

# ARIADNE

European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights

## Draft Agenda

### Grant Skills Day

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Venue: [The Foundling Museum](#)

40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ

### **Bringing Communities Together:**

How funders can help to build relationships between groups from diverse backgrounds and different viewpoints

*Why is this topic important to funders?*

*The results of the EU Referendum in the United Kingdom and Europe's response to the refugee crisis has shocked many, revealing just how fragmented society has become along lines of age, wealth, education, ethnicity and geography. These divisions raise broader questions on the role and legitimacy of social change funders working with disenfranchised and divided communities, not just in the UK but across Europe.*

**What can funders expect to get out of the event?**

Drawing on experiences from places such as Northern Ireland, the day will focus on the role of funders working in divided communities and will aim to provide possible answers to the following key questions:

- Are social change funders sufficiently connected to what they want to address? Do they see the world in a different way both to the groups they support and to those they don't support but maybe should?
- How can funders become better at connecting with the issues and people they work with, maintain their relevance and contribute to social cohesion and stability?
- What approaches and strategies have been successful in addressing divisions within communities and achieving meaningful change?

Funders will be encouraged to reflect on the broader implications in relation to their future planning and programming in a post-referendum Europe.

Ariadne is a peer-to-peer network and this event has been designed by a planning committee, with representatives from *The Social Change Initiative, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Big Lottery Fund, LankellyChase Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies*. All funders are welcome to register and attend.

## Outline of the Day

### 09.15 – 9.45: Coffee and registration

### 09.45 – 10.00: Introduction

Welcome and an outline of the context of the day from *members of the Planning Committee*.

Overview of the day and breakdown of sessions from *Julie Broome, Ariadne Director and Jenny Oppenheimer, Ariadne UK Coordinator*.

### 10.00 – 11.30: Conversation with Avila Kilmurray - Lessons Learnt from Northern Ireland: The importance of building trust in communities

*Dr Avila Kilmurray* was Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI) for 20 years, was a member of the Coalition's negotiating team for the Belfast Agreement and is now consultant to the Social Change Initiative. As part of her session, Avila will reflect on the experience of running an independent community organisation funding in Northern Ireland, the challenges faced, how the challenges were addressed and the lessons learnt during her time as Director of CFNI. Avila will consider the importance of building trust through grant-making plus initiatives when funding in divided communities, as well as the need for local inclusion, participation and the role of community activism

Avila has worked in the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland since 1975, focusing on community development, women's issues and peacebuilding and has written extensively on these topics. The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland was a founder member of the Foundations for Peace Network, a peer network of independent indigenous funders working in contested societies.

Avila will be taking part in the day's other sessions and will be available for follow-up discussions.

### 11.45 – 12.15: Tour of the museum

### 12.15 – 13.15: Networking lunch

**Facilitated sessions:** 90 minutes each. *N.B. The sessions will run concurrently so please choose and sign up for the one that most appeals to you. During these interactive sessions participants are encouraged to share their experiences with each other.*

### 13.15 – 15.00: Session 1

**1a. Participatory Grant-making** has grown out of grassroots activism and puts funding decision power into the hands of applicants. What are the values and benefits of this approach to strengthening communities - both through the grants made and through the grant-making processes and additional support in areas of capacity building and solidarity? What are the opportunities and challenges in adopting this approach and what are the benefits for social change and human rights funders?

*This session will be led by Anna Nikoghosyan, Board Member, FRIDA - The Young Feminist Fund and Matthew Hart, Principal of The Lafayette Practice and moderated by Tessa Wiley, Head of Policy & Learning at The Big Lottery Fund.*

**1b. Funding for Systemic Change.** Protecting human rights in a divided society is critical. When Atlantic Philanthropies began its human rights work in Ireland in 2004, it faced strong resistance at the governmental and judicial levels. Ten years later their investment had enabled several important and lasting achievements, including new rights for children and LGBT people and improved police accountability. What can this experience tell funders about their role and the part that civil society and governments play in helping to build bridges within fractured communities.

*This session will be led by Padraic Quirk, Deputy Director at Social Change Initiative and moderated by Carrina Gaffney, Communications Manager at LankellyChase Foundation*

**15.00 – 15.15: Tea**

**15.15 – 16.45: Session 2 - Panel Discussion**

This session will bring together salient points from earlier in the day, critically examine areas for development and look at what grant-makers could consider when funding to build cohesion and harmony in communities where there are differences.

*Adam Ognall, CEO of New Israel Fund UK, Ketevan Vashakidze, President of Europe Foundation, Tom Steinberg, Digital Transformation Lead at Big Lottery Fund and moderated by Julie Broome or Brian Kearney-Grieve (TBC)*

**Roundup: 16.45 – 17.00**