



Collaboration:
A Continuum of
Committed Engagement



*Alone we can do so little,
together we can do much.*

-Helen Keller

Agenda

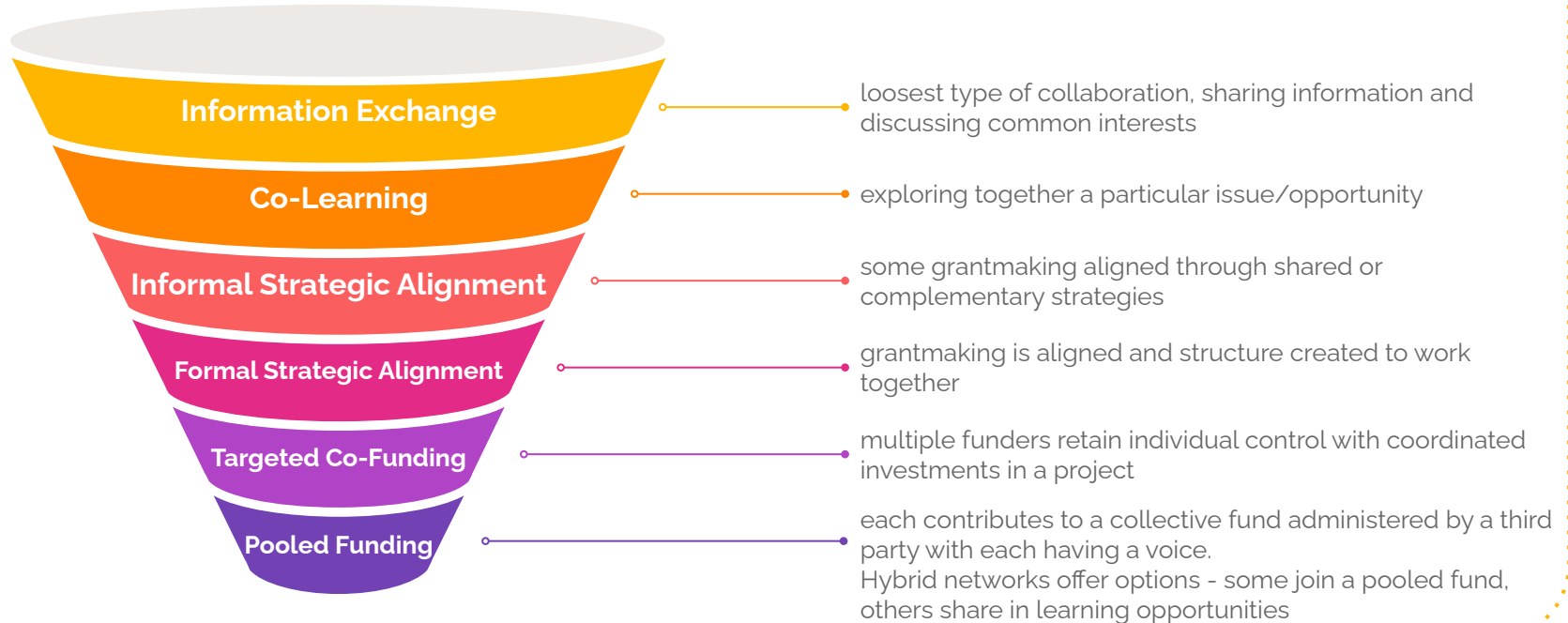


- What Does Donor Collaboration Mean?
- What Do Successful Collaborations Look Like?
- Deciding to Participate in a Collaboration
- 20 Ingredients for a Successful Collaboration
- Culture of Inquiry - Asking Questions to Power Change
- 12 Principles of Governance that Power Exceptional Boards

What does donor collaboration mean?

Six types from [Donor Collaboration: Power in Numbers](#)
by The Philanthropic Initiative & Chapin Hall researcher Ralph Hamilton

Six Types of Donor Collaboration



What do
successful
collaborations
look like?





Successful collaborations

- A passionate champion(s)
- A unique opportunity and realization that "business as usual" is not sufficient
- A diverse group of funders
- An inclusive participation structure
- Time for planning





