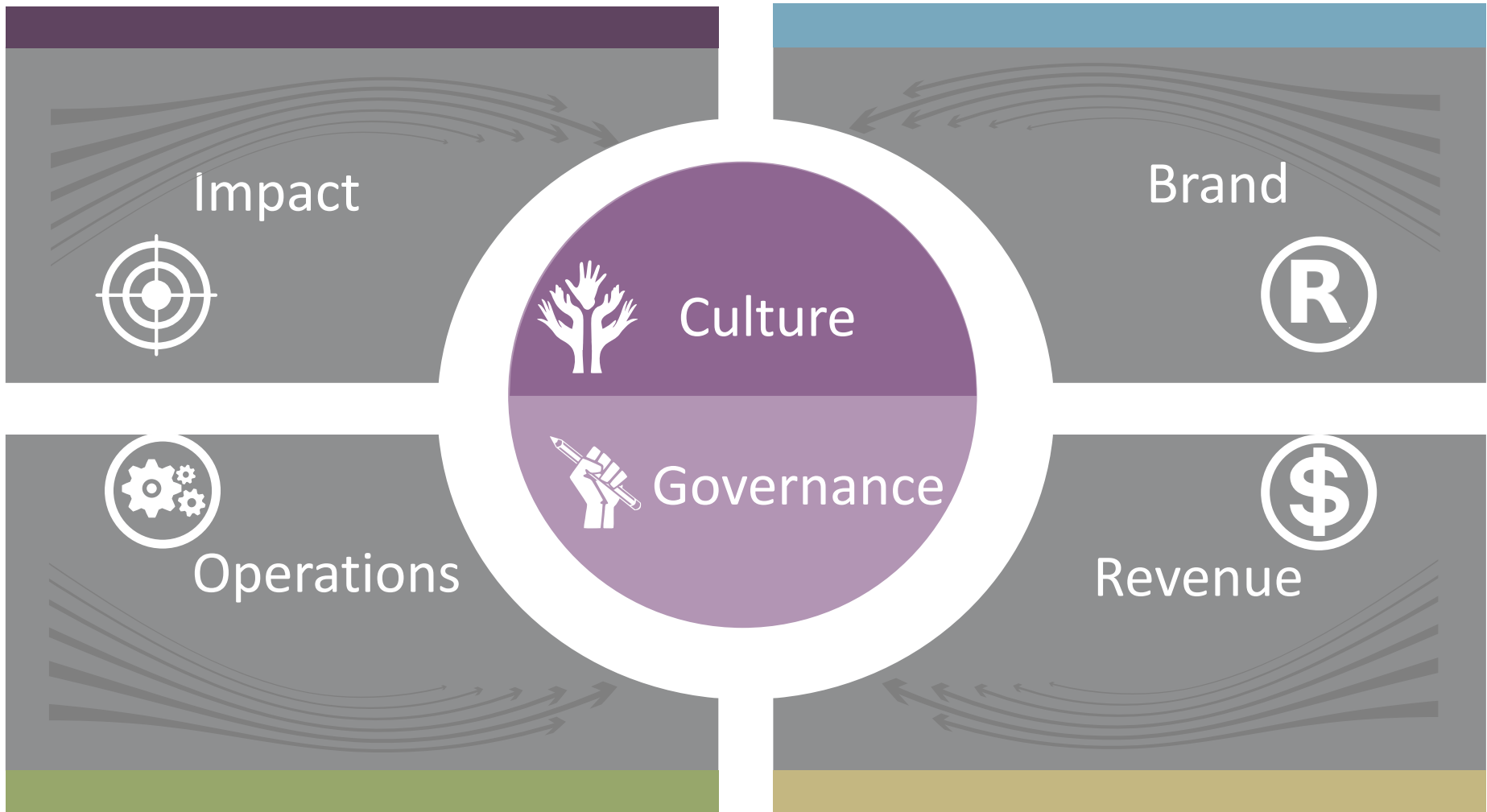


# Buzzwords



# Sustainability

## Organizational Focus Areas





# Sustainability

High Performance + High Impact

## HIGH-PERFORMANCE NONPROFIT

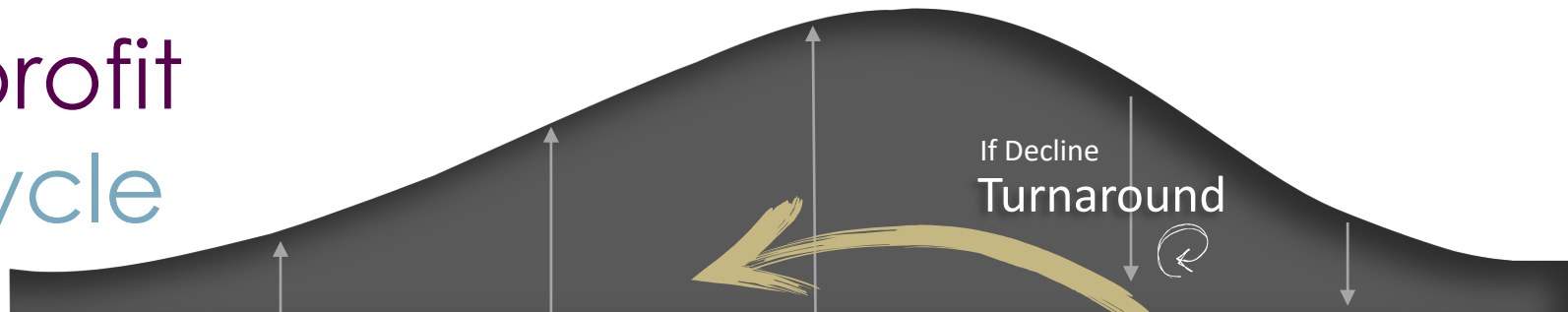
- Easy to observe
- Well-run organization
  - Leadership
  - Clear goals
  - Learning organization
  - Diverse financials














## HIGH-IMPACT NONPROFIT

- Long-term/usually in retrospect
- Organization which has meaningful and sustainable social impact


