

# 2019 Annual Conference Summary Report



*Disrupting Silos, Connecting Conversations, Creating Impact  
Part II: Exploring the Why*

May 1-2, 2019  
Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice  
New York, New York

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DISRUPT  
CONNECT  
CREATE

## Introduction

The [Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group \(AGAG\)](#) is a network of funders. Our mission is to promote robust, effective, and responsive philanthropy to benefit African communities. We believe that a global network of diverse, knowledgeable, and connected funders will help to grow and strengthen the impact of private philanthropy targeting Africa. Our work is organized around three approaches: curating information, convening funders, and connecting people.

Since 2000, the AGAG Annual Conference has provided a unique benefit to the social sector as one of the few regular meetings with an international reach designed specifically for funders who support initiatives targeting Africa. This annual convening is designed to be a conversation among peers, and an opportunity for funders to reinforce their personal commitment to philanthropy. The conference helps funders to examine how their work relates to each other and within a broader context while sharing, learning, and building professional relationships.

The 2019 Annual Conference, "**Part II: Exploring the Why,**" was the second in a three-part conference series launched in 2018. The conference series theme, "**Disrupting Silos, Connecting Conversations, Creating Impact,**" is a call to action to:

- Disrupt sector-specific approaches and silo perspectives
- Connect the conversations between funders inside and outside of Africa
- Build relationships that create more impact

This year's conference built upon the previous year's discussions and took a deeper dive into the why of grantmaking practices through exploring the influence of narratives. The conference series will culminate with AGAG's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa from May 12-14, 2020.

This summary report provides a flavor of the discussions that took place during the two-day conference. A special note of thanks to Hawwa Muhammed, who served as the conference rapporteur.

Niamani Mutima  
Executive Director

## Part II: Exploring the Why

Representatives of forty grantmaking and philanthropy organizations from five countries convened at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice in New York City for this year's conference. The plenary sessions, small group discussions, and live interactive polling provided opportunities for formal discussions. The reception, breaks, and lunch table groups organized by AGAG members provided space for informal conversations and networking.

The conference theme, "Exploring the Why," provided an overarching framework for the mix of sessions. The different topics explored changes in the funding landscape and how narratives influence grantmaking decisions. The idea that institutions are changed by individuals who are thinking together and being consistent about their message, resonated with participants. The conference ended with a call to action for them to take individual steps to initiate conversations with colleagues about the issues discussed during the conference.

### Audience Poll

For this year's conference, AGAG used an interactive platform to poll the participants prior to and during the conference about the conference theme and session topics.

Prior to the conference, participants were asked, **"how do you think that disrupting silos and connecting conversations can lead to more impact for funding targeting Africa?"** The following are some of their responses.

- Funders need to make more time to connect with each other and talk about who and what they are funding so there can be a better understanding about issues.
- It allows different perspectives to enter the fold so that we can challenge our own ideas/assumptions to make smarter funding choices.
- There will be less duplication and funding can stretch further. There will be more innovation and funders will be encouraged to make smart funding choices.
- We can develop more responsive and impactful collaborations. Funders need to be more intentional about what we support and how we go about doing that.
- It provides more resources and opportunities for solving problems that a single organization or institution cannot solve.
- Innovation comes from different types of people and organizations collaborating to tackle big challenges.

## Changes in the Funding Landscape

The funding landscape is a dynamic ecosystem that is influenced by the intersection of interests, resources, and processes. Each of these was explored during the conference.

**Steven Lawrence**, an independent research consultant, facilitated the session on “**Exploring the Funding Landscape**” that discussed the *2018 AGAG Survey of Africa Funders*. He presented an overview of the responses from sixty-two grantmaking organizations to questions about their collaboration with other funders, support of organizations in Africa, and alignment of funding priorities.

The majority of the respondents (64%) were involved in funder collaborations, and maximizing impact, leveraging funding, and avoiding duplication were cited as the top reasons. A majority of 72% indicated they fund organizations in Africa and do not face any significant challenges in doing so. For those who reported they did face challenges, legal restrictions that limited their ability to fund organizations outside the country, and the lack of a local presence to facilitate oversight were cited as impediments. Identifying organizations based in Africa to implement funders’ priorities was cited among the challenges in aligning agendas. However, the flip side of this challenge was also highlighted by survey respondents who noted that funder priorities do not always align with the needs and interests of African communities.

