

SPONSORSHIP GUIDE



Building Together 2026

MAY 4-7, 2026 | SEATTLE, WA



About the Experience

Building Together is the Council on Foundations' sector-wide event for philanthropic professionals who want to develop strategies and skills to bridge differences, build interdependence, and collectively strengthen our society. This event is more than a conference or a networking event; it's an active leadership development experience that will provide space for participants to build the skills and mindset needed to more effectively navigate deep differences in their professional lives and their communities.

From the moment participants meet their [Practice Team](#), the Building Together experience will challenge them to learn, process, and practice. They won't just be listening to speakers, they will be interpreting and integrating what they are learning in real time. Each moment at Building Together has been crafted to recognize our shared humanity and support leaders who are working to build a shared future.

Building Together highlights:

- **Half-day strategy and skill-building workshops** from leading practitioners
- **Inspiring plenary sessions** featuring prominent thinkers on how we can come together, not apart
- **Peer-led breakout sessions** highlighting funders working to navigate differences, build common ground, and foster belonging
- An evening of conversation and breaking bread with others at **The People's Supper**



Building Together is tailored to help participants apply these new skills to their internal operations, their work within the community, and their relationships with grantee partners. All attendees receive a customized journal with guided prompts and resources to support their learning and reflection.

We ask that all participants come to Building Together with an **open mind** and **willingness to collaborate** with those who hold different perspectives, beliefs, and identities. Together, we are modeling a different approach to change and creating a pathway forward for the sector.

Schedule Overview

Subject to Change

MAY 4	MAY 5	MAY 6	MAY 7
Registration Open	Breakfast + Wellness Programs	Breakfast + Wellness Programs	Breakfast + Wellness Programs
	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Plenary Session
	Break	Break	Break
	Concurrent Sessions	Concurrent Sessions	Concurrent Sessions
	Lunch + Team Reflections	Lunch + Team Reflections	Lunch + Team Reflections
Welcome to Seattle Festivities + Programming	Break	Break	Goodbye Networking
	Skill Building Workshops	Skill Building Workshops	
	Break	Break	
Dine Arounds	The People's Supper	CEO Trustee Reception + Optional Evening Activities	

“For those present, I think people got tangible tools, space to reflect and connect, and top-notch, thought-provoking presentations of ideas—such a rarity to get all of the above.”

- Building Together 2024 Attendee

Working Group

The Working Group for Building Together 2026 supports the development and delivery of conference programming by reviewing sessions submitted through the call for proposals, and providing feedback on plenary sessions, networking opportunities, and other programming.

CO-CHAIRS

- **Ali Noorani**, Program Director, U.S. Democracy, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and incoming President, Barr Foundation
- **Nancy Van Milligen**, President and CEO, Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

Host Committee

In addition to the Working Group, which focuses on curating session content, the Host Committee plays a critical role in the conference's success. It serves as a resource for local knowledge, relationships, and culture so that Seattle and the surrounding area are strongly woven throughout the event experience.

CO-CHAIRS

- **Lara Littlefield**, Executive Director, Allen Family Philanthropies
- **Alesha Washington**, President and CEO, Seattle Foundation

LOCAL PARTNER



PROGRAMMATIC PARTNERS



Sponsorship Opportunities

To learn more about to how to become a Building Together sponsor, contact Annie Tolbert, Manager, Development, at 202-991-5857 or annie.tolbert@cof.org.

Tiered Sponsorships

Leading Sponsor \$50,000 +

- Three (3) complimentary registrations to Building Together
- Prominent recognition on-screen during plenary sessions and signage
- Verbal recognition during the opening plenary
- Inclusion in footer on event emails
- Acknowledgment across all Council social media platforms
- Logo and organization link on Building Together website and event app
- Logo featured in Building Together journal
- Upon request, list of opt-in event registrants (name, title, organization)

Collaborating Sponsor \$10,000 - \$24,999

- One (1) complimentary registration to Building Together
- On-screen recognition during plenary sessions
- Logo featured in Building Together journal
- Upon request, list of opt-in event registrants (name, title, organization)