# Nonprofit Lifecycle



	Idea 	Start-up 	Growth 	Maturity 	Decline 	Crisis 
Impact 	Informal – Need established, best practices integrated & pilot launched	Pilot successful – Lessons integrated into design / Measurement starts	Established in marketplace – Strong results, partner-of-choice & consistent delivery	Consistent results through robust evaluation / Focused on continuous improvement, scale & system-building	Need exists, but nonprofit isn't partner-of-choice / Market duplication from other nonprofits	Demand near zero / Intense competition for resources & energy
Governance 	Not yet developed	Formal governance starts – Most likely homogeneous group	Board expansion – More diversity with more focus on planning & oversight	Board is more policy- & strategy-focused / Delegates management to Executive Director	Board members hard to recruit, retain & engage / Low focus of strategic issues	Board not fulfilling fiduciary responsibilities
Culture & Operations 	Entrepreneurial Founder using volunteer resources for guidance / Culture is defined by Founder	Flat organization – Decisions are likely made by Founder / Volunteers needed for hands-on support / Culture is action-oriented	Founder has hired or becomes Executive Director and is key decision-maker with Board guidance / Increased division of labor & accountability as staff is hired / Culture is results-oriented / Volunteers are used as resources	Leadership is often second or third generation from Founder / Clear division of labor & accountability among staff / Culture is well-defined and serves as a competitive advantage / Volunteers are seen as ambassadors	Increasing turnover of staff & volunteers / Decreased ability to attract top talent / Decreased transparency	Inability to fill key roles / High contention & division among staff / Mistrust of leadership
Revenue 	Most are in-kind	Limited financial resources – Lives hand-to-mouth	More diverse financial resources with established relationships with funders, but still unpredictable	High degree of financial diversity with established relationships with multiple funders / Endowment exists / Higher degree of financial predictability	Funders are not renewing contracts and not contacting organization / Low cash reserves / Decreasing donor retention & loyalty	Cash reserves insufficient to cover operating expenses / Long-time donors tapped out
Brand 	Not utilized	First official marketing materials – Primary method of marketing is word-of-mouth	Build-out of marketing & communication needs, including public & media relations	Sophisticated marketing & communications plan using multiple channels / Everyone equipped to tell story	Decreased public interest / Issue area not discussed in the media	Unable to attract media or public attention / Messaging does not resonate with public

# Example: Outcomes vs. Impact

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Goal Alignment
What do put in?	What do you do?	What happened	What resulted <b>Less</b> What would have happened anyway <b>Equals</b> Impact	How aligned is the impact with your organization goal?

 The City University of New York	College Graduation Rate	College + Intervention Graduation Rate	Difference
	21%	56%	35%
	What would have happened anyway	Outcome	Impact

# Value Proposition

## Definition

Value proposition is a simple and clear statement that tells your customers how you serve their needs, what benefits they receive, and why you are better than or different from the competition.

## Importance

- Helps your venture differentiate itself
- Needs to be clear, convincing and concise



# Social Definitions

## SOCIAL INNOVATION



Social Innovation is about the IDEA.

And not just any “new idea.” For the social sector, social innovation has to be an idea – in the form of a product, service or method – that creates change, performs better than existing solutions and for which the value accrues primarily to society.

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Social Entrepreneurship is about the MINDSET.

Social entrepreneurs are change agents who are relentless about fashioning bold and creative solutions – through the creation of new organizations or as “intrapreneurs” within existing organizations and communities – to create social change.

## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Social Enterprise is about the BUSINESS MODEL.

Social enterprise is a business – whether operated by a for-profit or nonprofit – that has a double bottom line of both maximizing social and financial return.

**Deep Dive:** <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/social-definitions/>



# Collaboration



## Two or more organizations...

working together in a *meaningful, well-defined, and deliberate* manner...

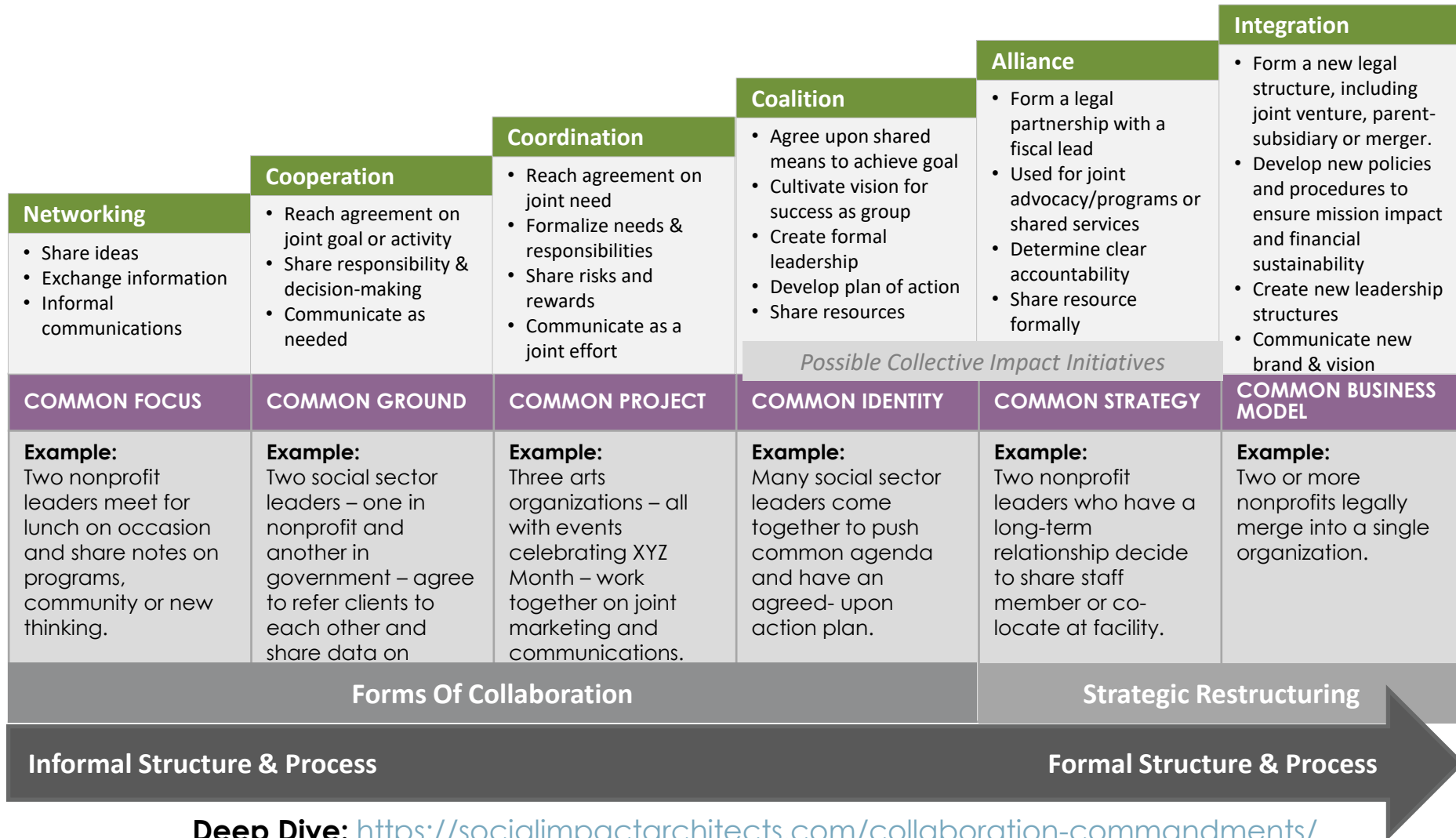
by investing *time, energy and resources*...

to accomplish a set of *shared objectives*...

that are *mutually beneficial* to advancing the missions of the organizations involved and...

that are *more likely to be achieved* together than alone.