The audience was invited to participate in a live poll to answer specific survey questions about their funding. All who responded indicated that they fund local organizations in Africa and the majority (75%) were engaged in funder collaborations. When asked how responsive their organization was to the funding priorities of local organizations in Africa, 56% responded that they were very responsive, and 44% that they were somewhat responsive.

The full report of the survey findings will be published in the coming months. For the next phase of this project, AGAG plans to conduct interviews to explore questions that emerged from the survey, including those raised by the audience during the session.

**D**onor-advised funds (DAFs) are an essential resource in the philanthropy sector. In her opening comments as moderator of the session, “**The Growth of Donor Advised Funds**,” **Yvonne Moore**, principal advisor of [Moore Philanthropy](#), explained that a DAF is a fund hosted by a public charity and/or financial institution that serves as a giving vehicle for individuals. Their rapid growth was outpacing the asset growth of many foundations and had reached \$110 billion by the end of 2017. She introduced the guest speaker, **Elaine Martyn**, Vice President and Managing Director of the [Private Donor Group of Fidelity Charitable](#), the most significant donor-advised fund in the US.

In discussing general trends, Martyn explained Fidelity Charitable has about 200,000 donors who have given away \$5.2 billion to 150,000 non-profits. Their charitable giving includes \$980 million, supporting impact investing both domestic and international. The average age of a Fidelity DAF holder is 64, but with the increased interest in DAFs from Silicon Valley donors, the number of those under 40 has increased. Fidelity encourages their donors to be strategic, thoughtful grantmakers, and 70% of them have their own foundations in addition to DAFs.

Currently, only about four percent of funding is going to international organizations, and much of that support is for disaster relief. Historically, the most significant number of donations have been to India

and Argentina, and in the last few years, Brazil and Malawi. In response to questions about increasing donor interest in Africa, Martyn reminded the group that in its role as a donor-advised fund, strategy management is left to the individual donor. Fidelity does not accept proposals on behalf of donors or identify funders for projects since it is difficult to know what will inspire people to give. However, they do work with donor circles and organizations such as King Baudouin US, TrustAfrica, and African Women's Development Fund for direct granting. Although Fidelity does not track racial or ethnic data of donors, they do have clients who are from Africa living in the US who are supporting organizations in their home communities. There are also donors who favor social issues that impact African communities.

Over the past few years, the shift in donor interests has been reflected in the top 20 organizations who are receiving the highest number of grants. The American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Law Center, and Planned Parenthood have replaced Harvard, Dartmouth, and the Red Cross. In 2018, faith-based and health and human rights organizations were tied for the first time as the largest recipients.

Martyn characterized Fidelity Charitable as focusing on community and connection. Their donor education efforts have different generational cohorts, including a next-generation fellows' program for the children and grandchildren of their clients or first-time wealth earners. Six of these fellows are living in different parts of Africa. Donors are encouraged to travel and connect with other donors who have similar interests.

Just as donor-advised funds are another mechanism for giving that is bringing increased resources to the philanthropy landscape, there are also new technology tools that not only promise improvements in grantmaking processes, but also raise concerns about their impact on the sector.

**D**uring the session on "**Blockchain Technology and Philanthropy**," **Bongiwe Mlangeni**, Executive Director of the [Social Justice Initiative](#) in South Africa, talked with **Stephen Downs**, Chief Technology and Strategy Officer of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), and **Leon Wilson**, Chief of Digital Innovation & Chief Information Officer of the [Cleveland Foundation](#), about the potential uses of blockchain technology in philanthropy.

At the beginning of the session, Mlangeni polled the audience about their knowledge and use of blockchain. Of the respondents, 32% knew what blockchain is, 22% were considering using it in their grantmaking, and only 8% had received proposals from Africa that included the use of blockchain.

The panelists then set the stage for the discussions by explaining that blockchain is an intelligent, distributive, and secure database where nothing can be erased or changed, to ensure the integrity of the information.

Blockchain has been used to track and verify relief supplies and payments. The [Bitgive Foundation](#) is a bitcoin and blockchain non-profit charity that only accepts cryptocurrency donations. Organizations such as the Red Cross and Save the Children have also begun to take donations in bitcoin over the past few years. How organizations in Africa can benefit from both blockchain and cryptocurrency was discussed, and issues of infrastructure, energy consumption, and internet access, especially in rural areas, were raised.