Bridging Sponsor \$25,000 - \$49,999

- Two (2) complimentary registrations to Building Together
- On-screen recognition during plenary sessions
- Acknowledgment across all Council social media platforms
- Logo and organization link on Building Together website and event app
- Logo featured in Building Together journal
- Upon request, list of opt-in event registrants (name, title, organization)

Supporting Sponsor \$2,500 - \$9,999

- Logo and organization link on Building Together website and event app
- On-screen recognition during plenary sessions
- Logo featured in Building Together journal
- Upon request, list of opt-in event registrants (name, title, organization)

Tiered Sponsorships at a Glance

At a Glance	Leading \$50,000 +	Bridging \$25,000 - \$49,999	Collaborating \$10,000 - \$24,999	Supporting \$2,500 - \$9,999
Complimentary registration	3	2	1	0
Prominent signage during plenary sessions	✓			
Verbal recognition	✓			
Inclusion in email footer	✓			
Social media recognition	✓	✓		
Logo/link on website and event app	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promotion in Building Together journal	✓	✓	✓	✓
On-screen recognition during plenary sessions	✓	✓	✓	✓

"Seeds were planted at Building Together that will bear fruit over many years, and I'm glad we'll have an opportunity to continue nurturing this healthy pattern as a sector."

- Building Together 2024 Attendee

Leading Sponsor Opportunities

Plenary

\$75,000 | 3 Available

Leading experts, thought leaders, and researchers in the field will deliver inspiring sessions, including some between speakers who see the same issue very differently. These captivating plenaries will dive into what's worked, what hasn't, and what's next. **This opportunity also includes two-minute welcome remarks, if of interest to the partner.**