# Collaboration Continuum



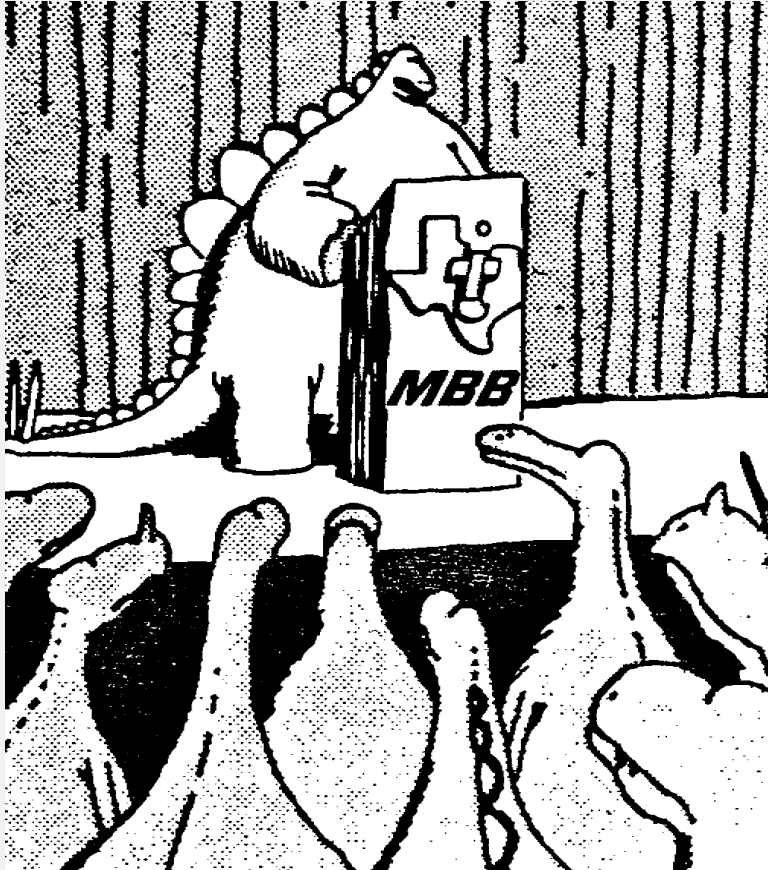
**Deep Dive:** <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/collaboration-commandments/>



# Program & Strategic Planning

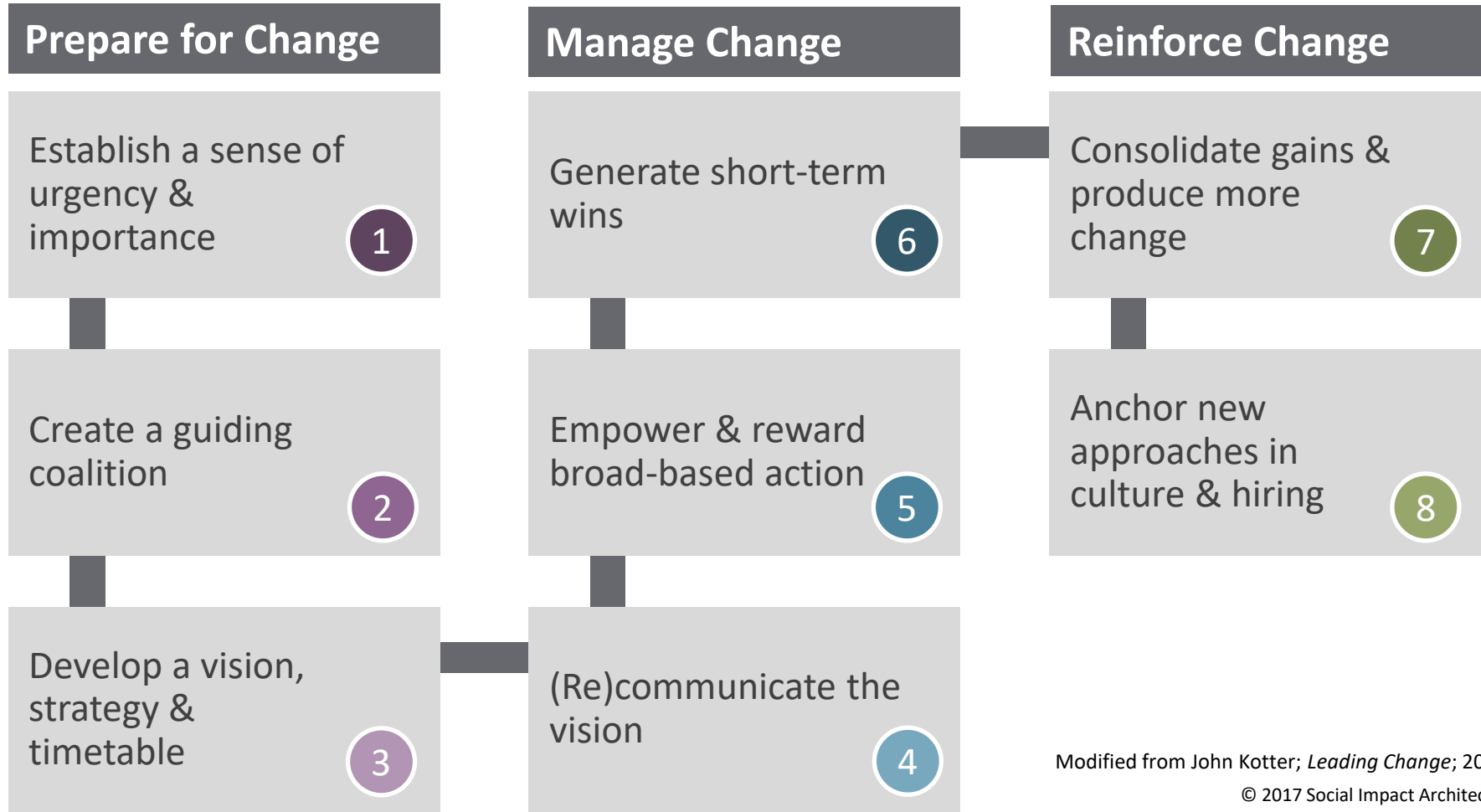


# Goal: To Adapt & Grow



"The picture's pretty bleak, gentlemen ... the world's climates are changing, the mammals are taking over, and we all have a brain about the size of a walnut."

