

Imagination to Action: A Workshop for Building a Transformative Future

May 5, 2021

Please add your organization and pronouns to your Zoom name: “Mike Wang (he/his) - Building Impact”

Chat and reactions encouraged

Thanks for joining us



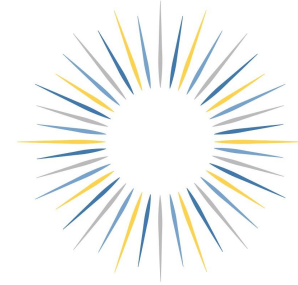
Erin Watts



Mike Wang



Tanis Klingler



Building Impact

Building Impact works with forward-thinking philanthropists and change agents to catalyze systemic change around the most pressing social issues.

Welcome!

Add to the chat:

- 1) A phrase or sentence that describes your understanding of what Vu Le was calling for in his talk
- 2) A few words or phrases that capture your feelings around what he is calling for

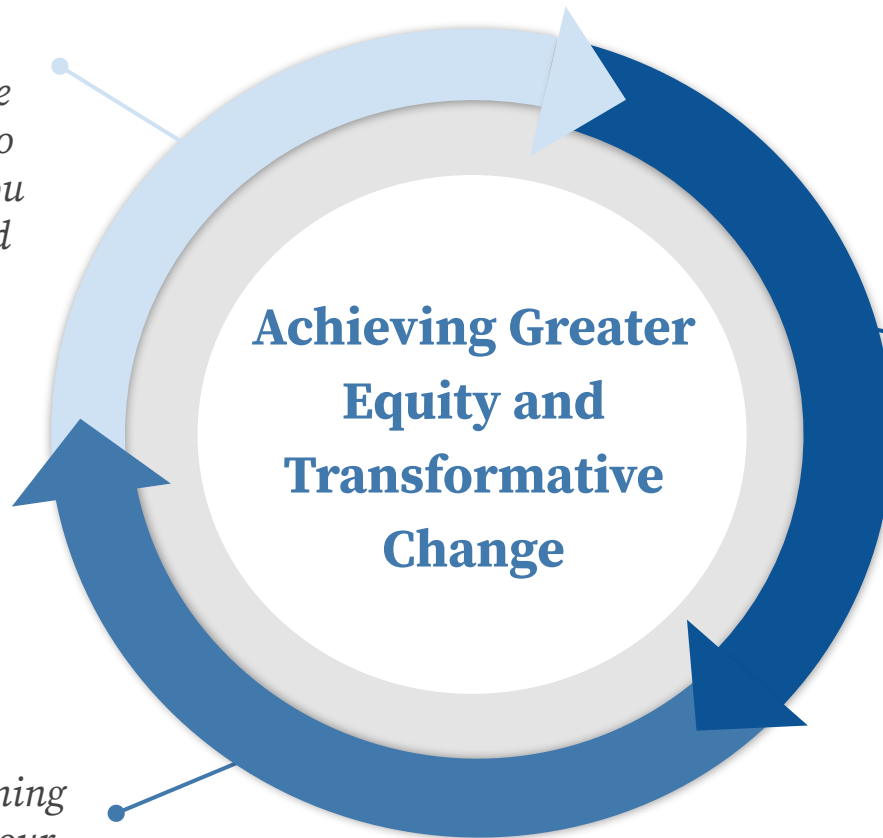
Agenda

- 1) Three ways to bring big vision to fruition
- 2) Group work / brainstorming
- 3) Share out
- 4) Reflection and commitment to action

Framework for Bringing Change to Action

Your Vision and Theory of Action

Your understanding of the problem, your approach to solving it, and the ways you think that can be achieved



Your Approach to Grantmaking and Execution

The processes that drive your grantmaking and your foundation forward including applications, metrics, investment strategy, what you will fund, risk tolerance, and more

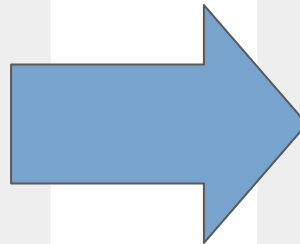
Your Network

What voices you are listening to, including who is in your portfolio, on your team, on your board, and more

Your Vision & Theory of Action

Where the Foundation WAS:

- Limited context for why they gave or their deeper purpose
- No mission or vision statement; no guiding principles
- Grantmaking based on personal interests of founder



Where the Foundation IS:

- Acknowledge the history of education system and take responsibility for change
- Every decision evaluated through lens of mission and vision alignment
- Grantmaking responds to community


Denver, CO
\$255M Endowment
Founded in 1970s

Your Approach to Grantmaking and Execution



FORD FOUNDATION

New York City
\$12.4B Endowment
Founded in 1936



TERRY SANFORD DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Ford Foundation President
DARREN WALKER

Moving from Inequality
to Justice in the South

In conversation with Jay Pearson, assistant professor of public policy.

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020
5:30–6:45 p.m.
Penn Pavilion, Duke University

Free tickets (required) available Dec. 3 at tickets.duke.edu

The Terry Sanford Distinguished Lecture Series is made possible
by a gift from the William S. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.

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Your Network

Investing in people as our most-valuable assets



- Seek out leaders who are **most proximate to the problem we are seeking to address** and draw on their experience to design solutions.
- Investing in people as assets also forces us to **take seriously the person who is not looking to scale, but to have transformative impact** in their community.

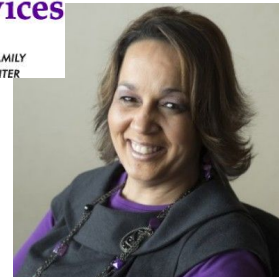


“Edgar Palacios, is **working to develop a pipeline of Latinx educators** to ensure teachers are more representative of the students they serve.”



United Inner City Services

HOME OF
ST. MARK CHILD & FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT CENTER



“Deidre Anderson runs an early childhood center and wants to ensure that **the parents she currently serves have the best educational experience for their children.**”



Reflection Questions

- **How you got to your current practice and whether it will get you to transformational change:**
 - *What experiences, beliefs, and working assumptions led you to where you are?*
 - *When was the last time you re-examined those beliefs and assumptions?*

- **What you could be doing differently and the next steps you could take to get there (including questions to get started):**
 - *How can you address the shortcomings you considered above?*
 - *What would you do without constraints?*

Closing Reflection Question

Add to the chat:

What struck you as different or creative in how members of your group tackled your topic?



Next Steps

- Open up an email and make a commitment:

*By <INSERT DATE> I commit to <INSERT ACTION>
as a meaningful next step.*

- Send to an accountability buddy (could be someone on your team, in your office, or me at mike.wang@buildingimpact.co!)

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For more information, please contact:

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