



eNews

August 2019

Women of Catalist—

I couldn't be more honored to be the Chair of Catalist for the next two years, and to report that we ended this fiscal year, thanks to the hard work of my predecessor, Jenny Berg and her team, with 71 affiliates that span 28 States, the District of Columbia, Australia and England. We have added eight organizations since we were together in Philadelphia last fall, and several new affiliate memberships are pending, looking to the PowerUP! Conference in Seattle for inspiration. I also plan to meet with Impact London and Bath Women's Fund in Bath this fall while I am there to attend the wedding of a child of a dear friend, a member of Impact 100 Fairfield.

It was also my honor this spring to attend three grant award ceremonies - two organizations I am a member of: Women's Giving Alliance (WGA) in Jacksonville, FL and Impact 100 Palm Beach County (PBC) and as a guest at Washington Women's Foundation (WaWF) in Seattle. Here are my key takeaways from these empowering events:

New or not, collective giving is powerful

Collectively, these three organizations granted over \$1.5 million this cycle! WGA and WaWF are mature organizations, 16 and 24 years old respectively. However, founded in 2011, Impact 100 PBC has experienced explosive growth in just eight years—and is in fact the largest of the three. Brava!!

Philanthropists take action themselves

At the Impact 100 PBC ceremony, we heard about a potential grantee that was founded by a member of that affiliate. The organization was a finalist, an adult autism

training program called Autism After 21. It was based on the founder's experience of raising a child with autism, surrounded by support during his school years, only to find that after high school, all the services disappeared. She told the story of a client whose single mom had not slept alone in her bed for 20 years, because of her daughter's extreme anxiety. After a few months at Autism After 21, this client transitioned into the bedroom that had been waiting for her all her life. During the vote counting (I sent mine by mail), I mentioned to the member/ED how compelling her program and presentation were and that I was really hoping they would receive a grant; I voted for it. I was happy to learn in a follow up email that they did!

At WGA's event, we all learned about the issue of "period poverty": there is no state or federal benefit that helps to fund tampons and pads, which are expensive and taxed, and are not luxuries. A WGA member had been so moved by this problem that she established a new organization, Renewing Dignity, to deal with the issue. She formed a coalition with the local food pantry to help distribute sanitary products to girls in WGA's service area, many of whom have to skip school during their periods. Renewing Dignity was not involved in the grants process, but the new ED shared her story, and now WGA collects sanitary products in giant bins at their events.

Different presentation styles—all impactful

WaWF opts to inform grantees of the outcome of the member vote in advance, which allows the recipients to share their enthusiasm and thanks when they receive the enormous symbolic check onstage. It's powerful to hear from the staff who will be administering the grants about what the community impact will be. All of the grantees were compelling, but the end of the evening was particularly moving. The final grantee was Cierra Sisters, whose ED Bridgette Hempstead, came onstage with her three daughters. Ms. Hempstead, a breast cancer survivor, **was determined that her experience of having to convince doctors to treat her will not happen to other African American women.** She provided the only musical performance of the three evenings, singing her own composition, a song called "Sista, Don't You Know?" which brought down the house.

It was not a performance I would have wanted to follow, but WaWF ED Beth McCaw took the stage to close, and gave a full-throated and passionate explanation of why every nonprofit should center promoting equity and reducing barriers in their work, and why every philanthropist should care about and fund those values. It was remarkable, and brought everyone in the auditorium to their feet.

These celebrations truly never get old and we want to hear about yours. **Catalist**

will be sharing more of your stories and successes throughout the year. Please continue to [email](#) those stories to the Catalist communications committee. If you are intrigued by any of these programs, feel free to contact these affiliates and learn more. Great ideas can be implemented in many places.

As you enjoy the last weeks of the summer, could I ask you to do two things?

- Register for PowerUP! February 23-25 in Seattle. Early Bird for affiliate members is closing soon. Non-member registration is open.
- Please update your affiliate profile to include your 2019 grant information and current membership size so we can boast to potential sponsors and others about the #collectiveimpact of our network!

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the Webinars, Member-to-Member Forums and Quarterly Leadership Calls starting in September.



Paula

Paula Liang, Catalist Board Chair
pliang@catalistwomen.org

With the Greatest of Gratitude

We thank two board members for their service to Catalist.

Jenny Berg – Impact 100 Cincinnati

Jenny has just completed her two-year term as Chair of Catalist during a remarkable period of growth and change. Her steady hand and vision have been invaluable as we have transitioned from the Women's Collective Giving and Grantmaking Network (WCGN) to Catalist, and become part of the Gates Co-Design project to further grow and sustain national philanthropic networks including our own. She also spearheaded our national leadership conference team in Philadelphia, and helped us grow to 71 affiliates. Jenny remains on the board in the role of Governance Chair.

