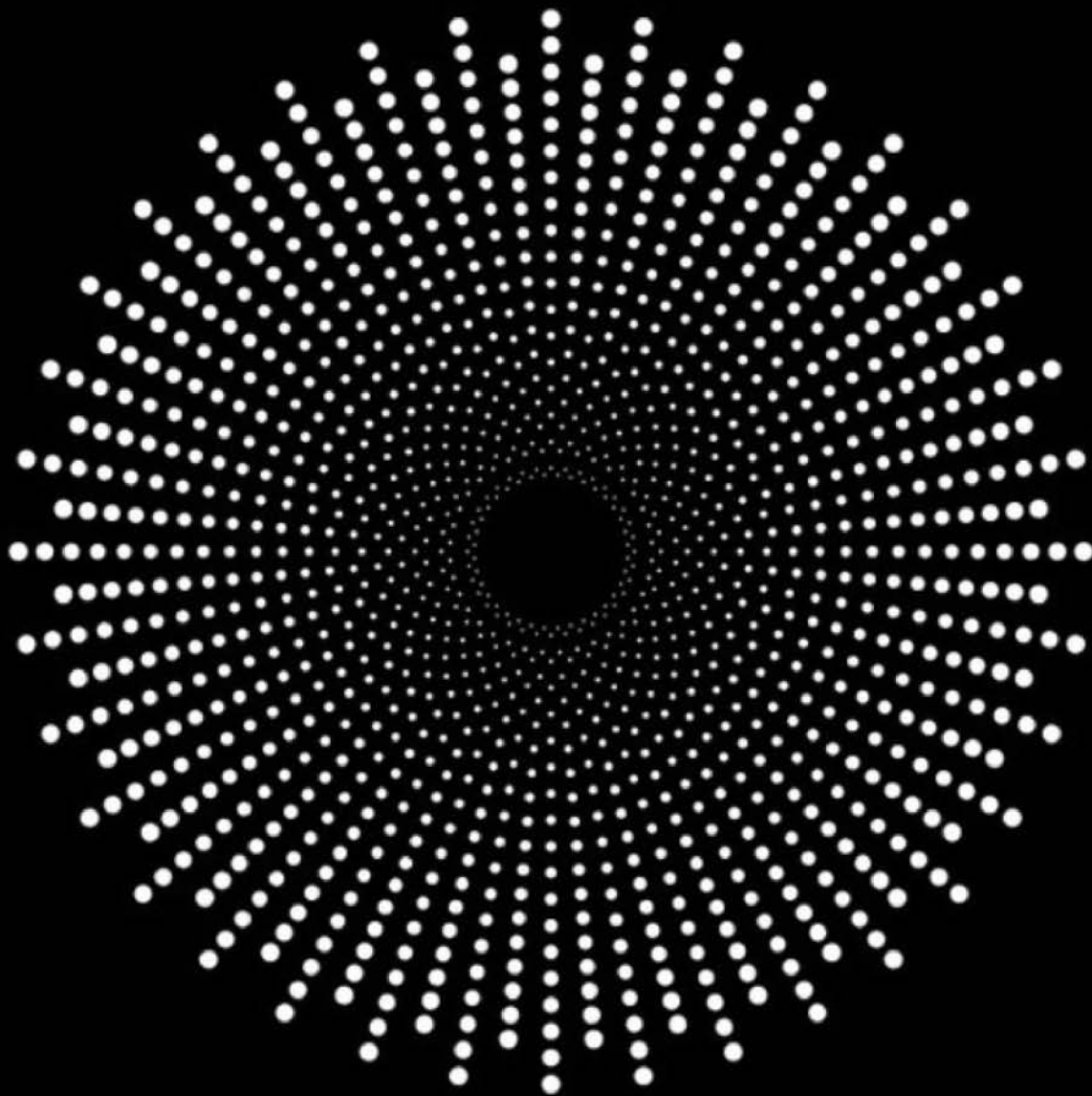


2023 Annual Report



CollaboratorySM

We're reimagining what a community foundation can be...

