

Philanthropy Rooted in Place:

Cultivating Resilience and Radical New Systems of Equity in Black Communities

ST. CROIX FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*BOARD OF ALL
BOARDS
RETREAT*



On February 16, 2024, St. Croix Foundation for Community Development: The Nonprofit Consortium (NPC) had its Board of All Boards retreat on the beautiful Island of St Croix, US Virgin Islands. The Board of All Boards retreat was a capacity building workshop for board members and other leaders of local nonprofit organizations. Our goal was to create a safe space for innovators, creative thinkers, and radical change makers to discuss the importance of the lack of Philanthropy and Equity in Black Communities, and through resilience how we can bridge that gap. The retreat Part One agenda started by welcoming all Board members and staff, followed by small group introductions, aspiration sharing, 2023 Impact Survey Process & Findings, and small group discussions. The retreat Part Two Agenda consisted of a Panel Discussion with St. Croix Nonprofit Consortium (NPC) members and guest representing several national philanthropic organizations.

Our Nonprofit Consortium today:

Presently, the consortium stands as a united membership of Approximately 30 nonprofits, harmonizing efforts to construct dynamic collaborations. Together, we have crafted profoundly impactful programs and fortified social service systems, providing crucial support to our community's most vulnerable residents. The Consortium serves as a dedicated platform for nonprofits to purposefully share and collaborate on their individual as well as collective organizational visions, missions, and community-rooted knowledge.

2023 NPC Impact Survey: Summary of Findings:

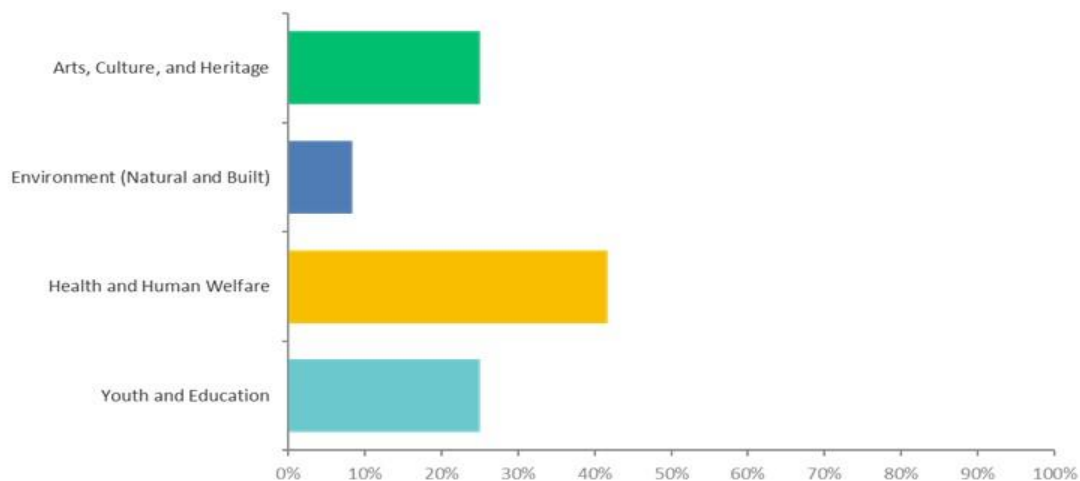
In fall 2023, the members of the NPC completed a survey that included an evaluation of programs and initiatives, staffing and volunteerism, organizational health (including strengths and challenges), impact (direct and indirect), and best practices around data collection and distribution. Success for the Nonprofit Consortium in 2024 and future years will hinge on many things, including: a well-constructed case for support delivered by all members of the Consortium; staff, board members, and volunteers that convene to cross-pollinate ideas and shared experiences; and a realistic approach for achieving outcomes that are suitable for each organization and the collective.

The NPC's Organizations are broken down into Four Sectors:



Nonprofit Consortium: NPC Pillar Alignment

Of the following, please select the NPC "pillar" or "sector" that is most aligned with your organization's mission.



Nonprofit Consortium: Pressing Concerns:

While local advocacy for our community and the nonprofits who serve them never stops, we also must continue to bring awareness on the realities of America's only predominantly Black colony to the national stage. The Nonprofit Consortium asked, "What are the pressing concerns for you, your staff, and their Families?" The top three answers were: Access to quality healthcare including behavioral/mental, cost of living (food, utilities, and housing), and unsafe city water (St. Croix). In most places on a national level these are the fundamental needs of a community that are being met, but unfortunately the true reality for black and brown communities around the globe is that these basic needs are systematically not being met.

NPC Panel Discussions with Guest: The Power of Civic Engagement

The NPC panel discussion started with a brief introduction, which included Frandelle Gerard CHANT, Jay Weiss CMC Arts, Sommer Sibilly-Brown VIGC, and Carolyn Forno WCS. One of the more robust questions asked to the panel was, "What drew you into the nonprofit community and the level of engagement?" Sommer responded, "Fiduciary partnership with the SCF", Frandelle mentioned "resource for collaboration, not competitive environment" to name a few. The panel continued the discussions on important topics like health/human services (PTSD contributed to going through a hurricane or natural disaster), global impact of climate change, and the non-collaboration effort at the local level.

Wrap – Up: Closing the Circle

Everyone joined hands, formed a circle, and had a few minutes of silence to think of one positive word to leave everyone attending with. Some of those words were collaboration, hope, change, love, sadness, and last but not least resilience. To share in this moment and the retreat as a whole was truly and experience that will not be easily forgotten.



