

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PILLAR SUSTAINER?

As a Pillar Sustainer, you offer critical support for our Innovation Fund, which provides flexible funding that allows us to respond to the needs of our network and community. Never before has social innovation and working together towards positive community impact been more important than during COVID-19. This past year, the Innovation Fund has allowed us to carry out vital programs and initiatives, like those listed below, as we lead and support our network to meet current challenges and rebuild post pandemic.



PRIORITIZING THE RECOVERY OF THE NETWORK

At the onset of the pandemic, we began advocating for relief measures to help nonprofits and social enterprises weather the storm of COVID-19 -- and the sector is starting to see results. Innovation Works offered rent subsidies for our co-tenants, Pillar increased the frequency of communication through Member Mail and on our COVID-19 resources page, and we offered workspace for local Executive Directors to connect and support one another. In doing so, we have equipped nonprofits and social enterprises with the support they need to build back better.

COVID-19 RESOURCES AND
NEWS FOR OUR NETWORK



CHARTING A BOLD PATH TOWARDS EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Innovation requires flexibility, agility and the courage to fail. By acknowledging our shared complicity in anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and all intersecting oppressions as part of our strategic plan, and committing to doing better, we can challenge ourselves and our network towards action. Through events like Community Conversations that highlight the systemic roots of anti-Black racism and our learning series that share the teachings of Local Indigenous Wisdom and Knowledge Keepers, we can move forward on a path towards understanding, acceptance and change.



CONVENING FOR CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

During a time of great disruption, our network came together to facilitate a series of nonprofit connector calls to offer support and guidance to one another. Innovation Works brought wellness to the community through Wellness Works – a collective of volunteer facilitators who provided equitable access to wellness practice, restoring connection during a time of isolation. We began crowdsourcing for community impact, which challenged traditional funding approaches in an effort to maximize impact for all. In doing so, we fostered connection and collaboration across sectors, strengthened professional and personal relationships among the network, and built upon the foundation of trust so that we could persist through the trying times together.



In this moment, we are being called upon to confront problems of pandemic proportions and we, as social innovators, need to adapt and expand our ability to create change in unprecedented ways. The flexible funding of the Innovation Fund helps us direct energy and protect time to imagine what is possible outside of our current funding structures and systems thinking, and is a critical component to the sustainability of our mission to create a more engaged, inclusive, and vibrant community.