



## Delegate Application Criteria

The Opportunity Collaboration is a learning, teaching and networking platform that gathers foundation trustees/executives, social investors, entrepreneurial nonprofit leaders, policy thought leaders and social entrepreneurs. *The Collaboration focus and mission is economic justice and poverty alleviation.*

### Delegates Are Catalytic Leaders

Whether in the nonprofit or for-profit sectors, successful Delegates have evidenced in their actions, careers and leadership style the following characteristics and intangible qualities:

- *Passionate Tenacity* – The entrenched scourge of poverty will not be ended by small-thinking or starry-eyed proclamations. The Collaboration depends on Delegates who are tough, determined and intrepid.
- *Pragmatic Vision* – Change agents and social entrepreneurs respect that good ideas are not enough. The Collaboration depends on Delegates who are doers, administrators, businesspeople, implementers and managers in the service of visionary ideas.
- *Multi-Dimensional Thinker* – The causes of poverty are not compartmentalized and neither are the cures. The Collaboration depends on Delegates who can comfortably present their parochial institutional perspective and need without abandoning their ability to problem-solve in a cross-disciplinary way.
- *Adaptive Leadership* - Leadership requires, among many skills, the capacity to listen attentively to stakeholders and to change direction when needed. The Collaboration depends on Delegates who realistically challenge assumptions and can make mid-course organizational corrections.
- *Team Player* – Sharing recognition is a cornerstone of successful team-building, yet in the quest for donor or social investment dollars, some organizational leaders adopt a winner-take-all, ego-driven posture. The Collaboration depends on Delegates who care more about ending poverty than in claiming the credit.
- *Non-Ideological Activism* - Altruism by itself is meaningless and ideology is not an end point. The Collaboration depends on Delegates who gravitate towards pragmatic, market-driven, evidenced-based problem-solving over windy theoretical discussions.

- *Ethical Grounding* – Collaboration and partnership, like good fellowship, is built on trust, shared values and concern for “the other”. The Collaboration depends on Delegates who are honorable and reliably make principled decisions.

Senior leadership and decision-makers of consequence will be in attendance. Indeed, the extended time commitment of a concentrated strategic offsite is targeted to executives with the management ability to delegate and set aside daily office duties. Leveraged, collaborative opportunities and outcomes are the goal.

### **Entrepreneurial Diversity of Perspective & Experience**

To unleash our partnering potential and foster cross-sectoral solutions, Delegates are selected to foster balance and diversity within the Opportunity Collaboration community. To ensure the creation of a Collaboration community that is exceptionally rewarding, all applications are reviewed.

Consideration is given to diversity of representation from the traditional policy areas addressing poverty (education, health, water, microfinance, human & political rights, sustainable farming, population, etc.), the range of platforms and theories of social change (nonprofit, for-profit, social investing, governmental policy, corporate & multinational companies, foundations of all types and sizes, faith-based institutions, traditional philanthropy, etc.), geographic focus (developing world, single nation, industrialized nations, etc.), key populations (multi-generational, indigenous communities, ethnic, racial and religious groupings, etc.) and – importantly – new versus returning Delegates.

Because the Collaboration is enriched by Delegate diversity of experience, perspective and background, the Collaboration actively promotes diversity by limiting the number of Delegates within the above categories and criteria factors. In addition, while this retreat event is comprised primarily of senior anti-poverty leadership, we particularly welcome innovative and entrepreneurial activists and funders to apply.