

9/17 Study Guide Questions

Discussion/Readings

What myth-busting examples do you have from your knowledge of and interaction with nonprofits that supports the hypothesis that effective nonprofits delivering value-added impact do not require a) perfect management; b) high brand awareness; c) a breakthrough new idea; d) a textbook mission statement; e) high performance with the sector's

How might an "ecosystem" approach to leading a nonprofit be of value to mission-impact and to financial success?

If you were the dean of your UA school considering the delivery of your master's degree program through an ecosystems approach, what top 3 key issues would have to be worked out for you to even consider this approach?

Can people be managed, either singly or in a group?

How might Anna Faith Jones describe the most appropriate or effective relationship between a grantor and a grantee?

In Jones' view, what is the connection between philanthropy and social change, and why does this matter? To whom does this matter?

If you were Jones and wanted to convince Joyce of your perspective, what compelling message point(s) would you want him to hear? Vice versa, if you were Joyce, how might you persuade Jones to your viewpoint?

Questions for Cree Zischke, Director of Philanthropy, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum:

1. As a grantor/funder in your previous professional life, what criteria did you use to decide which nonprofits to fund?
2. From your experience and perspective, what are the critical elements needed to make a nonprofit effective and impactful?
3. How do you know that your organization is making the difference in wants to make in the world, for your clients, other organizational stakeholders, and the community? In other words, how are you currently measuring success or impact at ASDM?
4. Doesn't what you do as a single organization have limited efficacy or impact? How do you engage other "actors" in your mission? Provide us with some specific examples of collaborative models, including mergers and a collective impact or ecosystem approaches that you're familiar with from your experience.
5. If you could only give up to three pieces of advice to entry-level NPO leaders and managers, what would those be and why?