Two examples were given of grant proposals received that involved blockchain. One was to help people control access to their own medical records, and the other to help provide services for homeless people.

The discussion raised questions about power dynamics and unintended consequences. When grants are made, it's not the pay for success model of doing the work then getting the money. If a primary use of blockchain is to allow donors to track the use of donations and progress of projects, is that really giving or is it donor surveillance? Will it attract a certain kind of donor who wants that type of specificity? To what degree can blockchain enable greater accountability? Does it lead to a shift in donors not wanting to focus on things that are harder to measure? Although there are numerous pilots in the use of blockchain, it has not gained extensive use. It is vital to consider its impact on the intent, process, and relationship building that are essential issues in the philanthropy sector.

**P**hilanthropy's silo approach to funding can present challenges in addressing issues that require a multi-sector approach and that are happening outside of traditional organizational structures. During the session, "**Responding to Change**," AGAG's **Niamani Mutima** talked with **Felicitas Chiganze** and **Jonathan Gunthorp** of [SRHR Africa Trust \(SAT\)](#). They shared how their work to address the needs of adolescent youth in southern Africa has changed over the last three decades – and the challenges it has presented in working with their funders and partners.

Both speakers talked about the disruption that occurred at various points during SAT's evolution from focusing on HIV to sexual reproductive health and rights, and from being a grantmaker to a community development organization that makes grants and provides other types of support to organizations in the region.

SAT emerged in 1990 when HIV was spreading rapidly, and there was a great deal of denial, especially among governments. The international community mobilized resources and interventions were based on the model of applying lessons primarily from the United States to what was happening in communities in southern Africa. Partner organizations turned to SAT to help harness the knowledge of local communities, which gave birth to the School Without Walls Initiative so communities could learn from each other. The networks that emerged involved different types of organizations – HIV, domestic violence, reproductive health, etc., which began to understand that these issues were interconnected, and solutions needed to be as well. When organizations in the network started to scale their work, the silo approaches of most donors proved to be an obstacle as they were unable to support cross-cutting approaches that did not fit within any one program area.

SAT is also trying to disrupt how they relate to young people by providing safe spaces for young activists to do their work. They are also trying to smash generational silos. Young people shouldn't be subjects of grants or philanthropy, they have to be agents. How do we change the way we work with them to understand the value exchange? Funders don't give young people ownership of their programs, and organizational structures that require working in silos make it difficult for young people to participate and take ownership. In responding to this challenge, SAT is considering making more grants to smaller collectives.

The question of whether philanthropy is agile enough to be responsive to the types of changes illustrated by SAT's evolution was posed, and there were different reactions from the audience. Although funders themselves might not be able to respond as quickly as the panelists have suggested, multi-year general support grants are one way to help organizations to be nimble so they can respond more rapidly. Examples were also cited where funders did respond to policy shifts by providing additional funding. The tension between the desire to be responsive, and the mutual vetting necessary to build trust-based partnerships was raised. There is always an opportunity for philanthropy to respond, but often, it takes a long time to reach an understanding of what's happening on the ground.

## How Philanthropy Shapes Narratives about Africa

Although conversations about cross-border giving often focus on the transactional nature of the relationships between funders and grant recipients, it is also essential to understand the reasons behind grantmaking strategies and approaches. The stories that we believe about ourselves and the world around us play a pivotal role in how we think, communicate, and make decisions. In philanthropy, our assumptions are reflected in who and what is funded and how success is measured. Several of the sessions discussed the intentional and unintentional roles that philanthropy plays in shaping narratives about Africa.

Understanding the challenges that young women across Africa are facing, and the role that philanthropy can play in supporting them, was the topic of the session, “**Disrupting Barriers for the Next Generation of Women Change Agents.**” **Vuyiswa Sidzumo**, Senior Program Officer of the [Ford Foundation Office for Southern Africa](#), talked with **Moiyattu Banya-Keister**, Founder and Director of Girls Empowerment Sierra Leone, about her work to encourage young African women and highlight their stories.

