PHILANTHROPY DATA COMMONS

The Philanthropy Data Commons

The Philanthropy Data Commons (PDC) is a shared sector-wide governance and technical infrastructure that fosters trust, enables new ways of managing data and information as a sector asset, creates more possibilities in our collective work, and spurs more equitable access to resources in philanthropy.
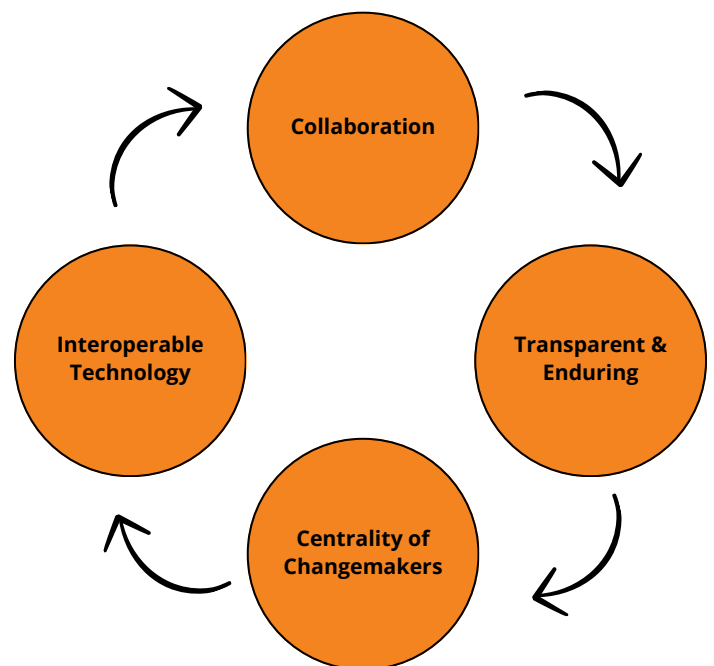
The PDC was initiated by a group of funders, changemakers, and others working in the sector looking to democratize data sharing throughout the sector and create more access to funding or community-based changemakers. It started with a Minimal Viable Coalition and the PDC Proof of Concept and transitioned to an extensive pilot in 2022 and 2023. The PDC is now moving from pilot to production in 2024.

How Will the PDC Shift Power in Philanthropy?

The PDC is committed to creating a new way of governing data and information as a sector asset and to organizing and making data and information available in the right place at the right time and for the right purpose. Changemakers are central to the PDC and have developed the technical and governance infrastructure alongside funders, grants management system and data platform providers.

The PDC's core principles are the key drivers and differentiators of this movement:

- **Centrality of Changemakers:** Changemakers own and control their data and information and contribute to decisions about the use and users of their combined data from the PDC.
- **Interoperable & Extensible:** The PDC promotes equitable access, meeting organizations "where they are" while relying on a robust application programming interface ("API") model and protocols that integrate with existing and emerging technology platforms to facilitate the ingestion, integration, or sharing of data.
- **Shared & collaborative work and governance of, by, and for the sector:** The PDC is co-created, managed, and sustained by diverse sector stakeholders.
- **Transparent & Enduring:** The PDC seeks to leverage existing data and tools, not to replace existing ones, but to connect and enhance them and to create more equity, effectiveness, and impact in our individual and collective work.

Collaboration → Transparent & Enduring → Centrality of Changemakers → Interoperable Technology

Building a Sector Movement - The Future of the Philanthropy Data Commons

The Philanthropy Data Commons is transitioning to its inaugural governing board, which will be announced in late 2023. This transition will include the continued development and maintenance of the data commons and its infrastructure, the development of the initial legal structure, and the announcement of new and exciting authorized projects to continue to test how the PDC can transform philanthropy.

The PDC has the power to change how we all work in philanthropy by:

- Reducing the power imbalance between funders and changemakers.
- Ensuring that changemakers and other data owners maintain ownership and control over their own data and contribute to decisions about the use and users of their combined data.
- Improving and enhancing the way we share and use data and information.
- Focusing on interoperability, creating a platform to bridge data, and reducing the need for standardization.
- Alleviating administrative burdens, building organizational capacities, and creating efficiencies for funders and organizations seeking grants.
- Establishing and sustaining an iterative collaborative governance framework that promotes consensus and ensures the responsible, equitable, and secure integration, use, and sharing of data.
- Becoming an essential part of philanthropy infrastructure (powered and protected by PDC).
- And so much more!

Join Us!

Success in this work requires dedicated collaboration with a diverse group of sector stakeholders. The PDC is looking for partners who are willing to disrupt the current state of philanthropy and challenge the way the sector uses and manages data and information, in alignment with the PDC core principles.

> "We are intentionally moving fast for philanthropy, building on the urgency and momentum for change that currently exist in the sector.
>
> - **Erin Kundolf**, Vice President of Philanthropic Partnerships, Urban Institute"

The PDC is actively recruiting for:

- **Participants:** Changemakers, funders, data and technology providers, and others who have an idea for a future authorized project (or would like to participate in one), are working on similar projects, have ideas for technological collaboration, or who want to learn more.
- **Funders**: The MacArthur Foundation has committed to supporting the PDC for the next two to four years and a diversity in funders is needed to will help ensure the PDC is created as a shared sector asset. The PDC is looking for potential funding partners who aim to support this movement and collaborate according to the core principles.

The PDC's shared collaborative governance framework, data platform, and core principles is a new structure in philanthropy and will drive more collaboration, equity, and inclusiveness.

We're building a movement and invite you to be part of the solution.

Learn more or get in touch at info@philanthropydatacommons.org. `