

Your financial support was critical to Exponent Philanthropy's success this year. General operating support grants allow us to focus on the core of our community—lean funders—and creating an inclusive community where they can learn, connect, and collaborate.

2019 was another year of being inspired by our community. Although each of us is unique, we are all striving to achieve great things with limited people-power, and we can be proud to be part of a field that shapes the world in so many consequential ways.

This was reiterated as we worked with stakeholders of all kinds to develop a new [Strategic Plan](#). Our focus for the next five years is **all about you**. Our member volunteers and professional staff are dedicated to ensuring that Exponent Philanthropy:

- Becomes your preferred source for the kinds of information, knowledge, and peer connections that best address your most pressing needs
- Provides access to a wide range of resources and tools that support the ways you give and fit your budget
- Helps you discover and enjoy new ways to make your membership meaningful

We've chosen this path because we know the future of philanthropy rests with members and supporters like you. We're making sure that everything we do encourages sharing and exchanging of ideas, fosters greater collaboration, and builds the kind of authentic relationships that continue to advance our missions.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

MISSION

To amplify and increase the impact of lean funders by building an inclusive community where they can learn, connect, and collaborate

VISION

Transformed communities through informed giving

GOAL 1

AMPLIFY AND INCREASE THE IMPACT OF LEAN FUNDERS

Exponent Philanthropy offers a wide range of services specifically for lean funders to advance their impact and champion their powerful role of philanthropy

GOAL 3

MAXIMIZE OUR RELEVANCE AND ACCESSIBILITY TO A VARIETY OF FUNDERS

Exponent Philanthropy offers valuable, easily accessible resources to a wide variety of funders throughout their philanthropic journey

GOAL 2

BUILD A BROADER AND DEEPER EXPONENT PHILANTHROPY COMMUNITY THROUGH SHARING AND COLLABORATION

Exponent Philanthropy invests in and creates opportunities for sharing and collaboration among lean funders. It also facilitates connections between lean funders and other influencers in the philanthropy sector

GOAL 4

ADVANCE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN PHILANTHROPY

Exponent Philanthropy cultivates a culture that advances diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and among our community of lean funders

Education, Resources, and Member Stories

The Exponent Philanthropy community is not only inspiring but also incredibly knowledgeable. By elevating the voices and expertise in our community, we saw the curation of 25 member/partner written [blog posts](#); successful programs on legal issues, tax forms, and measuring impact; a cohort of [Next Gen leaders](#); a conference with [38 guest speakers](#) and 350 participants; an in-depth Master Juggler leadership intensive with 11 executives; and many inspiring [stories of outsized impact](#).



A total of 1,745 participants attended education programs this year and provided a 4.32 (out of 5) average satisfaction score. The community also downloaded over 3,000 digital resources, sample documents, and toolkits that offer practical guidance to lean funders.



The Catalytic Funders Retreat

This fall, as the result of more than 2 years of engagement with the Blackstone Ranch Institute, 21 lean funders from across the country met to share insights about how they work to make an impact with their funding. What resulted was a powerful cohort of changemakers joining together to recognize how they leverage their leanness to achieve outsized impact.

We look forward to working more with this group to nurture transformational philanthropy among many more funders.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Journey

We are on a journey to understand, embrace, and champion equity in every sense of the word. This includes learning side by side with the funders in our community, growing together, and inspiring one another. Our learning begins by recognizing we do not have all the answers. In fact, we probably don't even know all the questions. [Read more about our equity journey.](#)

The release of [this video](#) gave voice to what it means for lean funders to do this work in their communities, with their boards, and within themselves:



With the development of new programming this year and funding from Borealis Philanthropy, we partnered with five regional associations to bring practical equity practices to lean funders across the country. ***Journeys to Equity: Bringing Inclusive Practices to Your Philanthropy*** allowed participants to reflect on how to adopt these practices to amplify their impact.

The Foundation Operations and Management Report



Through a new partnership with research company Harder + Co., the [Foundation Operations and Management Report](#) got an overhaul. With increased rigor and expanded benchmarks for lean funders, this signature resource continues to serve as an invaluable resource for foundations with few or no staff. The 2019 survey also had record participation, contributing to the relevance of subsequent reports.

The 2019 Outsized Impact Award



The Outsized Impact Award honors an individual at an Exponent Philanthropy member organization whose style of philanthropy is achieving outsized—or, greater than expected—impact. Out of the 17 impressive nominees, three finalists were chosen by our membership, and shared their perspectives onstage at the

CONNECT conference. Through a successful social media campaign, over 1,000 votes were cast to determine the 2019 winner. Danielle Garbe Reser of Sherwood Trust was honored as the recipient of the 2019 Outsized Impact Award.

Donor Commitments



Our community showed up with nearly **250 member donors** contributing to our community this year to support other lean funders and the work we do to support and connect them.

Diana Spencer of the **William G. McGowan Charitable Fund** awarded a challenge grant asking funders to support Exponent Philanthropy for the first time and **The Coleman Foundation** offered a Giving

Tuesday matching grant to our donors, challenging them to give more than they may have otherwise.

Financial Stability

Exponent Philanthropy ended 2019 with a strong balance sheet and continue hold cash reserves representing 6-9 months of operating expenses. Adding rigor to our data and budgeting processes allowed us to operate within the outlined budget for the year without major discrepancies. We are confident in our financial security and are prepared to make sound investments in the implementation of our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. More detailed information is publically available on our annually [audited financials](#).