Collaboratory is a community foundation with an evolved mission committed to coordinating the solving of Southwest Florida's major social problems by 2040. Not alone, but with everyone—the entire community working together across all five counties – Lee, Hendry, Glades, Charlotte and Collier.

CFNS

**ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION**



Dear Collaboratory Supporters & New Friends,

Since becoming Chair of the Board of Trustees this summer, and during my seven years as a Board member, I've witnessed both Collaboratory's daring evolution and the recent progress made toward its bold goal.

I would like to thank the Collaboratory team for their resolute commitment, the Board of Trustees for standing behind this truly transformative effort, and our community partners for joining us in this crucial endeavor to build the large-scale coalitions necessary to address Southwest Florida's systemic social challenges.



The year 2023 saw community leaders coalesce around our effort to coordinate the collaborative solving of the region's social issues by 2040. Along with our community partners, we convened thousands of individuals spanning an array of sectors who came together to help develop solutions to the biggest problems confronting our region, from homelessness, mental health, education, workforce development and more.

I encourage you to join these conversations and learn more about why and how we're forging innovative ways to make every investment count to get the job done.

I'm eternally grateful to Sarah Owen who set us on this important trajectory, and I would like to recognize a new Dawn. In September, following an extensive search, we welcomed our new President & CEO, Dawn Belamarich. Dawn will lead us into the next phase of how, together, we'll achieve our shared community vision of a thriving and sustainable Southwest Florida.

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Gail Markham'.

Gail Markham
Chair, Board of Trustees
CPA/Founding Partner, Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, P.A.

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Dear Friends, Supporters,
and Partners,

As the new President & CEO of Collaboratory, I'm thrilled to present the 2023 Collaboratory Annual Report and equally honored to lead this transformational organization. In my first 90 days, it's been inspiring to witness the support of our partners and community members in pursuit of our big idea to coordinate the solving of Southwest Florida's major social problems by 2040.

This coming year, we will realign our focus from the "what" of our mission to the "how" we're going to accomplish it. What it boils down to is connection and collaboration. By forging a data-driven path through community feedback loops and idea sharing, I'm confident we can achieve our goal.

We believe strongly in the traditional work we do as a community foundation but are also committed to making a deeper impact - going to the root causes of the social issues plaguing our region to change systems. In the coming year, we'll continue to emphasize capacity building through regional coalitions. We will also prioritize community leadership, grant making, and fund development; core pillars of community foundation work.



In our capacity building work, we are fortunate to have a model of success to chart our course: an education and workforce-focused coalition of more than 400 networked organizations and individuals that comprise Collaboratory's FutureMakers. The FutureMakers model is our blueprint as we concentrate on the continued evolution of two additional coalitions: Health & Wellness and Stable & Attainable Housing.

Grateful doesn't even begin to describe how I feel about leading this organization and supporting our community. I'm thankful to our dedicated team members, our ambitious board members, generous donors, and the unwavering support of those involved in this network effort. We cannot achieve a thriving and sustainable Southwest Florida without you. Together, I know we can continue to create a brighter future for generations to come.

Onward & upward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Belamarich".

Dawn Belamarich
President & CEO

Collaboratory



Grantmaking

\$10.3M grants distributed

164 scholarships awarded

\$5M+ distributed in response to Hurricane Ian



Fund Development & Management

\$169M in total assets

\$19.7M in total gifts

630 funds



Community Leadership

5 coalitions identified

3 coalitions formed

300+ organizations collaborating

450+ active participants

\$350K in-kind space provided to the community



Capacity Building

700 hours in readying coalition backbone support

220 hours of building rural systems in Hendry County

60 FutureMakers Coalition partners certified in Mental Health First Aid

Grantmaking



Community foundations distribute grants to nonprofits and other organizations through different processes and types of funds. Competitive grants are typically awarded based on factors such as alignment with the foundation's mission, demonstrated need, and potential for impact. We have aligned our Grantmaking to community leadership and capacity building strategy.