# Steps to Change Management

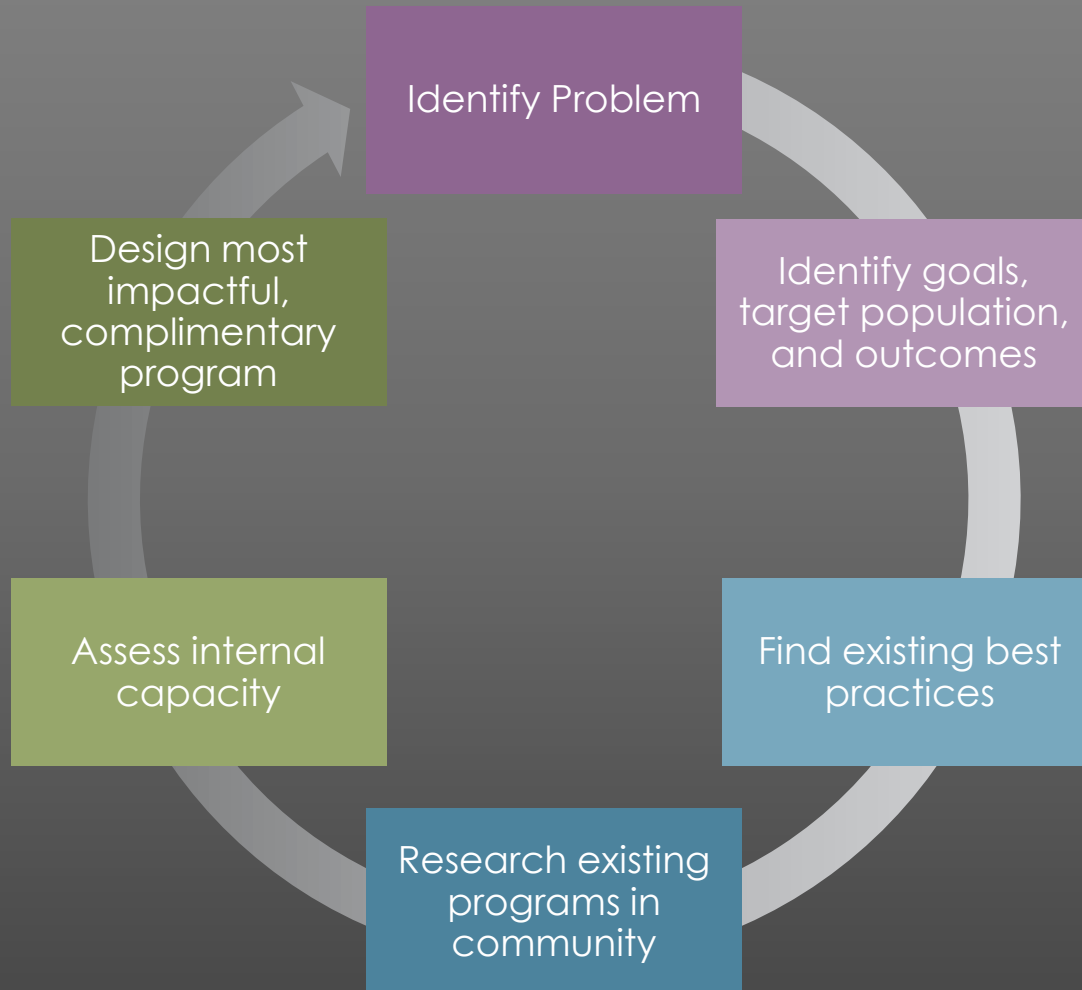


Modified from John Kotter; *Leading Change*; 2012

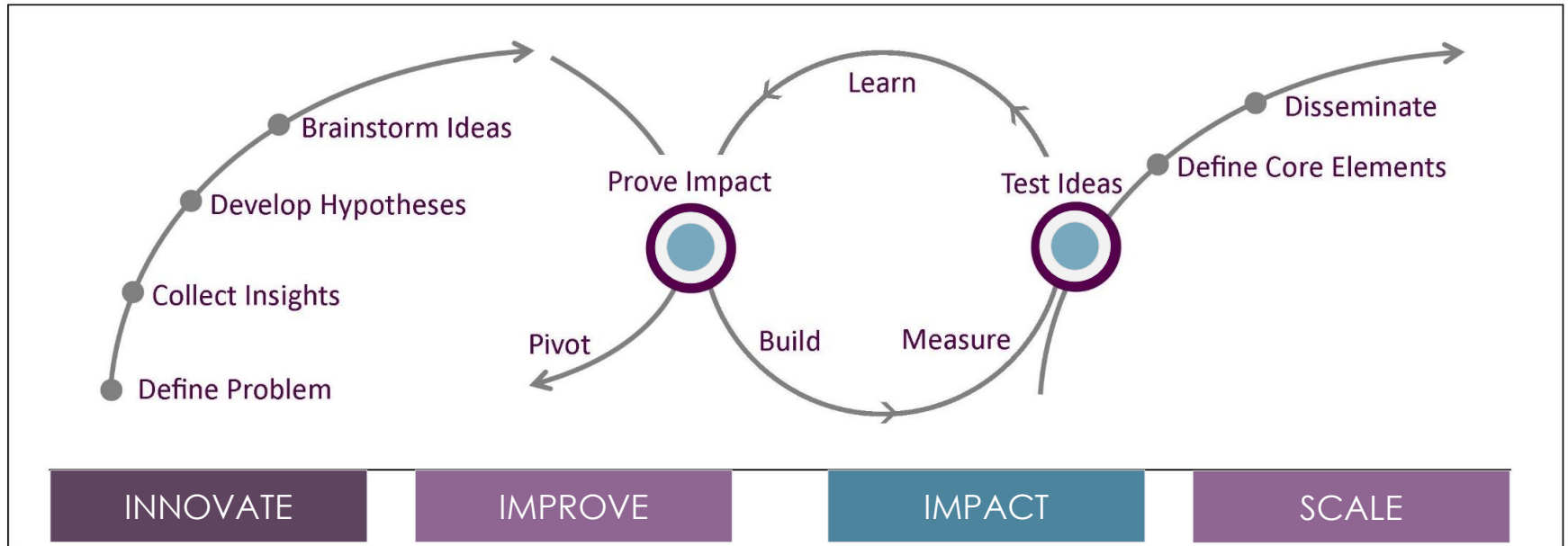
© 2017 Social Impact Architects



# Lean Start-Up Framework

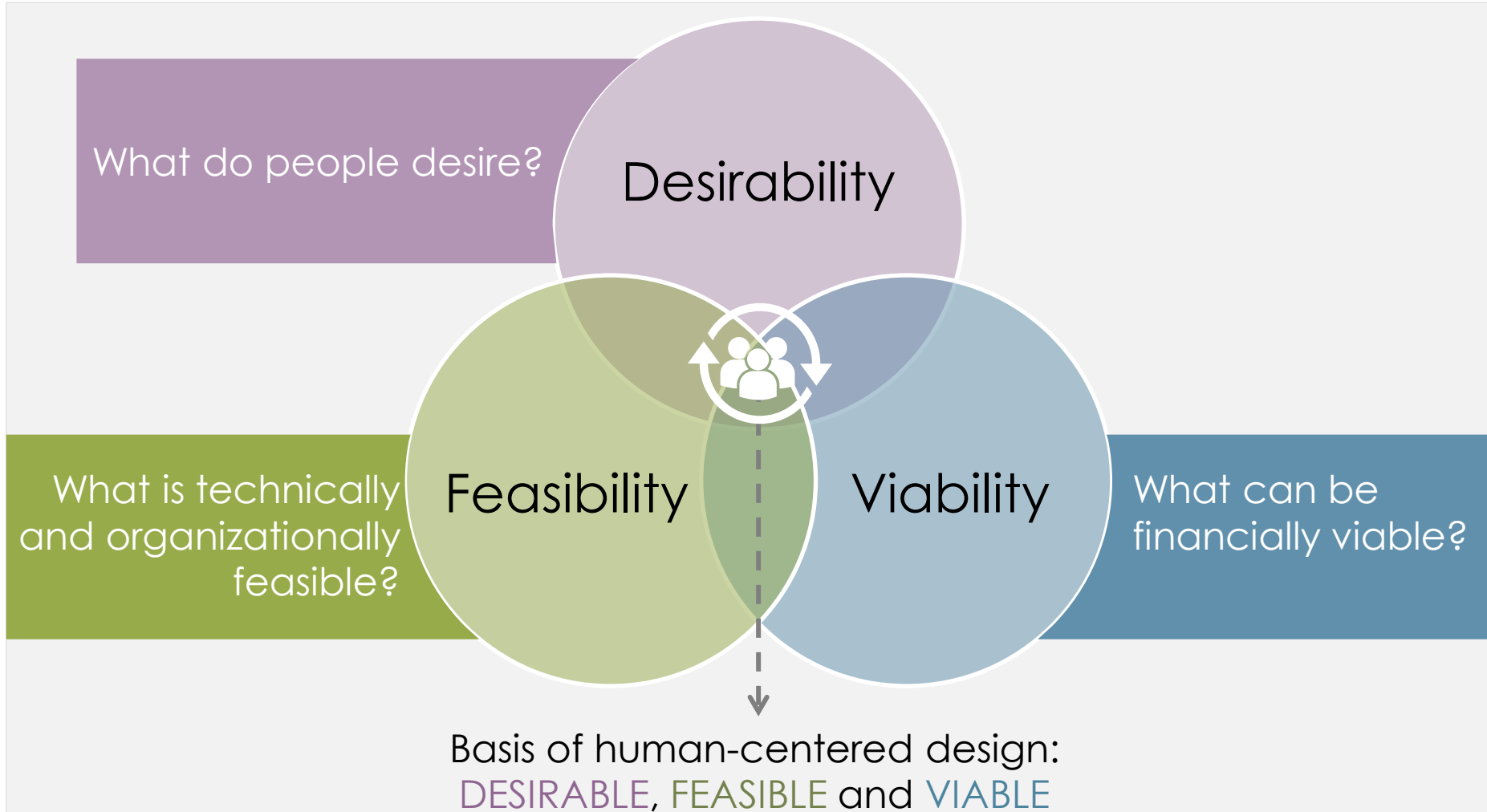


# Social Alchemy Framework



# Advanced Concept:

## Human-Centered Design



# Human-Centered Design:

## Methods

Users



Experts



Analogous  
Situations



Context



# Strategic Planning Objectives

1

Understand the organization's current state

2

Identify highest priorities for impact

3

Establish milestones to ensure progress



# Planning Process



# HOLY TRINITY of

## Vision - Mission - Values



### VISION

**Describes the organization's desired future state of the world** (without mentioning the organization itself)

The best vision statements are one-sentence statements that are aspirational, memorable and succinct.

### MISSION

**Mission – Describes the organization's unique reason for existence and its priorities and methods for accomplishing the vision** ("unique" meaning that it connects to your unique value proposition)

The best mission statements are easy to memorize, action-oriented and understandable.

### VALUES

**Describes the organization's fundamental beliefs and guiding principles that drive its culture**

The best core value statements are often power statements, so employees understand the organization's DNA and can easily put them into action.

**Deep Dive:** <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/nonprofit-vision-mission-values/>

# Types of Plans

Less Intensity

More Intensity

## **ACTION**

- Focused on initiation – getting the right things done in the right sequencing
- Created when getting an organization off the ground to help make good decisions

## **FOUNDATIONAL**

- Focused on stability – either in operations or transition
- Created when organization has hit a “limit to growth” due to operational and/or staffing constraints
- Typically done as growth is on the horizon for next plan

## **BRIDGE PLAN**

- Focused on extending existing strategic plan
- Created when uncertainty in future funding or leadership exists and a new strategic plan is not yet plausible
- Requires review of results of existing plan as well as new areas to include

## **TRANSFORMATIONAL**

- Focused on growth – either in programming or geography
