

# Year In Review 2024

## From Our CEO

Change has been a constant over the past few years, making it ever more important that philanthropy evolve its support for our communities. By providing flexible funding, yes, but also by modeling a way forward that is shaped with all voices at the table.



Kathleen Enright,  
President and CEO,  
Council on Foundations

In the wake of a polarizing election cycle, philanthropy can lean into our shared humanity and embrace the differences that make us who we are. History has shown that positive change requires a broad, diverse coalition of people and groups who sometimes disagree.

The key is seeing our varied identities, viewpoints, and lived experiences as a strength, not a weakness, and putting in the work it takes to connect and collaborate across our differences. It's heartening that so many in our sector are funding this important area – [85% of foundations in a Council survey sample](#). I also saw the excitement for this work at our first [Building Together](#) in Chicago, where 450 philanthropic leaders from nearly 300 organizations came together to develop the strategies and skills to navigate differences.

With that energy, I look forward to connecting with you in 2025 and collaborating on ensuring philanthropy remains a trusted partner in advancing the greater good – no matter the changes we face.



## Lighting the Path

Advancing trust will require equipping philanthropy's present and future leaders with the tools they need. That includes leadership development programs like [Career Pathways](#), whose 2024 [class of 22](#) embodied a commitment to strengthening the sector to prioritize trust, inclusion, and collaboration. The data show the impact of nurturing leadership skills, and nearly 90% of Career Pathways graduates since 2010 have since moved into senior executive roles.

The launch of the [Center for Community Foundations](#) in November furthered the Council's commitment to guiding the sector. With [CF Insights](#), legal guidance, and collaboration spaces, the center is a one-stop shop for place-based funders.



Attendees of Building Together 2024 in Chicago in 2024.

With the April 2024 release of "[Philanthropy's New Voice: Building Trust With Deeper Stories and Clear Language](#)," we offered the largest study of narratives in philanthropy to date. The report features science-backed strategies for foundations to help build understanding and trust. With more than 1,000 copies downloaded, the study fueled a sector-wide interest that was reflected at various conferences, including ComNet24 in Kansas

City, where the Council's storytelling workshop was the best-attended of the event.

## Home and Abroad

Showing trust is the first step to strengthening the public's faith in the charitable sector, and one way global grantmakers show trust is by giving [directly to local partners](#). It's an approach the Council advanced in 2024 at the U.N. General Assembly's Leadership Circle on Locally Led Development, part of our ongoing efforts to champion localization. Since 2023, 26 global foundations and 21 bilateral donors have committed to sharing power with local groups.

In other global work, we were humbled to support our members' commitment to humanitarian relief following disasters in [Chile](#), [Haiti](#), and [Taiwan](#). At home, the nation faced [severe weather events](#) including hurricanes in Florida, tornadoes in Texas, and floods in [California](#), and the Council provided resources that helped the sector respond quickly and directly.

## Your Voice in Government and Law

Against the backdrop of an election year and heightened uncertainty in the [legislative landscape](#), the Council's Government Affairs Team worked diligently in 2024 to safeguard the sector against legislation that would create burdensome requirements while adding no benefit for tax-exempt organizations. And we continued to champion a charitable deduction



The Council published the first of three Coming Together, Not Apart reports in 2024.

for nonitemizers while working to help the administration and Congress understand the crucial role philanthropy plays in their constituents' lives.

Meanwhile, the Council's Legal Team answered more than 1,500 of your legal questions and held additional [Legal Matters Workshops](#), including one in person at a national conference for community foundations. More publicly, we helped foundations understand the impact of the [Fearless Foundation](#) settlement and advising them on giving that's in line with their organizational values.

## In Partnership, Always

Philanthropy, and civil society more broadly, face increasing threats. We'll do our level best to continue to monitor them, to help guide you, and to speak up to protect the work you're doing to make your communities stronger every day.

We hope you'll join us in lifting your voices to support civil society in the United States and around the world. And we hope you'll stay committed to building those broad coalitions with those who see things differently.



Council legal staff held an in-person Legal Matters Workshop in 2024 at a conference for community foundations in Kansas.

This work isn't easy. It's often messy, and it takes time. In fact, it's work that will take decades, even generations, but we need to take the first steps today. In partnership with you, we can ensure nonprofits and foundations can continue to play our vital role in building a multicultural, multiracial society where everyone belongs – the world we all deserve.

The Council will be with you every step of the way.