Grantmaking

Scholarships

In 2023, thanks to our scholarship fundholders, we awarded \$1.1M+ and 164 scholarships to local high school students, undergraduate, graduate students and adult learners from Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. Over 150 volunteer application reviewers are vital to the process. Some examples of the scholarships available are based on community service, academics, fields of study, athletics, or even students that are attending or attended a particular school.

“It is so meaningful to me to know that someone believed in me enough to be a scholarship recipient.”

—Jose Zendejas, graduate of LaBelle High School, 2023 scholarship recipient, and first-generation college student

Jose received the Patricia Means Scholarship, a four-year scholarship that will help him and his family alleviate some of the financial stresses, allow him to focus on school, and take advantage of opportunities such as internships. Jose plans to complete his associate degree at Florida SouthWestern State College and then transfer to a university to major in business administration. If you are interested in becoming a scholarship reviewer or funding a scholarship, contact scholarships@collaboratory.org





Hurricane Ian Response

In response to Hurricane Ian, one of the most devastating natural disasters in history to hit the State of Florida, Collaboratory launched a relief fund to help our area rebuild and support local nonprofits helping individuals with immediate and long-term resources to fuel recovery.

Collaboratory established the SWFL Emergency Relief Fund in partnership with United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties. The fund supported Southwest Florida nonprofits across the five-county region, helping individuals and small businesses with the most pressing needs. In addition to the SWFL Emergency Relief Fund, Collaboratory created its long-term Rebuild Southwest Florida Fund. Close to \$900,000 has been raised and is in the process of being granted to organizations focused on creating community resilience through ongoing recovery and rebuilding initiatives. So far, the funds have been granted as follows:

- Preliminary Natural Resource Economic Impact Study Florida Gulf Coast University Regional Economic Research Institute \$13,901
- Sanibel Causeway Tolls, Lee County Board of County Commissioners \$91,659
- Housing Repairs, Habitat for Humanity \$500,000
- Housing Legal Services, Lee County Legal Aid \$150,000
- FutureMakers Navigators Emergency Wraparound Services \$200,000
- Arts & Culture Capital Repairs \$375,000

In February 2023 - in partnership with Verizon and Florida and Florida TaxWatch - we recognized Southwest Florida's small business resilience at Collaboratory. A \$250,000 donation from Verizon was distributed by Florida TaxWatch and Collaboratory as \$10,000 grants to 25 small local businesses impacted by the storm. Recipients shared their storm stories and how this funding helped their businesses recover when they needed it most.

Patty's Place: A concierge for youth mental health care

Collaboratory's Women's Legacy Fund (WLF) awarded Patty's Place a three-year grant to provide immediate mental health support in Southwest Florida for youth 10-26 years of age and their families.

Wait times for area youth and families to schedule therapeutic services can exceed three months, with six to eight weeks being the average. That can mean a crucial missed opportunity to provide timely support that can make a true difference in their lives.

Founded by Patricia DeVost, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) of 23 years, Patty's Place is designed as a bridge to the region's mental health network. Recognizing the vital interconnectedness of the region's health and wellness system to the well-being of a thriving Southwest Florida, Collaboratory is helping Patty's Place tackle this challenge with the support of its WLF as part of its bold, holistic mission to coordinate the solving of the region's major social problems by 2040.

Based in Cape Coral, Patty's Place opened its doors in February 2023 with WLF donors there to celebrate the grand opening. Visit pattysplace.org for more information.

"From the very inception of Women's Legacy Fund, its founders were focused on how this dedicated source of funding could help women and their families. Perhaps nothing is more difficult and heartbreaking than to try to navigate the world of mental health providers – as I experienced for 50 years trying to find help for my mentally ill sister. Patty's Place, which provides a one-stop-shop for such resources, is a blessing, thanks to a major grant from the Women's Legacy Fund."



– Dawn-Marie Driscoll,
Collaboratory Senior Advisor,
and Prima Donor/Women's Legacy
Fund Member



Impact Dunbar: Daring to Dream

When Karen Watson was a young girl growing up in the Dunbar community, it was often difficult to dream of something beyond the world she knew. She began working in the fields and packing plants beginning at age 11. Because her perspective was so limited, it seemed impossible to see herself in a position to pursue opportunities outside those limitations.