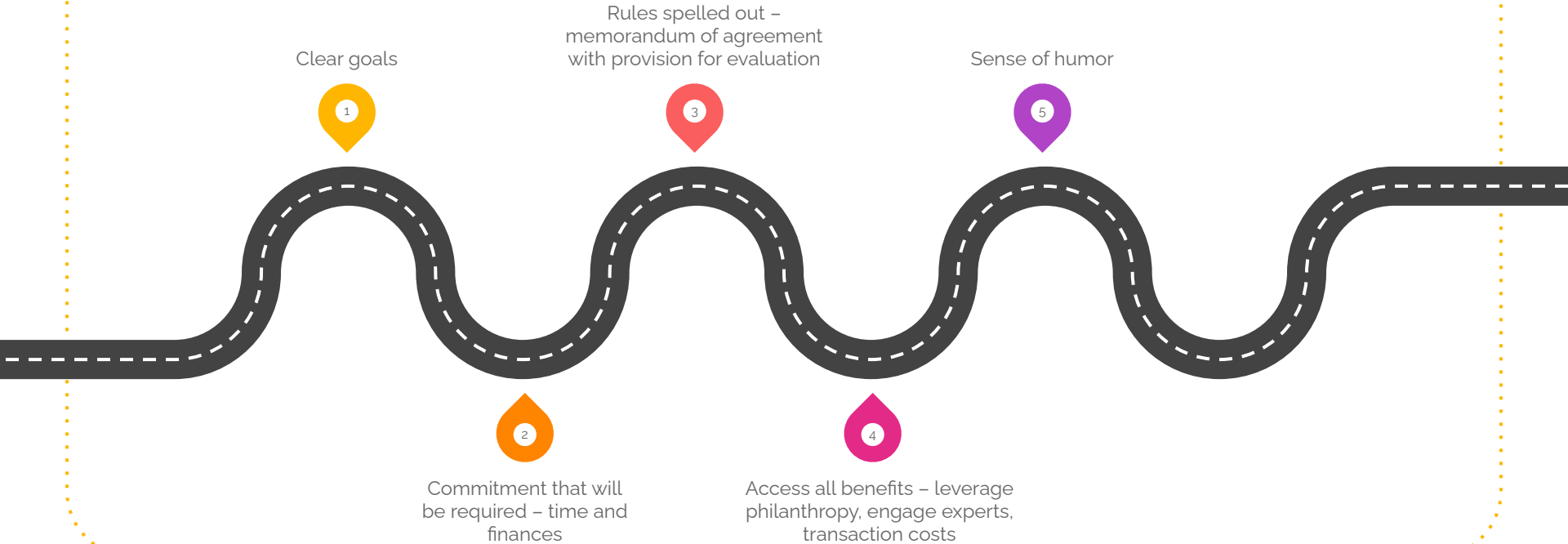
Successful collaborations

- A Comfortable Interactive Forum
- Flexibility
- Appropriate Staffing
- Stability
- Long term agenda
- Trust





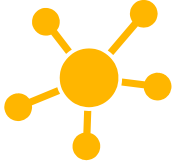
Deciding to Participate in a Collaboration



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20 Ingredients for a Successful Collaboration

from Nonprofit World, Vol 29, No 2, 2011



20 Ingredients for a successful collaboration

Environment

1. History of collaboration or cooperation
2. Collaborative group seen as a leader
3. Political/social climate favorable

Partner Characteristics

4. Mutual respect, understanding & trust
5. Appropriate cross-section
6. Collaboration seen as in their self-interest
7. Ability to compromise



20 Ingredients for a successful collaboration

Process/Structure

8. Partners share a stake in both process & outcome
9. Multiple layers of decision-making
10. Flexibility
11. Development of clear priorities & policy guidelines
12. Adaptability

Communications

13. Open and frequent communications
14. Established informal & formal communication links



20 Ingredients for a successful collaboration

Purpose

- 15. Concrete, attainable goals & objectives
- 16. Shared vision
- 17. Unique purpose

Resources

- 18. Sufficient funding for the collaboration
- 19. Skilled convenor
- 20. Capacity for strategic thinking

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Culture of Inquiry – Power of Questions in Collaboration and Co-Creation

From "Power of Asking Questions," [RapidStartLeadership.com](https://www.rapidstartleadership.com)



Curiosity—asking questions—isn't just a way of understanding the world. It's a way of changing it.

—Brian Grazer, "A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life"

Asking questions:

- Builds knowledge
- Teaches us about people
- Engages multiple brains
- Communicates value
- Guides thinking
- Sets an example – looking for better ways to do things
- Develops – helps others become better





Collaboration can:

- Take a known idea to scale, resulting in greater impact
- Result in co-creation – producing something that did not exist before
- Provide an equitable process for all – even end users – to contribute
- Inspire curiosity, overcome fears, and help letting go of need to control
- Create transformation

12 Principles of Governance that Power Exceptional Boards

From "The Source: Twelve Principles of
Governance That Power Exceptional Boards"
BoardSource, 2005





12 Principles of Governance that **Power Exceptional Boards**

1. Constructive Partnership
2. Mission Driven
3. Strategic Thinking
4. Culture of Inquiry
5. Independent-Mindedness
6. Ethos of Transparency



12 Principles of Governance that **Power Exceptional Boards**

- 7. Compliance with Integrity
- 8. Sustaining Resources
- 9. Results-Oriented

- 10. Intentional Board Practices
- 11. Continuous Learning
- 12. Revitalization



*When love and skill work
together, expect a masterpiece.*

-John Ruskin

Donor Collaboration: Power in Numbers The Philanthropic Initiative
& Chapin Hall researcher Ralph Hamilton

"Twenty Ingredients for a Successful Collaboration" Nonprofit World, Vol
29, No 2, 2011 Mark B. Redfield, Jr.

"Power of Asking Questions," RapidStartLeadership.com Ken Downer

"The Source: Twelve Principles of Governance That Power Exceptional
Boards" BoardSource, 2005

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