

#### The world is changing rapidly. Is your organization keeping pace?

In today's shifting global, community, and philanthropic context, community philanthropy leaders need to ask: Are the systems and practices that are helping your organization succeed *today* the right ones for serving your community *in the future*?

# The What's Next for Community Philanthropy toolkit is designed to help you adapt to changing times.

Featuring nearly a dozen interconnected essays, exercises, and games, the toolkit aims to help community philanthropy organizations of all kinds understand emerging trends, open up to new possibilities, and innovate new approaches and practices for serving your communities... now, and in the years to come.

For more information about What's Next for Community Philanthropy, visit:

monitorinstitute.com/communityphilanthropy

#### The What's Next toolkit can help you...

**Prepare for the future.** Use a series of accessible, one-page briefs to educate your board about big global trends that may transform your community.

**Think strategically.** Incorporate an interactive card game into your next planning process, to help prioritize the roles that are core, aspirational, and out-of-bounds for your organization.







**Get unstuck.** Play an interactive card game to help you challenge and flip old assumptions about how work is done at your organization.

**Design new services.** Participate in structured "ideation" and "prototyping" workshops to build-out new ideas for services and programs to help your community.

**Find inspiration.** Expose your board and staff to exciting "bright spots" inside and outside the field, to open them up to new ways of serving your community.



















On the *What's Next* website, you'll find an **Overview** of our research that makes the case for why innovation is needed in community philanthropy, and a toolkit that outlines

#### four pathways to innovation:



### Looking outward

It's hard to get on your front foot if you don't have a very good sense of what's coming. The world is changing rapidly, and community foundations need to get better at anticipating emerging trends and what they might mean for their communities and for the way they do business. Tools for looking outward include:

- Shift Happens: Understanding how the world is changing
- Landscape Mapping:
  Understanding who's doing what in your community



#### Looking around

The best way to start thinking about innovation is to begin by looking for where it's *already happening*. Innovation doesn't need to be completely new; it just needs to be new *to you and your community*. The easiest way to get going is by simply "copying shamelessly" from others doing good work. Tools for looking around include:

- Bright Spots: Promising approaches in community philanthropy
- Think Global: Lessons from community philanthropy around the world



### Looking inward

Looking inward can allow community philanthropy organizations to challenge assumptions that might be holding back innovation and think strategically about the different roles that an organization can be playing in light of what is now possible. Tools for looking inward include:

- Flipping Orthodoxies:
  Questioning ingrained assumptions in your work
- Prioritizing Roles:
  Crafting your strategic portfolio



#### **Getting to action**

Whether an organization is looking to shift its core or to experiment with new approaches along the margins, community philanthropy organizations are likely to need to develop and then test new ideas for doing their work. Tools for helping organizations get to action include:

- Generating New Ideas: A design workshop
- Prototyping Solutions:
  A collaborative exercise

## About the What's Next for Community Philanthropy initiative