- Created when organization or community needs to go to next level
- Requires operational elements to be relatively stable and mature
- Requires community assessment of need

## **TURNAROUND**

- Focused on continuity – rightsizing mission with financials
- Created when organization has hit decline in lifecycle and needs swift action
- Requires competitive and community assessment

Sample





## Mission

The **Sammons Center** **GROWS** the arts, in and for this community, by providing essential support uniquely focused on the needs of local performing artists, arts groups, audiences, and arts education to **ENRICH** & **ELEVATE** the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds

## Impact

### Objectives


**GROW** efforts as an accelerator of small-to-mid sized arts organizations by conducting a feasibility study for a second location


**ENRICH** arts within Dallas by developing a 5 year program plan, including development of 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans


**ELEVATE** the capacity of Dallas arts organizations by developing a first-rate training series and other learning opportunities

### Operations & Finance

#### Objectives


Strengthen the board through greater use of committees, an agreed upon governance model, improved recruitment and retention, and greater accountability 


Develop a future and emergency succession plan for board and staff 

Further grow and diversify financial resources to support strategy 

### Services


#### Objectives


Expand resources for our client organizations through the development of effective, high quality training and educational services and mentorship opportunities for small and emerging arts and cultural groups 


Address the crucial need for additional facilities for local arts and cultural groups beginning with a feasibility study 

### Brand

#### Objectives

Repackage Sammons as “more than just a building” with a new logo, website, and key messages 

Increase community awareness of Sammons as a leader within the Arts community 

Advocate for the Arts to be a priority within Dallas as a vehicle for growth and advancement 

## Vision

### We believe that:

- The Arts should be accessible to all
- The Arts ecosystem needs both small and large organizations
- The Arts can help build community and provoke new thinking
- The Arts are a core asset of any thriving economy