# Year in Review 2024



**918**

Members

**130**

New Members



**1,500+**

Legal Questions  
Answered

**10**

Publications

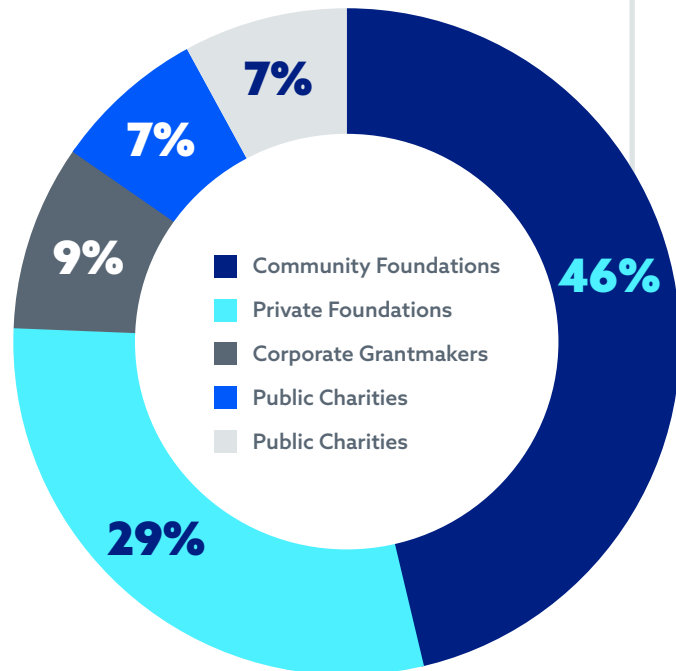


**8,500+**

Publication Downloads

**2,400+**

Unique Organization Downloads



**110**

Total Events Held

**54**

Peer Events  
(Networking, Workshops, Roundtables, etc.)

**42**

Virtual Connections  
(Webinars, Online Trainings)

**14**

Other Events



**1**

Large Event  
(Building Together 2024)

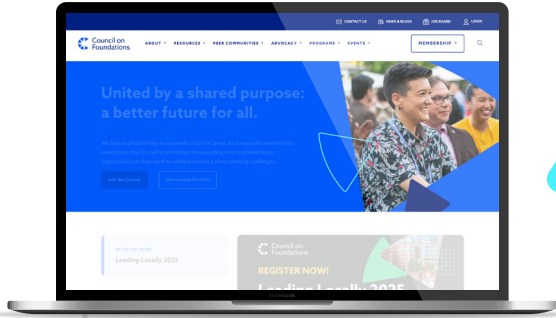
**7,000+**

Registered  
for Events

**65+**

Meetings with  
Government  
Officials





**1.9M+**  
Website Views



**650K+**  
Website Users

**32,000+**  
Interactions  
and Activities

**1,550+**  
Total Posts  
and Replies

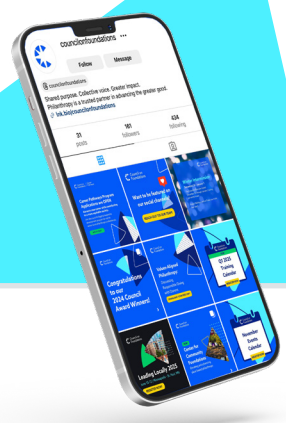
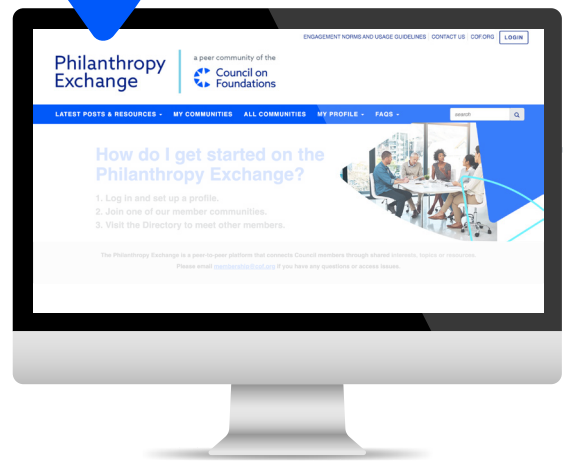


**4,350+**  
Total Philanthropy  
Exchange Users

**2,450+**  
Distinct Active Users

**975+**  
First-time Participants

**975+**  
New Exchange Users



**NEW THIS YEAR**



**The Council is on Instagram!**

Plus, 3.83% followers increase across all social media platforms



**57,783**  
X Followers



**37,930**  
LinkedIn Followers



**13,052**  
Facebook