The People's Supper

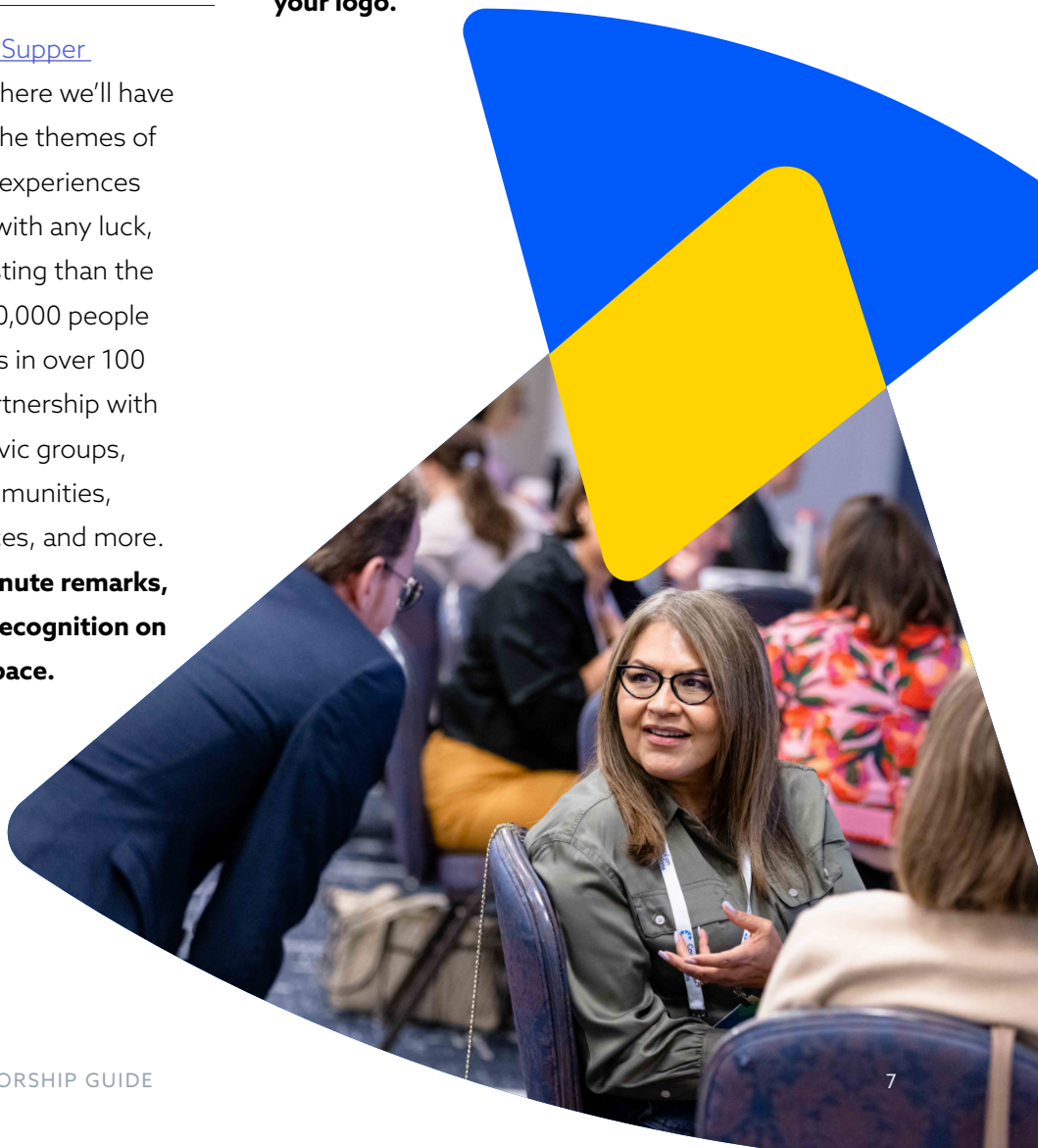
\$50,000 | 1 Available

Welcome attendees for a [People's Supper](#) experience hosted by Trust Labs where we'll have the chance to reflect together on the themes of the gathering, and the stories and experiences we each bring into the room (and with any luck, talk about something more interesting than the weather). Since 2017, more than 20,000 people have sat down for People's Suppers in over 100 cities and towns nationwide, in partnership with dozens of local government and civic groups, faith-based organizations and communities, colleges and universities, workplaces, and more. **This opportunity includes two-minute remarks, if of interest to the sponsor, and recognition on prominent signage in the event space.**

Practice Team Sponsor

\$50,000 | 1 Available

Become the champion of this year's Practice Team gatherings – a signature element of Building Together. Practice Teams connect daily over meals to reflect on what they are learning, practice new skills, and consider take-home strategies relevant to their work. Teams are constructed with diversity in mind, so teammates will come from different roles and regions and have varied perspectives. **As Practice Teams convene for dedicated time each day, they will be looking for signage directing them to their assigned tables, prominently featuring your logo.**



Bridging Sponsor Opportunities

CEO + Trustee Reception

\$25,000 | 1 Available

Join Council on Foundations CEO Kathleen Enright and members of the Council board for a relaxed evening of connection with other foundation leaders on the evening of Wednesday, May 6. **This opportunity includes prominent signage and three reception invitations.**

Welcome to Seattle Festivities

\$25,000 | 1 Available

Welcome attendees to Seattle before the immersive learning experience begins Tuesday morning by supporting Monday's afternoon and evening activities. An evening happy hour and other gathering opportunities for arriving guests will create an informal, relaxing, and fun atmosphere where trust can be built, and friendships can begin.

This opportunity includes recognition in event promotions to attendees and on prominent signage in the event space.

Wellness

\$25,000 | 1 Available

Help participants center their focus and make space for their wellbeing while they're out of the office. This sponsorship supports mental and physical wellness activities throughout the event including meditation, reflective journaling, breathwork, somatic work, and unprogrammed open space. **This opportunity includes recognition on prominent signage at wellness activities.**

Connectivity

\$25,000 | 1 Available

"What's the Wi-Fi password?" is one of the most familiar refrains at any convening. Help attendees stay connected throughout Building Together by supporting event-wide connectivity and our robust event app that facilitates discussion and features all event sessions, speakers, sponsors, attendees, and much more. The Wi-Fi password can even include your organization's name. **Your support will be recognized anywhere the Wi-Fi information is displayed, including the workbook, the event app, and back of attendee badges.**

Accessibility

\$25,000 | 1 Available

Show your commitment to our inclusive conference experience by sponsoring accessibility options such as closed captioning and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. **This opportunity includes a special acknowledgment in our online accessibility guide.**



Collaborating Sponsor Opportunities

Arts and Culture

\$15,000 | 2 Available

The Council recognizes the incredible power of the arts to inspire and foster change. Local performance and visual artists will be highlighted throughout Building Together, connecting attendees to artists and cultural experiences. **This opportunity includes recognition on prominent event signage.**

Scholarships

\$10,000 | 5 Available

We strive to keep the cost of event registrations accessible but realize that it is not feasible for everyone. Your support makes participation possible for leaders who may not otherwise be able to attend due to limited professional development budgets. In partnership with our sponsors, the Council is committed to supporting the cost of attendee registrations through scholarships. Each Scholarship Sponsor will cover registration for five recipients.