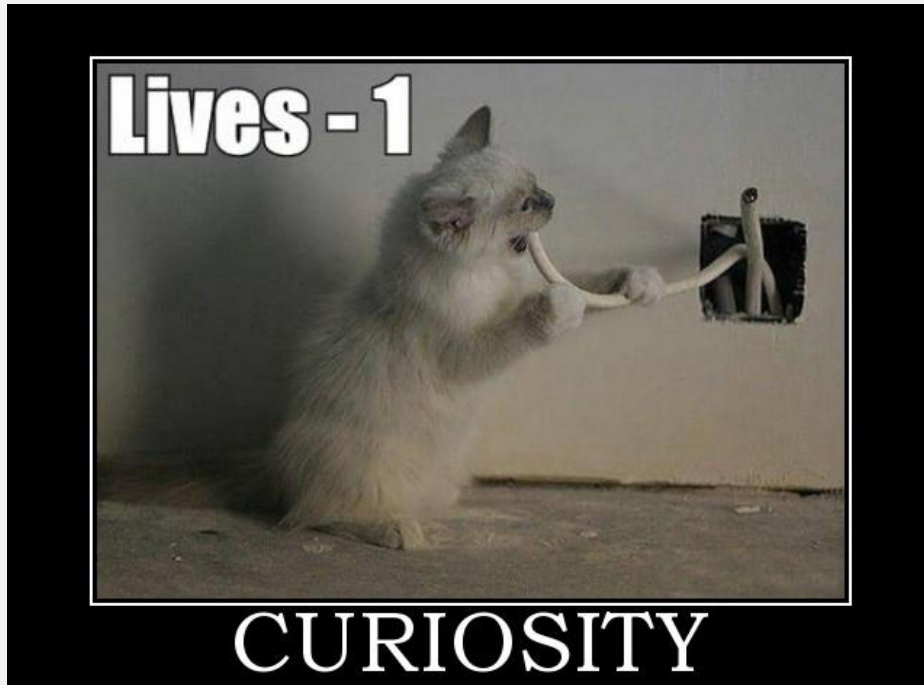
**Dallas can and should leverage the Arts as a vehicle for growth and advancement**



# Impact



# Goal: Become a Learning Organization

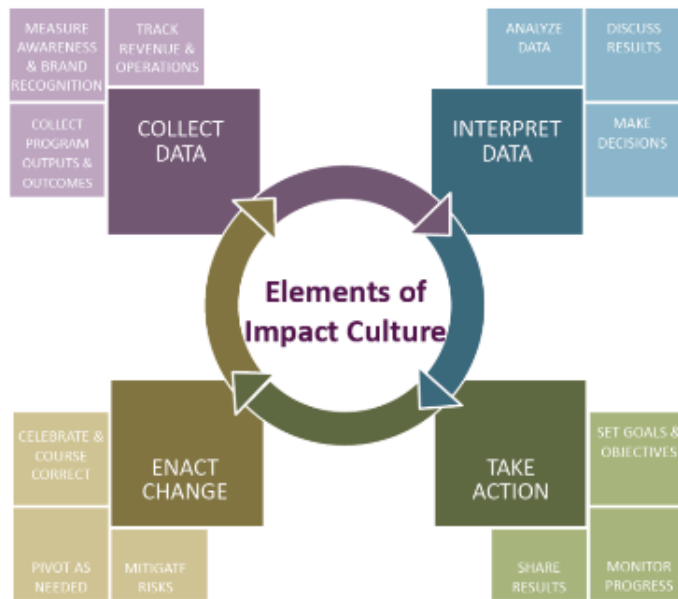


"It strikes again."



# Organizational Checklist for an Impact Culture

**Impact Culture:** Impact is the bottom line of the social sector. A social sector organization with an impact culture is energized by data, curious to learn, takes deliberate action and embraces change.



**INSTRUCTIONS:** Based on where you are in the nonprofit lifecycle, walk through each checklist item and ask yourself or your management team to gauge how embedded these elements are in your culture. Level 1 loosely correlates with the start-up phase; Level 2, the growth phase; and Level 3, the maturity phase.

Score on your own or score with your team as a fun self-assessment. If you do it as a group, have everyone rate it by giving a thumbs up (good), thumbs down (not good) or thumbs to the side (neutral). Then, develop a short Action Plan to address any deficits or use as a guide for Strategic Planning.

# Organizational Checklist for an Impact Culture

## LEVEL 01 *Organization Understands and Appreciates Why Impact Is Important*

- Board and staff can recite what the organization is trying to achieve and why it is important to the community/greater good
- Everyone truly believes that measuring impact will lead to being a [high-impact, high-performance](#) organization – which ultimately means making a bigger difference for those you serve
- Everyone appreciates that [change](#) is difficult and embraces impact management as an opportunity to demonstrate progress and continuous improvement
- Staff track their impact (e.g., IT, HR, finance, & development) through outputs and outcomes
- Program and development staff are on the same team and aligned on program outcomes to be measured
- Staff understand their role in impact management and have performance measures directly connected to the organization's strategy and impact
- [Board tracks](#) its own impact (e.g., funds raised, attendance) to improve engagement and ensure accountability
- Board and staff regularly share results openly, celebrate success and [discuss course corrections](#)

## LEVEL 02 *Organization Proactively Designs & Measures Programs/Operations Using Best Practices*

- All Level 1 items firmly embedded in culture
- Staff use a sophisticated program design model, such as [Lean Startup](#)
- Staff regularly track best practices nationally and embed them into their activities
- Data is collected, stored properly, and analyzed on schedule, as planned
- Staff feel empowered to question why data is being collected, especially if it is not used
- Staff have systems and tools to help them collect and interpret real-time data and make changes as needed
- [Stories](#) are utilized to illustrate success and bring data to life
- [Staff possess necessary skills](#) and are encouraged to critically assess all aspects of their work
- Staff do not want to move forward on major decisions without data and careful reflection
- Staff are rewarded for embracing impact management

## LEVEL 03 *Organization Champions Impact Management to Grow & Improve*

- All Level 1 and 2 items firmly embedded in culture
- Organization shares information freely, internally and externally, and “cross-pollinates” as much as possible
- Improvements are made based on data collected and analyzed
- Organization is benchmarking its data against best practices
- Staff receives feedback on how ideas and improvements have led to positive change
- Organization is a learning organization where staff are encouraged to be curious and invest in their professional development
- Organization appropriately charges donors/funders for impact management and audits as a direct cost of doing business
- Organization is using cost-benefit analysis and [social return on investment](#) in its donor/investor conversations
- Board and staff have richer and more [informed conversations](#)
- Donors better understand the big picture through data and stories
- Organization takes calculated risks and worries more about moving the needle than fear of [failure](#)
- Funders are taking notice

# Impact Measurement Process

## Continuous Process



Develop TOC & Logic Model

1



Develop Performance Indicators

2



Collect Data

3



Analyze Results

4



Communicate Findings

5

Program Improvement

# Theory of Change



A brief statement that discusses the casual relationship between actions, short-term objectives/outcomes, and long-term outcomes.