Banya-Keister described the evolution of the two organizations she founded, [Girls Empowerment Sierra Leone](#) and [Women Change Africa](#). Both grew from the question of what could it look like if girls had their own space to thrive and develop confidence? The Girls Empowerment Summit focuses on peer-to-peer mentorship and building trust. Women Change Africa highlights stories of young African women trailblazers. Although she has received little international funding, Africans and African women have played a significant role in supporting both organizations.

She noted that perceptions of the diaspora can create a barrier to understanding leadership. You can be based anywhere and have a local team and be well-informed, but often the diaspora is invisible because there aren't enough examples of women who are operating in a global context and managing organizations from different locations. She encouraged funders to consider whose story is being amplified and whose story is being silenced by what is being funded.

More women's funds are needed, notably to support entrepreneurship and to help address the barriers that young women face, such as limited access to loans, or access only to those with prohibitively high interest rates.

One of the unintentional effects of funding a particular focus area can be to draw attention away from other vital issues. One of the main barriers for young women is the disconnect between the aspirational and the reality. Supporting women and girls requires a holistic approach and creating an environment for authentic feedback about what is really happening in the community and what is needed. Candid discussions between funders and grantees can challenge what we think we know about who needs to be involved and leaves room for innovation and sustainability. It is important for funders to think more critically about the roles their grantmaking approaches can play to disrupt the barriers faced by young women and girls.

Perhaps one of the areas where philanthropy has been most influential in shaping narratives about Africa is knowledge production, including education and research. During the session on “**Philanthropy and the African Academy,**” **Nyeleti Honwana** of the [H. F. Guggenheim Foundation](#) moderated the discussion between **Dr. Bhekinkosi Moyo** of the [African Centre on Philanthropy and](#)

[Social Investment \(ACPSI\)](#) at the WITS Business School in South Africa and **Dr. Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso** of [Babcock University](#) in Nigeria. They discussed how the way funding is conceptualized and administered to African scholars and institutions influences the dynamic between international and African institutions.

In her opening comments, Honwana noted that in the development sector people on the ground are expected to help shift the narrative, but maybe funders haven't done that enough and haven't done that effectively. She invited the speakers to share their perspectives on the current movement to decolonize the curricula in Africa.

Yacob-Haliso discussed her interdisciplinary research on gender and women in post-conflict settings, specifically Liberia. In exploring the governance of reintegration of former refugees, she has found that not much has changed in actual outcomes that are sustainable. For example, she found that Liberian women were not involved in conceptualizing the programs that were implemented. What could have been done differently to understand the changing contexts? Our knowledge of Africa is partial, biased, and incomplete. These programs that had been applied in other contexts were well-intentioned, but 10 years later, women still cannot send their children to school. Much of the narratives disconnect the past from the present from the future.

Much of the knowledge about Africa that is given credibility is not produced in Africa nor by Africans. It does not take into account the archival sources that exist, including the oral sources, traditions, and customs. This is reinforced by how philanthropy engages with the academy. There are always decisions about Africa that Africans do not participate in, and which are based on a limited view of the relevant priorities in funding research. There are specific subjects that funders think are important which limit what's possible in terms of the knowledge that comes out of Africa. In education, there is a perception of what higher education institutions should teach and what standards are used to determine credibility.

Moyo discussed the role of ACPSI in redrawing the parameters and using a new lens in looking at what we know. What was the history of philanthropy of Africa like? How did international organizations define philanthropy in Africa? Depending on who is writing it, the narrative takes on different meanings. If ACPSI can produce knowledge and interpret the landscape, it will be able to change how African philanthropy is described and understood.

He emphasized the importance of African institutions training their own entrepreneurs to create new narratives that are more nuanced with more relevant terminology. The issue of language is critical, and until Africans develop their own taxonomy, they are forced to use that of others. Within the academy, the terminology is used as a barrier - there are those who are privy to the jargon of a field and those who aren't.

**T**he session on “**Shaping New Narratives**” highlighted the ways philanthropy can take a more proactive role in shaping narratives about Africa using the example of the Ford Foundation's #AfricaNoFilter (ANF) Initiative.

ANF is a multi-partner collaborative to combat the persistently negative and stereotyped narratives that create barriers to social and economic progress for Africa, its countries, and its people. The lead partners are the Ford Foundation, Aspire Coronation Trust Foundation, and Kwese Digital Media. ANF supports fellows working in diverse sectors ranging from the arts and social media to journalism and business.

