



# We asked. This is what we heard.

A summary of input from nearly 100 leaders representing nonprofit organizations in the summer of 2018 that led to the foundational elements of Co.act Detroit.

## Biggest Opportunities

- **CULTURE CHANGE:** Developing strategic relationships between organizations and funders that allow for discussion about failure and lessons learned.
- **TRUST BUILDING:** Trust as a central tenant is cultivated among organizations and between nonprofits, staff and larger funding community.

## Organizational Ethos

- **ACCESS:** The space is inclusive and welcoming; a place that doesn't require a formal invitation to spend an afternoon connecting and sharing ideas with colleagues.
- **TRANSFORMATION:** The mindset is about sustained transformation, rather than a series of transactions.
- **IDEAS:** The organization is nimble, open to risk, new ideas and unconventional approaches that drive social change.

## What Happens at the Center?

- Peer learning, a space to collaborate and a neutral place to convene.
- Chance collisions with other leaders that translate into powerful partnerships or ideas.
- Program design that includes organizations and is responsive to local need.
- Self-care that recognizes the tireless nature of working in the nonprofit sector.

## Key Values

Transparency/  
Trust

Equity, Access  
and Inclusion

Quality/  
Excellence

Collaborative  
Learning Culture

Disruption of  
the Status Quo

**“I’d like to see nonprofit leaders invited to the table as subject matter experts to with ideas that could be paired with foundation research to solve complex systemic problems.”**

— Engagement Participant

**“Think friends sitting around a fireplace in someone’s home.”**

— Engagement Participant

**“It should be a safe place to take risks without fear of implications.”**

— Engagement Participant