**Example:** If poor women in Africa have microbicidal contraceptives (they control), AIDS will spread less.

# Logic Model/Social Value Chain



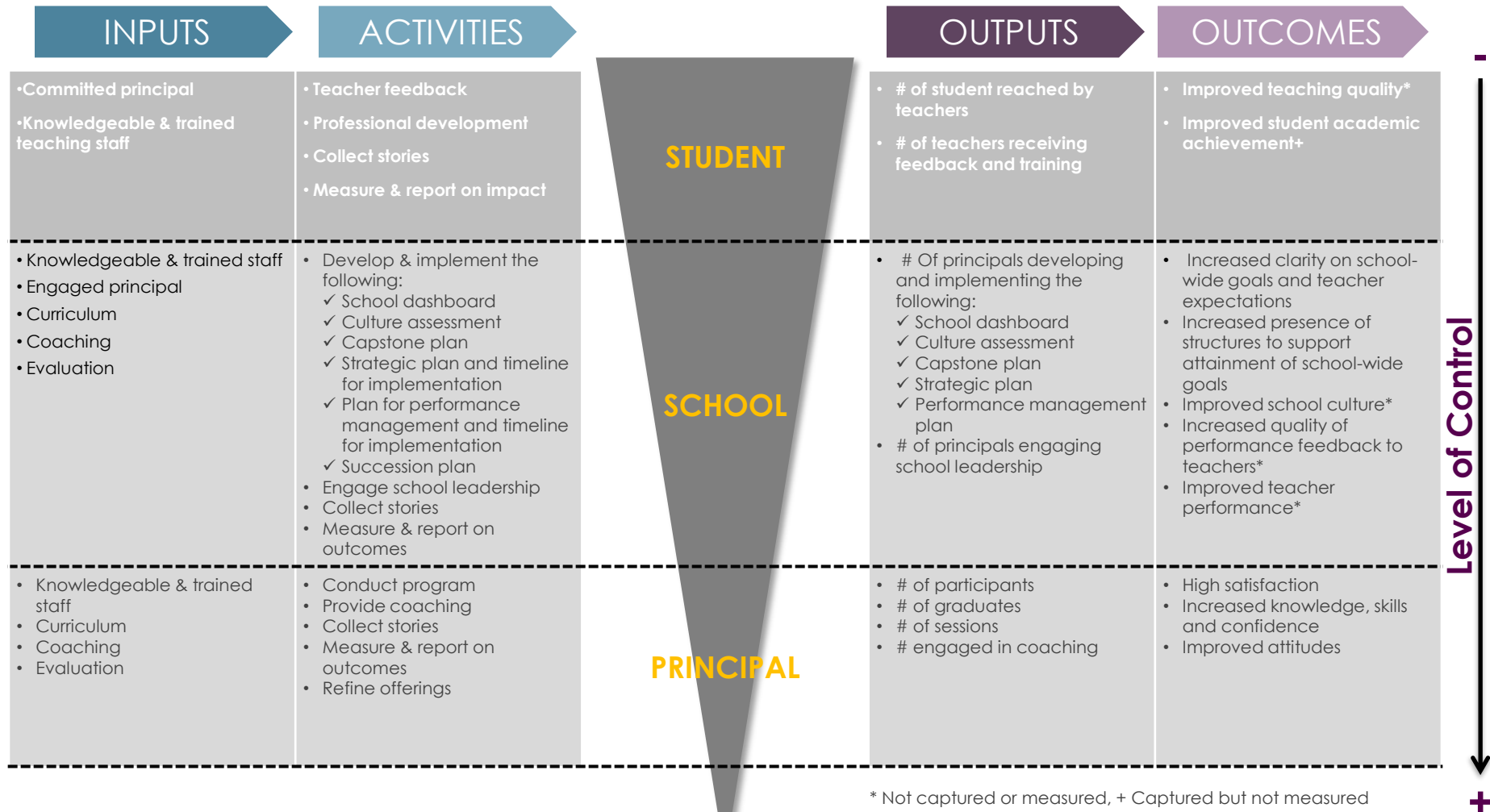
# Example: Outcomes vs. Impact

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 The City University of New York	Pre-CUNY ASAP Graduation Rate	Post-CUNY ASAP Graduation Rate	Difference
	21%	56%	35%
	What would have happened anyway	Outcome	Impact

# Principal Leadership Program Impact Model

**THEORY OF CHANGE:** By offering leadership training and coaching, the principal leadership program aims to increase the management capacity of school principals by improving their educational and organizational abilities that support change in schools, thereby positively impacting student achievement.







# Cookie Example

What makes a  
great chocolate  
chip cookie?

Doubletree Reveals Cookie Recip x +

newsroom.hilton.com/static-doubletree-reveals-cookie-recipe.htm

☆ ✓ |

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DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

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# For the First Time, DoubleTree by Hilton Reveals Official Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe so Bakers Can Create the Warm, Welcoming Treat at Home

Hilton at Home: Insider tips to make your home more hospitable

April 9, 2020

SHARE

MCLEAN, Va. - For the first time ever, DoubleTree by Hilton is sharing the official bake-at-home recipe for the brand's beloved and delicious chocolate chip cookie, so at-home bakers can create the warm and comforting treat in their own kitchens.

The warm chocolate chip cookie welcome is synonymous with DoubleTree hotels worldwide, and travelers look forward to receiving one, fresh from the oven, upon their arrival.

DoubleTree cookies have a passionate fan following and a long history. More than 30 million are consumed every year, and the DoubleTree chocolate chip cookie even became the first food to be baked in orbit during experiments aboard the International Space Station.

RELATED ITEMS

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5/7/2020

DoubleTree Reveals Cookie Recipe x +

newsroom.hilton.com/static-doubletree-reveals-cookie-recipe.htm

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DOUBLETREE BY HILTON

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## DoubleTree Signature Cookie Recipe

Makes 26 cookies

- ½ pound butter, softened (2 sticks)
- ¾ cup + 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- ¾ cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 ¼ teaspoons vanilla extract
- ¼ teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 ¼ cups flour
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pinch cinnamon
- 2 2/3 cups Nestle Tollhouse semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 3/4 cups chopped walnuts

Type here to search

6:44 PM 5/7/2020



# Performance Management



# Performance Management

## Performance Measures

### QUANTITY

## How Much

did we do?

( # )

### QUALITY

## How Well

did we do it?

( % )

# Performance Management

## Performance Measures



### Effort

How hard did we try?



### Effect

Is anyone better off?

# Performance Management

QUANTITY

QUALITY

EFFORT

**HOW MUCH DID WE DO?**

How much service did we deliver?

**HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?**

How well did we deliver it?

EFFECT

**IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?**

How much change / effect did we produce? What quality of change / effect did we produce?





