12 Best Practices in Intersectional Grant-making

#1: Have a historical frame—particularly regarding how the legacy of slavery, genocide, the settler state, imperialism, and heteropatriarchy shape our economy.

#2: Center the experiences of Black people, indigenous people, migrants, queer people, and women of color, especially trans and queer women of color.

#3: Take guidance from front-line community leaders.

#4: Invest in the ideas and strategies of Black leaders and women of color, especially trans and queer women of color, on the front lines.

#5: Invest in the ideas and strategies of Black leaders and women of color, especially trans and queer women of color, within philanthropy.

#6: Understand people’s experiences holistically (not through issue silos) and develop strategies accordingly.

#7: Support solutions that address root causes and seek systemic change.

#8: Help donors see how an intersectional approach advances their agenda.

#9: Self-assess and adjust strategies and practices accordingly.

#10: Look to public & local foundations for guidance; build inclusive partnerships across traditional divides & hierarchies within philanthropy.

#11: Make structural adjustments to grant-making practices.

#12: Show up for our philanthropy colleagues who are centering the leadership of women of color, especially trans and queer women of color.

These best practices come from interviews with colleagues in philanthropy and an in-person strategy session hosted by Funders for a Just Economy. The best practices can be found with more context in the Journey Toward Intersectional Grant-Making report from May 2018.