Susan Smith - Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

Susan has retired after nine years as a stalwart member. She is a founder of the original Women's Collective Giving and Grantmaking Network (WCGN), instrumental in both the idea and the implementation. As our history states, the network idea was first floated at a gathering of like-minded women who were visiting Susan's hometown of Boise, ID to celebrate the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation's \$1 million dollar grant mark. As these women shared similar stories of collective grantmaking, it became apparent that a national network of women's collectives could be a valuable tool for connecting, networking, and sharing best practices in an educational forum. And from that meeting, the WCGN (and later Catalist) was born. We applaud Susan's vision and dedication, and we are grateful for her service.

Thank you to both of these women for their foresight, imagination, time and persistence in ensuring that the collective giving movement and Catalist continue to thrive.



February 23-25, 2020

Hosted by the Washington Women's Foundation

Whether you're a member of a [Catalist affiliate](#) or a community partner, we hope you will join us for our 8th National Conference. Together, we will increase our collective knowledge of effective responses to community needs by sharing new ways of thinking about philanthropy.

Tricia Raikes, the co-founder of the Raikes Foundation and a long-time WaWF member, will be the keynote speaker for the dinner program on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

Details on speakers and other program news [here!](#)

Early Bird registration for Catalist affiliates is \$495 and closing soon! Registration

pricing increases to \$595 after Early-Bird closes.

Non-member registration is OPEN at \$750.

[Register Now!](#)

Conference registration includes all meals, plenaries, and break-out sessions.

Make your Motif hotel reservations [now!](#)

Conference events begin Sunday, February 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

Conference will conclude Tuesday, February 25th at 12:30 p.m.

Bookmark [this page](#) to see updates on speakers and programs.



It's easy to share the Catalist conference details with your membership—all are welcome! Just download these files to post, print and share in your newsletters, at your events and posting on your organization's website and social media. [PowerUP postcard.pdf](#), [PowerUP postcard.png](#)

Read our most recent [conference announcement!](#)

Welcome Our Newest Affiliates

The SAM Initiative, Los Angeles, CA

Women's Giving Alliance of South Lake County Florida, Clermont, FL

Twin Ports Women's Foundation, Duluth, MN

Women's Giving Circle at Connecticut Community Foundation, Waterbury, CT

Impact 100 Wichita Falls, Wichita Falls, TX

Women's Giving Circle of Washington County, Marietta, OH

The Women's Fund of South Central Kentucky, Bowling Green, KY

Impact 100 London, London, UK

Member-to-Member Forum

Do you believe in the collective wisdom of others? Particularly of other women who value collective giving as you do? The Catalyst [Member-to-Member Forum](#) is a resource available to you through the member portal. Be sure to sign up to receive notification of new posts and responses.

Wondering how other organizations have solved a problem or navigated an issue you are facing in your collective giving group? Pose your question on the Forum and let others share how they reacted to similar circumstances. Likewise, help others when you can by sharing your wisdom and answering their questions. All bundle members should click the [Subscribe to Forum](#) link to stay informed.

Webinar September 10 Noon Eastern/9am Pacific The Power of the Network to Create More Engaged Donors Speaker: Andrea Pactor, Interim Director, Women's Philanthropy Institute

What do members of collective giving networks and donors to women's funds and foundations have in common?

Regardless of the causes they fund, they:

- are more engaged,
- give more strategically,
- give more to the causes they care about deeply.

Recent [research](#) from the Women's Philanthropy Institute finds that the model of engagement matters; cultivating deep, personal, long-term engagements with donors is good for philanthropy. Join us to learn more about this research and how you can utilize it.

Quarterly Leadership Call 2019-20 Calendar

The quarterly leadership calls, conducted via Zoom, have been a series of great conversations that have helped inform webinar and conference content, allowed us to welcome new affiliates, and to surface great ideas and common challenges. Think of them as live Member to Member Forums. We encourage every affiliate to have a member of their leadership team join in. If you have had a recent change in leadership, [email us](#) to indicate who should receive the agenda and Zoom dial-in information. Dates are:

Monday, September 16, 2019

Monday, January 6, 2020

Monday April 6, 2020

All are at Noon, EST; 9:00am PST

Good Reads

[The Future of Work in America: People and Places, Today and Tomorrow](#)

McKinsey & Company

[I Wanted to Know What White Men Thought About Their Privilege So I Asked.](#)

By Claudia Rankine - NY Times

Mark Your Calendar

Webinar - September 10, 2019, The Power of the Network to Create More Engaged Donors

Leadership Call - September 16, 2019

PowerUP! 2020 - February 23-25, 2020 - [Register Now!](#)

Catalist
Copyright © 2019 All rights reserved
Contact email: info@catalistwomen.org
[Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [LinkedIn](#) • [Instagram](#)

[unsubscribe](#)