**Paul Nwulu** of the [Ford Foundation Office in West Africa](#) moderated the discussion with **Nkirote Koome** of the [Ford Foundation in East Africa](#), who administers the ANF Initiative, and **Sean Jacobs**, founder of the online platform, [Africa is a Country](#), who is an ANF fellow. Nwulu noted that through ANF, Ford supports work that will introduce alternative narratives to those that have been established over a long time with huge investments. He hopes ANF will expand into a movement to urge the philanthropy sector to play a more intentional role in changing narratives about Africa.

Koome described the diverse cadre of fellows who are working in different sectors. The ANF Initiative is supporting efforts to change the narratives about Africa and elevate stories about positive change and creative and innovative people. She underscored the power of narratives to inspire and empower. In the absence of firsthand experience, the experience of others is given credibility. Africa has borne the brunt of harmful stories that shape how the continent is viewed and how its people are treated. Koome noted how working on the ANF Initiative has required her to change her approach to quantify and "ticking boxes" that is often the yardstick of success used in philanthropy. The lesson has been to be patient and understanding and really walk together. The ANF Initiative can help to surface stories.

Jacobs charted his journey beginning as a student activist in South Africa, later as a journalist, and then as a political researcher and analyst. Currently, he teaches at the New School in New York lecturing on understanding the role of media.

Jacobs founded *Africa Is a Country* in 2009 to challenge the media's portrayal of Africa. It features online commentary, original writing, media criticism, videos, audio, and photography. It has over 500 contributors and launched the careers of young African and diaspora writers, scholars, and artists.

From his perspective, mainstream media is not best positioned to change narratives because they are profit driven and cover Africa infrequently. Africans should be telling more of their own stories. Sixty percent of the writers for *Africa is a Country* are Africans. Stories are written and translated into different languages and can be used by others under the creative commons license. He noted he did not think the blog is representing everyone's story, but it is about a set of ideas and a product of a particular moment in history.

A general consensus emerged from the session that it will take strategic investments and continued conversations among funders and other stakeholders to make a change. Although the methods may vary, the key is to invest in stories that are inclusive and stories about progress.

## How Narratives Shape Grantmaking Strategies

Throughout the conference, **Aleesha Taylor** of [Herald Advisors](#) led the group through a series of small group exercises and plenary discussions. The small group discussions shifted the focus of the conversations to reflect on how personal narratives and assumptions about Africa influence decisions and shape relationships. The plenary sessions discussed examples of practices that can help to change narratives about Africa and ways participants can encourage their colleagues to explore the why of their respective organization's grantmaking approaches and strategies.

## Current Practices

The examples that were shared illustrated three practices:

- Amplifying the voices of those directly affected by the issues you are trying to address
- Encouraging more information flow from grantee partners to funders
- Identifying innovations that are taking place in other organizations

A funder targeting issues affecting young people shared that their organization is experimenting with youth councils that engage young people in reviewing grant proposals. Another shared that they ask their grantee partners where they need the funders to show up – and where they don't need them to show up – to support their work. Holding a regular “innovation day” where speakers from other organizations were invited to talk about their work was given as another example.

## Accountability

Accountability that shifts the lens away from grantee partners and to funders emerged as a thread throughout the discussions.

- Program staff should not hesitate to challenge each other and focus on data in understanding context. Context informs narratives, and if you get the context wrong, your narrative will be wrong. Everyone – staff, senior leadership, and trustees – must be accountable in remembering that grant funds are in the public trust to be used for charitable purposes.
- Funders must be more proactive in examining issues of their own capacity. If program staff is not grounded in the problems being addressed, then reporting mechanisms and requirements can mask their lack of knowledge and understanding.
- The importance of telling the truth about what funding can and cannot achieve was also highlighted. Claiming that a program or grant can help to alleviate poverty and requiring grantee partners to justify their plans based on unrealistic expectations is not being accountable. Organizations should be given support that allows them to tell their own stories and share their knowledge in ways that reflect their values and perspectives.
- The idea that organizations or funders acting alone can solve a problem should be challenged. Collaboration helps to build ecosystems of organizations that can work together, and funders need to encourage each other to work together as much as they promote their grantee partners to do so.