Promotional Video on the Main Stage

\$10,000 | 3 Available

Capture the attention of event attendees with a two-minute promotional video, provided by you, introducing your mission and services to the Building Together audience immediately before a plenary session begins, when folks have found their seats and the room is buzzing with energy. Seize the opportunity to captivate attendees by highlighting how your organization supports the philanthropic sector at a high-visibility moment on the main stage. *Note: video content is subject to Council review.*



Supporting Sponsor Opportunities

Attendee Email Promotion

\$7,500 | 4 Available (March 2026 Deadline)

The Council will include your logo and a brief message in one of the "Know Before You Go" emails sent to attendees ahead of Building Together. These emails reach event registrants who opt-in to receive communications and have historically earned top performing click-rates with attendees due to their relevance and timing. *Note: message can be up to 400 characters, including one hyperlink and is subject to Council review.*

Building Together App Advertisement

\$5,000 | 3 Available

When attendees need to check the schedule, search the directory, join the group chat, or find hotel information they check the Building Together app! Let your organization shine in the limelight through a banner ad that folks can't miss. With this placement, you can direct attendees to an external link or mobile app page to increase traffic and explore new partnerships.

Spotlight in Building Together Journal

\$5,000 full page / \$3,000 half page

(March 2026 Deadline)

Feature your organization on a full- or half- page promotion in the full-color, 6-by-9 journals gifted to attendees when they arrive at Building Together. Throughout the event, attendees will use their journals to reflect, capture notes, and jot down questions, creating a keepsake attendees can reference for inspiration long after Building Together concludes.

Branded Pens

\$2,500 | 1 Available

As attendees enjoy a break from their computer screens, they will need a pen to accompany their Building Together journal, which they'll use throughout the week. Your organization's name can be featured on the pens distributed to all attendees upon arrival — highlighting your event sponsorship and introducing your services to new faces. Note: sponsor to provide the pens (approximately 450) that align with their brand.

...CUSTOMIZE AN OPTION:

We know that support from partners can come in many forms. If you'd like to discuss alternative options to what is included in the sponsorship guide, please contact Annie Tolbert at annie.tolbert@cof.org. We value your feedback!

Building Together 2024 Recap

MAY 6-9, 2024

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

How Did Attendees Rate Their Experience?

95% agreed they learned something new or strengthened a skill that is applicable to their work

90% agreed they gained inspiration for how they can advance their goals or approach their work differently

89% agreed they had an experience that made them see things differently

89% agreed they made or strengthened relationships that will benefit them in their work navigating differences to advance the greater good

483
ATTENDEES

TOP JOB FUNCTIONS

- 1** Impact, Strategic Grantmaking, & Programs (29%)
- 2** Executive Leadership (27%)
- 3** Community Relations & Strategic Partnerships (6%)
- 4** Communications, Content & Marketing (5%)
- 5** Administration & Operations (5%)

TOP JOB TITLES

CEO/Executive Director
25%

Director
23%

Other C-Suite
12%

Manager
7%

TOP ORGANIZATION TYPES

Private Foundations **39%**

Community Foundations **24%**

Associate Organizations **21%**

Public Charities **9%**

Corporate Grantmakers **4%**

Building Together 2024 Recap

PROGRAMMATIC PARTNERS

Braver Angels
Convergence Center for Policy Resolution
Forefront
Greater Good Science Center
Interfaith America
Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement
Resetting the Table
Rural Urban Bridge Divide
StoryCorps

SPONSORS

Bonterra
The Brinson Foundation
Bush Foundation
The Chronicle of Philanthropy
Doris Duke Foundation
Einhorn Collaborative
Henry Luce Foundation
James Graham Brown Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
John Templeton Foundation
Joyce Foundation
Mosaic
New Pluralists
Omidyar Network
Walmart.org
Walton Family Foundation



