**A Letter from Our Managing Director, Melinda Tuan**

*July 12, 2018*

Dear Colleagues,

It’s hard to believe it’s been almost two months since 358 of us gathered together in Houston from May 21 – 23, 2018 for our Shared Insight Gathering. We are grateful to each one of you who participated in the Gathering and hope you came away energized to continue listening to and acting on the preferences and perspectives of the people at the heart of our work.

Our four goals for the Gathering were to:

1. Foster learning together and from one another
2. Inspire the nonprofit organizations, funders, and consulting partners gathered to commit to and invest in this effort to build high-quality, systematic, and benchmarkable feedback loops in the social sector
3. Build community around mutual experiences with feedback loops for those on the frontlines who are listening and responding to those they seek to help
4. Engage funders in learning about and supporting feedback work to make it even more impactful

Thank you to the 196 of you who filled out our feedback survey – a 61.6% response rate from nonprofit partners, and 39.6% from funders. A report of the scored responses to the survey (not including verbatim comments to protect anonymity of respondents) is available for download on this page.

Overall, feedback from nonprofit participants (n = 177) showed:

* 96% of you somewhat or strongly agree that the Gathering helped you consider new ways to improve feedback practices at your organization
* 94% of you somewhat or strongly agree that you feel more committed now to invest in and advance feedback practice than you did before the Gathering
* 96% of you somewhat or strongly agree that the Gathering helped create a sense of community among nonprofits engaged in feedback practice
* 88% of you indicate the Gathering enabled you quite a bit or to a great extent to learn more about high-quality feedback practice
* 68% of you somewhat or strongly agree that the Gathering helped create a sense of community with funders engaged in feedback practice

Overall, feedback from funder participants (n = 19) showed:

* 100% of you somewhat or strongly agree that the Gathering helped you consider new ways to improve feedback practices at your organization
* 100% of you somewhat or strongly agree that you feel more committed now to invest in and advance feedback practice than you did before the Gathering
* 95% of you indicate the Gathering enabled you quite a bit or to a great extent to learn more about high-quality feedback practice
* 89% of you somewhat or strongly agree that the Gathering helped create a sense of community among funders engaged in feedback practice
* 78% of you somewhat or strongly agree that the Gathering helped create a sense of community with nonprofits engaged in feedback practice

We are pleased that our primary goals around community building and learning for nonprofits were met and delighted that 100% of funders who responded are more committed to investing and advancing feedback and are considering new ways to improve feedback practices at their foundations because of the Gathering!

The majority (60%) of the verbatim comments from nonprofit participants about how to improve the Gathering were focused on the design of the Gathering. The most common suggestion was to group grantees by different characteristics followed by a suggestion to add more breakout sessions. Funders only provided four verbatim comments about how to improve the Gathering so that is noteworthy in and of itself.

We aren’t sure yet whether we’ll hold a single, national gathering like this one again in the future, or if we’ll shift to regional gatherings or other formats. But whatever programming we do to facilitate nonprofits and funders learning together, we will consider all of your feedback and suggestions in mind and try to incorporate it where we can.

In the meantime, we would like to close the loop on specific requests we’ve had to share the presentations and videos from the Gathering. To that end, please visit the [2018 Shared Insight Gathering Post-Event Summary website](https://www.fundforsharedinsight.org/2018-gathering-summary/). Many thanks to so many of you who contributed to the success of the Gathering through short talks, plenary sessions, peer-to-peer lightning rounds, and participating in our photo booth and video interviews. It is a privilege to partner with and learn from you.

Thank you for the feedback you gave! We’re happy to talk with you if you have any follow-up questions or concerns about the Gathering, about Listen for Good, or our work at Fund for Shared Insight.

Warm regards,

Melinda

**Melinda T. Tuan //***managing director*

melinda@fundforsharedinsight.org

(610) 368-1462

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