## ORGANIZATIONAL DASHBOARD

Objectives	Activities	Deadline	% Complete	Owner(s)	KPI (Key Performance Indicators)
<b>IMPACT:</b> Operate as a data-driven organization utilizing research and insights in driving continuous improvement and deliberate growth	+Collect data & review via Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) meetings	10.31.17	50%	Director of Programs	+Ongoing monitoring from baseline data for continuous improvement +Development of dashboard for each program focused on measurements that matter +Gaps in data are identified and resolved
	+Institute an opportunity assessment to guide program decisions so expansion and execution of services are mission-focused and seamless	08.31.17	100%	Mgt Team	+Opportunity assessment is used 90% of time to decide on official go/no-go decision +Staff report on survey that growth is managed properly

Objectives	Activities	Deadline	% Complete	Owner(s)	KPI (Key Performance Indicators)
<b>GOVERNANCE:</b> Cultivate a board who is active, serve as ambassadors, and are accountable to organizational goals	+Provide board experiences to engage board	Ongoing	25%	CEO/Mkt Chair	Offer at least 1 board experience a quarter with 55% attendance Share mission moments at 80% of board meetings Board reports greater comfort with storytelling
	+Adopt formal board commitments & use governance committee for training and accountability	08.31.17	75%	CEO/Gov Chair	75% of board attends meetings 80% actively serves on a committee 90% participate in at least one event 100% makes a financial contribution to organization



# Organizational Dashboard

**MISSION:** To promote, deliver, and expand the best early care and education programs for children, parents and early childhood professionals.

## IMPACT

- Position XYZ as a leader in the two-generation approach through thought leadership, education and advocacy.
- Utilize the Texas Rising Star assessment data to develop an annual strategic plan to improve quality among early childhood providers.
- Work collaboratively with community partners to assess current and future needs/demands for early childhood professional development.
- Elevate XYZ Early Childhood Programs to promising/best practices in the two-generation model and position programs for sustainability
- Build and execute a central trusted website/app to connect Dallas families and service providers to education, health and family support services.
- Maximize impact through comprehensive program review/evaluation system to assess program effectiveness and continuously improve to meet dynamic community needs



## KPIs:

- Increased community awareness regarding 2GEN model
- Increase in children enrolled in TRS program
- Increase in centers who improve their TRS rating
- Increase in teachers with CDAs or higher
- Continue all XYZ centers with NAEYC certification
- Increase in teacher proficiency based on academic advancement CLASS scores
- Increase in family self sufficiency total score
- Increase in children & parents connected with a medical home
- Increase community awareness for NTXF.org
- Increase outcome measurement satisfaction score on annual survey

## BRAND

- Develop a marketing strategy and external communications plan to leverage two-generation model and build greater awareness of XYZ



## KPIs:

- Increase marketing score on annual survey
- Increase in media hits related to two-generational model and early childhood

## REVENUE

- Leverage new position around the two-generation approach to identify new or revised strategies for stable and diverse revenue sources.



## KPIs:

- Increase in number of individual donors and average gift size
- Increase in percentage of successful grants
- Increase in community reach through volunteers, board members, & friends
- Continue successful audits & satisfaction with financials, cash flow, and financial controls
- Increase financial management score on annual survey

## OPERATIONS

- Position XYZ to become a nonprofit Employer-of-Choice
- Create facility planning strategy to effectively meet agency and community needs



## KPIs:

- Increased percentage of staff who believe XYZ is an employer of choice
- Increased retention of staff
- Increase in staff who report that buildings are kept safe and clean and meet their needs
- Increase technology score on annual survey



# Check-Out



# SWOT Analysis

The most commonly used tool to conduct an organizational audit is the SWOT analysis, which is often used during the strategic planning process.

## STRENGTHS

- What do you do better than anyone else?

## WEAKNESSES

- What could you improve?
- What do others do better than you?
- What inhibits your ability to achieve success?

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Where are the good opportunities facing you?
- What are the interesting trends you are aware of?

## THREATS


- What obstacles do you face?
- What are other nonprofits doing that you should be worried about?
- What are funders doing that you should be worried about?

# Additional Readings




Latest Trends in the Social Sector


- Impact Culture
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/impact-culture/>
- Impact Mindset
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/impact-mindset/>
- Lean Startup
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/nonprofit-lean-startup/>
- Theory of Change
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/theory-of-change/>
- Activity Trap
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/activity-trap/>
- Logic Model
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/logic-model/>
- Evaluation Plan
  - <https://socialimpactarchitects.com/evaluation-planning/>




*Suzanne Smith*




@snstexas @socialtrendspot



SocialImpactArchitects



company/social-impact-architects  
in/suzannesmithx



suzanne@socialimpactarchitects.com  
www.socialimpactarchitects.com

# Suzanne Smith, MBA

## Founder & CEO, Social Impact Architects

### EDUCATION

- MBA, Duke University's Fuqua School of Business
  - Selected as CASE (Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship) Scholar
- Adjunct Professor – University of Texas at Arlington / Pepperdine

### AWARDS & HONORS

- "Best for the World" Small Business List – B Corp, 2015-2020
- Tedx Speaker, "Everyone Can be a Changemaker," 2015
- Huffington Post's Top 10 Social Sector Blog, 2014
- Next Generation Social Entrepreneurs Award, 2010

### COMMUNITY LEADER

- **Dallas, Texas** – Dallas Commission on Homelessness, Mayor's Task Force on Poverty, Leadership Dallas, Leadership North Texas & Junior League
- Dallas Regional Chamber, Young ATHENA Award, 2014
- Dallas Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award, 2012
- **Cincinnati, Ohio** – Founder, Flywheel: Social Enterprise Hub

# About Social Impact Architects

**Social Impact Architects®** is a social change agency that provides consulting and learning resources to changemakers, working alongside them to design creative and transformative solutions to social issues. SIA uses innovative, market-driven management tools to design cost-effective, pragmatic plans for our clients. We work collaboratively with our clients to ensure organizational ownership and improved capacity to sustain the solutions we help design.

## About SIA

- Created in 2009 to bridge the divides in the creation of social solutions between governments, philanthropy, and nonprofits
- Established as a Benefit Corporation; received Best in the World from 2015-2019
- While headquartered in Dallas, Texas, the firm works across the country with clients large and small with a focus on the middle of the country
- Leverages a diverse virtual team with masters and doctorate degrees from across the country speaking multiple languages

## Firm Expertise

- Authors **Social TrendSpotter** (@socialtrendspot), one of the sector's top blogs according to the *Huffington Post*. Known for its relatable way of blending important concepts and new ways of working with storytelling, **Social TrendSpotter** has been hailed by readers as "the only blog I read each week."
- **Social Impact Architects** has successfully contributed to system change and innovation projects at the local, state and national level. This process has been so successful that it was presented in 2015 at the U.S. Conference of Mayors as a best practice.
- **Social Impact Architects** serves in a number of advisory roles to government, including HHS's roundtable on social enterprise.



CEO, Suzanne Smith, testifying at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2015.