**"I'll be able to apply this to
everyday life, not just work."**

- Building Together 2024 Attendee

Building Together 2024 Recap

EVENT SPEAKERS

Sulma Arias

Executive Director, People's Action and
People's Action Institute

David Brooks

New York Times Columnist

Joshua Clark

Senior Social Scientist, Othering and
Belonging Institute

Sandra M. Clark

CEO, StoryCorps

Térèse Coudreaut

Vice President/Administration, John S.
and James L. Knight Foundation

Heather Templeton Dill

President, John Templeton Foundation

Bob Dold

Former Member of Congress, Partner
Forbes Tate Partners

Wendy Feliz

Managing Director, Democracy, Arthur M.
Blank Family Foundation

Mónica Guzmán

Senior Fellow for Public Practice,
Braver Angels

Romanita Hairston

CEO, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

David Hsu

Director, Building Cultures of Belonging,
Omidyar Network

Ali Noorani

Director, U.S. Democracy Program,
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Eboo Patel

Founder and President, Interfaith America

Amanda Ripley

Co-Host of the Slate podcast, How-To,
Author of High Conflict: Why We Get
Trapped and How We Get Out

Jenn Hoos Rothberg

Executive Director, Einhorn Collaborative

Eric Ward

Executive Vice President, Race Forward

Layla Zaidane

President and CEO, Future Caucus

...AND 100 MORE PHILANTHROPIC
LEADERS, INDUSTRY EXPERTS, AND
NONPROFIT PARTNERS.

The Council's Influential Community

1000+ MEMBERS

- Community Foundations — 44%
- Private Foundations — 32%
- Corporate Grantmakers — 9%
- Associate Members — 7%
- Public Grantmaking Charities — 7%
- Non-US Foundations — 1%

Philanthropy Exchange

- 4,350+ users of the Council's online community
- 32,000+ exchange engagements in 2024

Social Media Followers

- 43k+ LinkedIn
- 14k+ Facebook

2024 events

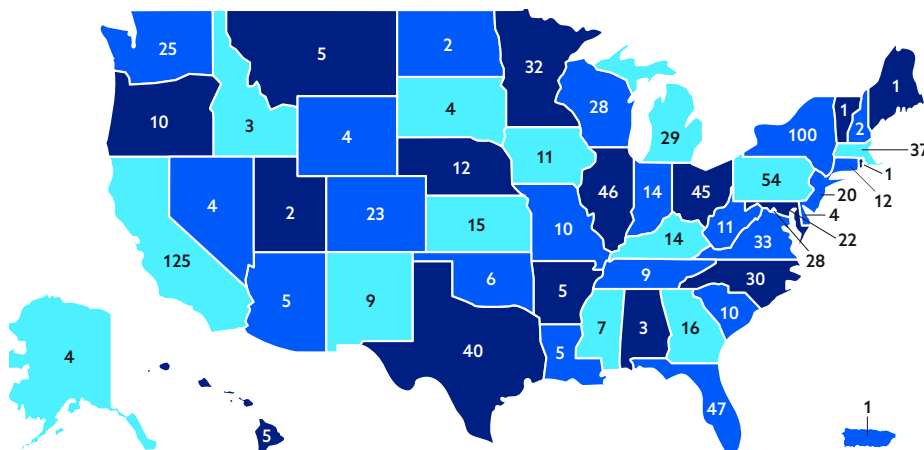
- 7,000+ registered
- 110 events

Engagement

- 15k+ active and engaged newsletter subscribers
- 650k+ website users of cof.org
- 1.9M+ website views

Member Geography

- All 50 states in the U.S. and DC, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands
- 7 countries across the globe



About the Council on Foundations

The Council on Foundations is a nonprofit membership association that serves as a guide for philanthropies as they advance the greater good. Building on our over 75-year history, the Council supports over 1,000 member organizations in the United States and around the world to build trust in philanthropy, expand pathways to giving, engage broader perspectives, and co-create solutions that will lead to a better future for all. To learn more, visit cof.org.

