



Uplifting (Nonprofit) Leadership IV – the Next Generation
A Five-Part Conversation about Nonprofit Leadership in Northeast Florida
Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida

Program Overview

Uplifting (Nonprofit) Leadership IV convened key young nonprofit professionals of Jacksonville-area philanthropic and nonprofit organizations five times in 2008. Participants met in a hospitable setting to share a meal and to explore key questions at the heart of nonprofit leadership—Why do we do this work? Why does it matter and to whom? Is it possible to lead when you must beg? What makes a good gift? What do we expect of those to whom we give? Does it matter whether we can prove we are doing good? Are we leaders of something larger than our own organizations?

Sessions were structured around a series of short readings in the humanities with skilled facilitation provided by Linda Howell and Rena Coughlin.

Linda Howell is an Adjunct Professor of English at the University of North Florida and a Humanities scholar and Rena Coughlin is the President and CEO of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida who has been trained in Civic Reflection facilitation.

This series was designed to:

- Uplift the important work of nonprofit leaders in Northeast Florida;
- Strengthen relationships among these leaders for future collaboration;
- Deepen individual and shared understanding of the nonprofit sector.

Benefits

Over 70 philanthropic and nonprofit leaders have participated in the series, and they reported that, as a result of their participation, they:

- Felt a stronger connection to their local nonprofit and donor community;
- Were better able to place their work in the larger context of the nonprofit sector;
- Had been introduced to new texts and practices of reading;
- Felt “uplifted” as leaders.

Rationale

Most of the time, we, as philanthropic and nonprofit leaders, are too busy doing our jobs to pause and assess what we are trying to accomplish and why. We rarely have the opportunity to talk about what inspires us with others comparably engaged and similarly situated. The Nonprofit Center has discovered that using humanities texts to come together is a powerful mechanism for uplifting the important work of nonprofit leaders, strengthening relationships among these leaders, and deepening individual and shared understanding of the nonprofit sector in a democratic society.



As our sector faces an immediate future of constrained resources and executive turnover and transition, Uplifting Leadership is a positive way to continue to develop young leaders, as well as establish a peer support network.

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Session I - June 27, 2008

Session I Readings:

- *Excerpt from "Democracy in America," Alexis de Tocqueville*
- *Selection from "Self Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

Guiding questions for reflection:

- *Why is the Work We Do Important? What are some ways of describing the work of nonprofit organizations in a democracy? How do these descriptions match up against our experience of the value of this work?*
- *How much responsibility do we have for the welfare of the community? How much lies with private "associations?" And how much with government?*

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Convene

Welcome & Introductions

Opening question:

What is a tradition you always follow and why? Why do you think its important to uphold?

Guided discussion

10:45 a.m. Next meeting readings

"The Lovers of the Poor" by Gwendolyn Brooks, p. 144

"The Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements" by Jane Addams, p. 120

10:55 a.m. One Minute Evaluation

11:00 a.m. Adjourn

REMINDER: Next session on Friday, July 18th, 2008 @ 8:30 A.M. at the WJCT Community Room



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Session II - August 8, 2008

Session II Readings:

From *The Civically Engaged Reader*

- “*The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas*” by Ursula K. LeGuin, p. 270
- “*The Eleventh*” by Henri Barbusse, p. 106

Guiding questions for reflection:

- *In our work, have we established acceptable levels of loss or discrimination?*
- *Are some people always left out, and if so, why?*

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Convene

Welcome & Introductions

Opening question: *What is the most substantial or important sacrifice you have ever made?*

Small groups and guided discussion

10:45 a.m. Next meeting readings – From *The Civically Engaged Reader*

- “*Where Were We*” by Dave Eggers, p. 160
- *Selection from the Mishneh Torah* by Moses Maimonides, p. 218

10:55 a.m. One Minute Evaluation

11:00 a.m. Adjourn

REMINDER: Next session on Friday, August 29th, 2008 @ 8:30 A.M. at the WJCT Community Room