



LEARNING CONVERSATION EXAMPLE

MESSAGE TO THE COLLABORATION GROUPS

Title:

[FF Coll. Grant - (Name of the Collaborative Group)] Let's Connect: Scheduling Our 2nd Learning Conversation

Dear [Names],

I hope you're doing well. To follow up on our last communication, I'm pleased to let you know that we have successfully scheduled our Learning Conversation for [DATE & TIME]. Last week, I sent you a calendar invite to the meeting. Would you please confirm whether you received it?

We look forward to reconnecting and delving deeper into your experiences and the valuable insights you gained through your collaboration at Fenomenal Funds.

Purpose of Learning Conversation

Our upcoming two-hour session is crafted to be a reflective and productive space where we can collectively discuss and document your journey. This conversation not only helps us better understand and support your collaboration but also plays an integral role in fulfilling our grant reporting requirements through a collaborative synthesis report.

Preparation for the Conversation

To ensure a fruitful discussion, we would like you to reflect on some key questions that aim to capture the essence and impact of your collaborative experiences. Here are the questions we would like to explore together:

1. Transformation and Insights:

- Can you distill three or four key insights you want to share with others about how this collaboration transformed your individual/organization's practice or understanding of the topic of your collaboration?

2. Learning Through Collaboration:

- Collaboration Grants are an experiment in a specific way to resource learning. Can you articulate three to four insights based on your group's learning experience through collaboration?

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3. **Future Aspirations:**

- What are your future aspirations for this collaboration?

4. **Feedback on Fenomenal Funds' Approach:**

- What would you like to tell us about Fenomenal Funds' approach to the Collaboration Grants?

5. **Message to Funders:**

- What message would you like to give funders/philanthropic actors about the Collaboration Grants?

What Comes Next?

Once we have had our discussion:

- We will document the insights and discussions from our meeting.
- We will share a draft of this documentation with you so you can review and add input, making sure it accurately reflects our conversation and insights before we finalize it.

Additional Information

- **Zoom Link**

We are committed to a feminist approach in these conversations, ensuring they are reciprocal and generative without overburdening you with report writing and documentation. Your voices and insights are incredibly valuable to us and the broader community we serve.

Thank you once again for your cooperation and dedication. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need further assistance as we prepare for our meeting.

Warmest regards,
Phoebe & Shama
Co-leads, Fenomenal Funds

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LEARNING CONVERSATIONS QUESTIONS GUIDE FOR THE FENOMENAL FUNDS TEAM

Learning Conversation Agenda

1. Introductions	15 min
2. Purpose of the Conversation & Consent to Record and Use Conversation for Learning & Documentation	10 min
3. Learning Conversation Facilitation	60 min
4. Admin and Support Conversation	10 min
5. Thank You & Closing (One Word That Reflects Your Experience of the Conversation)	10 min
6. Online Survey Link	5 min

Introduction

Learning Conversations embody feminist approaches to knowledge sharing through reciprocal and generative conversations. Feminist ethics of care are at the heart of our work, and for this reason, we do not want to overburden collaborative members with report writing and documentation. Fenomenal Funds will hold space for these Learning Conversations and document them in lieu of an annual report.

As Fenomenal Funds wraps up its grantmaking, we are really interested to hear from you about what you have learned from each of the collaborations that you, as women's funds, have participated in. From our previous conversations and the learning and sharing spaces you have participated in, we know the journey has been challenging but also fruitful, and we would love to follow up from where we left off last time.

In addition, the learning emerging from your engagement as a collaborative is important to also share with the broader community. We hope to develop a summative report in 2025, drawing on our conversations on the Collaboration Grants, that we would make public. We hope you will give us permission to do so, and we will, of course, send you a draft to review and comment on, along with any quotations attributed to you.

Learning Conversations Questions & Probes

1. Can you distill three or four key insights you want to share with others about how this collaboration transformed your individual/organization's practice or understanding of the topic of your collaboration?

(Probe: Things you now do differently? New practices/policies introduced in your organization? Perhaps additions or reframing in your strategic plan? How are you resourcing your work on the topic: hiring additional staff, learning circles, developing a funding proposal, funding partners, working groups, etc.?)

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2. Collaboration Grants are an experiment in a specific way to resource learning. Can you articulate three to four insights based on your group's experience of learning through collaboration?

(Probe: Challenges? Unexpected outcomes? Consequences;? Good surprises? Not-so-good surprises? Network strengthening (across scope/scale/geographies)? What would not have been possible without this type of funding?)

3. What are your future aspirations for this collaboration?

(Probe: Any thoughts about working together in the long term and partnerships that you feel would be sustained? Any thoughts about resourcing the work? Knowledge sharing from the collaboration?)

4. What would you like to tell us about Fenomenal Funds' approach to the Collaboration Grants?

(Probe: Facilitation? The process? Support provided in the initial phase? After receiving funding? Coordinators? What facilitated? Inhibited?)

5. What message would you like to give funders/philanthropic actors about the Collaboration Grants?

POST-CONVERSATION FEEDBACK QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Learning Conversation Feedback Questions (Online Questionnaire)

- Listening to others in the group, what were some "aha" moments for you in the Learning Conversation?

Agree/Disagree

1. Have the Collaboration Grants supported establishing and strengthening relationships across the women's funds? If you agree, can you provide an example of how?
2. Is Fenomenal Funds' approach to accompaniment a value-add in supporting collaborations? If yes, can you share how?
3. Has the learning from your collaboration contributed to organizational strengthening? If yes, could you share an example?

Tools and Resources Index

Preparation And Planning Guidelines
Collaboration Grant Parameter
The Collaboration Labs Guidelines: Discover, Define, Refine Phases
Women's Funds Survey to Identify Collaboration Topics
Women's Funds Participation Guidelines
Advisory Committee Review Discussion Guide
Discover Phase: Collaboration Topic Description
Define & Refine Phase: Collaboration Grants Plan
Define & Refine Phase: Collaboration Grants Budget Guidelines
Facilitator And Documenter Guideposts
Facilitator Orientation
Documenter Orientation
Discover Phase Documenter Template
Define Phase Documenter Template
Refine Phase Documenter Template
Discover Phase Reflection Questions
Define Phase Reflection Questions
Refine Phase Reflection Questions
Supporting The Collaborations
Fishbowl Session Example
Reflecting And Learning
Learning Conversation Example

Please visit the Fenomenal Funds website for more tools and resources:

<https://fenomenalfunds.org/grantmaking/collaboration-grants/tools-resources>