The changes that are happening outside of traditional organizational structures through social movements raise questions about philanthropy's accountability to movements. The example of a recently established social movement fund that will support campaigns that don't have traditional structures was given as an example of the way funders navigate the self-imposed restrictions in supporting movements where they might not have relationships or know the groups.

## Call to Action

During the conference opening it was said that it is the individuals within the institution that bring about change. During the closing session, this statement was rephrased to say that institutions are changed by individuals who are thinking together and being consistent about their message.

Making internal culture shifts requires building support at all levels of the organization. It is important for funders to give themselves time to think about what they are doing. Participants expressed the desire for more opportunities to slow down, reflect, and talk with a small group of diverse peers about these issues.

The conference ended with a call to action for participants to take individual steps within their organizations. Several participants shared their plans for initiating conversations with colleagues about the issues discussed during the conference. AGAG announced its plans to share the notes from the sessions and to host follow up discussions where participants can continue to share their experiences.

# Agenda

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

8:30 am	Registration, Light Breakfast, and Networking Register and have a light breakfast and meet your fellow participants
9:00 am	Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Overview <i>Niamani Mutima, AGAG</i>
9:30 am	Exploring the Funding Landscape: Survey of Africa Funders In 2018 AGAG conducted a survey to capture a snapshot of funding targeting Africa. During this session highlights from the results will be presented and areas for future exploration discussed. A live poll will capture a profile of the interests of those attending the conference. <i>Presenter: Steven Lawrence, Independent Consultant</i>
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Disrupting Barriers for the Next Generation of Women Change Agents This session will discuss the subtle and not so subtle barriers facing the next generation of African women leaders and encourage funders to think more critically about the roles their grantmaking approaches can play to help to disrupt these barriers. <i>Guest Speaker: Moiyattu Banyar-Keister, Girls Empowerment Sierra Leone; Women Change Africa</i> <i>Moderator: Vuyiswa Sidzumo, Ford Foundation, South Africa Office</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch and Table Discussions Continue the conversations during hosted lunch table discussions.
	Afternoon Session: How Philanthropy Shapes the Narratives About Africa The afternoon sessions will begin with exploring the role that philanthropy plays in shaping narratives about Africa in education and research, followed by an example of the role that philanthropy can play when it takes a deliberate approach in changing the narratives about Africa and end with reflecting on how narratives about Africa shape grantmaking approaches and strategies.
1:30 pm	Part I: Philanthropy and the African Academy During this session African scholars working in different disciplines will discuss how narratives about African education and knowledge production influence the dynamics between international and African institutions and funding to African scholars and institutions. <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Dr. Bhekinkosi Moyo, African Centre on Philanthropy and Social Investment, South Africa</i> <i>Dr. Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso, Babcock University, Nigeria</i> <i>Moderator: Nyeleti Honwana, H. F. Guggenheim Foundation</i>
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Part II: Shaping New Narratives Building on the previous conversation, this session will discuss an example of how philanthropy can help to influence more textured and nuanced narratives about Africa that reflect its rich diversity and contexts. Program staff and a Fellow of the Ford Foundation's #AfricaNoFilter initiative will discuss its approach in providing platforms for narratives that reflect African perspectives. <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Sean Jacobs, Founder, Africa is a Country</i> <i>Nkirote Koome, Program Associate, Ford Foundation, East Africa</i> <i>Moderator: Paul Nwulu, Ford Foundation, West Africa Office</i>
3:45 pm	Break
4:00 pm	Part III: How Do Narratives Shape Our Grantmaking Strategies? This session flips the framing of the question explored in the previous discussions and will engage participants in small groups to explore how narratives about Africa shape their grantmaking strategies and approaches. <i>Facilitator: Dr. Aleesha Taylor, Herald Advisors</i>

5:00 pm	Wrap Up Session This session will recap key points and questions that emerged from the day's discussions. <i>Niamani Mutima, AGAG</i>
6:00 pm	Reception Hosted by the Ford Foundation #AfricaNoFilter Initiative.

