








Then and Now: From Gilded Philanthropy to a New Era

| | GILDED AGE PHILANTHROPY | NEW ERA OF PHILANTHROPY |
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|  What is the story of this philanthropy? | This is a story about an individual's great generosity. It's a philanthropy that says, we can afford to live in inequitable systems that generate harm because philanthropy will tend to those harms. | → This is a collective story about the transformation we can accomplish together. It's about who we can be when we reach across class and race in solidarity to build a better future for all of us. |
|  What is this philanthropy's relationship to structures of power? | Funding covers harms caused by unjust systems, while leaving in place who wields wealth and power. | → Invests in systemic change and shifting power, transforming structures to prioritize people over profits. |
|  What is at the heart of this philanthropy? | The donor, the person or institution with wealth, is at the center of this philanthropy. | → The aspirational freedom dreams of communities are the heart of this philanthropy. |
|  What does this philanthropy build? | Physical infrastructure like libraries, parks, concert halls, and hospital wings. | → Responsive and relational infrastructures, including new frameworks, new narratives, and cross-organizational networks. |
|  Who has decision-making power in this philanthropy? | Donors and trustees, who often lack proximity to issues and communities, retain decision-making power with little public accountability. | → The new era reimagines philanthropic governance to include expertise, proximity, and accountability. |
|  Who benefits from this philanthropy? | The donor reaps multiple financial and societal benefits as a result of their philanthropy. | → The community benefits as resources are returned and people gain more voice and power in the decisions that impact their lives. |
|  What changes as a result of this philanthropy? | There are positive impacts, but fundamentally, very little changes. | → Transformation becomes possible, of systems and ourselves too. |