#### Thursday, May 2, 2019

8:30 am	Registration, Breakfast, and Networking Register and have a light breakfast and meet your fellow participants
9:00 am	Welcome and Overview <i>Niamani Mutima, AGAG</i>
9:10 am	Feedback Session During this session, participants are invited to share comments and feedback from the previous day's discussions and small group sessions. <i>Facilitator: Dr. Aleesha Taylor, Herald Advisors</i>
	Morning Session: Landscape Changes: Implications for Funders The morning session will explore recent developments in resources and technology and their potential impact on philanthropy: donor advised funds and block chain technology.
9:30 am	Part I: The Growth in Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) This session will examine the growth in DAFs, how they interact with traditional mechanisms for giving, and the challenges and opportunities for DAFs to support issues facing African communities. <i>Speaker: Elaine Martyn, Fidelity Charitable®</i> <i>Moderator: Yvonne Moore, Moore Philanthropy</i>
10:30 am	Break
10:50 am	Part II: Block Chain Technology and Philanthropy This session will explore the potential for blockchain technology to improve transparency and accountability for funding to address community needs. <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Stephen Downs, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</i> <i>Leon Wilson, Cleveland Foundation</i> <i>Moderator: Bongwiwe Mlangeni, Social Justice Initiative</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch and Table Discussions Continue the conversations during hosted lunch table discussions. Table topics will be posted.
	Afternoon Session: Responding to Change and Taking Action The afternoon session will begin with surfacing questions about how easily philanthropy can respond to change and end with a collective reflection on the power of narratives and a call to action.
1:30 pm	Part I: Responding to Change This session will explore the challenges and opportunities for philanthropy to support change that is happening outside of traditional organization structures and that requires a multi-sector response. Civil society activists share how their work has changed in response to the needs of the communities, including young people, and how that affects their relationships with funders and partners. <i>Panelists:</i> <i>Felicita Chiganze, Chief Operating Officer, SRHR Africa Trust (SAT)</i> <i>Jonathan Gunthorp, Executive Director, SRHR Africa Trust (SAT)</i> <i>Moderator: Niamani Mutima, AGAG</i>
2:30 pm	Break
3:00 pm	Part II: Taking Action In this closing session, participants will engage in a collective reflective exercise that captures key questions that emerged from the discussions for further exploration. <i>Facilitator: Dr. Aleesha Taylor, Herald Advisors</i>
4:00 pm	Closing Remarks
4:30 pm	Conference Ends

# About the Africa Grantmakers Affinity Group

## Our Values

**Diversity and Respect:** We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment that reflects the diversity of the field, promotes mutual respect, and advances equality.

**Accountability and Transparency:** We hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethical and transparent conduct in our work.

**Knowledge and Learning:** We value knowledge, learning, candor, and critical thinking and believe that gathering, curating, and sharing information is essential to our mission.

**Collaboration and Partnership:** We believe that collaboration and partnership are critical to leveraging philanthropy for positive change.

## Our Assumptions

**Philanthropy is an ecosystem.** We recognize the philanthropic community as a diverse ecosystem of approaches and interests. We understand that our focus on formal philanthropy that uses grants as its primary mechanism for giving is but one of many.

**Inclusion and collaboration are necessary.** We recognize that there are many entry points in working with civil society at all levels, from informal and grassroots organizations to academic, medical, and research institutions

and public policy think tanks. We advocate sustained and increased funding to organizations and individuals working for positive change.

**Local context matters.** We recognize that organizations that serve their communities and have built a relationship of mutual trust are well-positioned to understand the local context. Investing in local organizations helps to build and strengthen infrastructure and leverage the knowledge and experience within communities to affect changes at all levels.

**Building bridges between those working inside and outside of Africa is essential.** Tensions between philanthropy actors based inside and outside of Africa whose approaches and interests differ reflect an environment that spans countries, cultures, and regulatory settings. We believe this diversity of information, experiences, and perspectives presents a rare opportunity for the cross fertilization of ideas.

**Success requires tenacity.** We recognize that building relationships and establishing communications among the various partners inside and outside of Africa is a process with incremental progress that is affected by changes in leadership and in the sector as a whole.

## Our Approach



We organize annual conferences, meetings, and webinars to convene new and experienced funders to build an informed and knowledgeable network of practitioners.



We conduct research, curate information, and disseminate it through our virtual and in-person meetings and communications platforms to bridge the information gap about trends in funding targeting Africa.



We take a proactive approach to building partnerships and use a cross-cutting focus that provides a framework to connect diverse organizations and issues.