But, her mom taught her to dream as a young woman. Now, Karen and co-founder Tasheekia Perry are collaborating with passionate community members to help young women in Dunbar expand their horizons as they work to foster a thriving community. The effort is called Impact Dunbar: Dreamville, a program developed in 2016 with the support of Collaboratory's Women's Legacy Fund.

Like Collaboratory, Dreamville isn't a place. It's a state of mind. A connected, collaborative effort to help young women from age 12 to 17 focus their dreams for their futures, last year pitching those dreams to Southwest Florida dream-makers and dream-funders, and now experiencing their dreams in action. Learn more at impactdunbar.org/dreamville.



Jordan's Blessings

"May 12, 2016 - Our daughter Jordan and her boyfriend Benji were killed when a semi-truck hit their car forcing them into oncoming traffic. Our hearts are broken forever and a beautiful light is gone forever, but we did not want her love to vanish. The Jordan Ashley Gutheim Foundation was soon formed to spread "Jordan's Blessings", which are presented annually every May to honor Jordan's life.

Jordan was passionate about animal safety, families, elderly care, children, and serving the needy in impoverished countries. The fund also supports driver safety and an annual 4-year scholarship to Florida State University.

Over the past 7 years, our foundation has supported a variety of local nonprofits and causes including: MADD, Lee County Sheriff's Office Youth Activities League Teen Drivers Challenge, While We're Waiting, Valerie's House, Pace Center for Girls Lee, Our Mothers Home, Dr. Piper Center grandparents' program (senior classroom mentors), Community Cooperative, three mission trips, food to frontline workers during Covid at Lee HealthPark, Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), Gulf Coast Humane Society, Cape Coral Animal Shelter, United Way, and Hurricane Ian relief. The Collaboratory staff has been instrumental in walking us through this mission, helping to identify community needs that fit our goals, and arranging tours of different agencies.



"There are so many needs in our community,
and Collaboratory helps shine a light on
those in need."

- Greg and Lorraine Gutheim, Fundholders

Energizing the Disabled with Art

Through the generous support of an anonymous donor's legacy request, Collaboratory was able to grant funds to the Disabled Artists Foundation, Inc. (dAFi), which energizes the disabled through the arts. Many of their clients are alone in their homes, out of data on their cell phones, and experience chronic pain and depression.

Additionally, they serve emotionally or physically disabled individuals that live near or below poverty, and dAFi also supports aspiring artists from other nonprofit organizations, where are all empowered to sell their own art. This funding also helped the dAFi team ensure clients get the proper art supplies they need wherever they are - at dAFi, their home, a treatment facility, or otherwise - like a mobile art box for the soul.

Moreover, this bequest donation expanded the Foundation's capacity to serve even more individuals and launch an awareness campaign to initiate a sustainable growth plan go forward. Their next adventure - a care portal to help disabled foster children that are in poverty and aging out of the system. Get inspired at disabledartists.org.



Fund Development and Management



Community foundations generally maintain a variety of fund types from donor advised funds to agency endowment funds to designated and field-of-interest funds. Community foundations and other charitable organizations may also have relationships with supporting organizations.

Fund Development & Management

In response to Hurricane Ian, one of the most devastating natural disasters in history to hit the State of Florida, Collaboratory and area philanthropists launched short and long-term relief funds to rebuild and support local nonprofits helping individuals with immediate and ongoing resources to fuel recovery.

We're humbled by those who helped contribute over \$5 million to support recovery in the wake of Hurricane Ian. Those funds are now 100% committed as our region recovers and rebuilds. Through the generous support of our donors, that money is working as hard as it can through local partnerships that help real people with real needs in the areas of housing, behavioral health, legal aid, job placement, veterans' assistance, arts and culture, and more.

SWFL Emergency Relief Fund in Partnership with United Way

\$2,621,287 raised from 2,498 donors

58% to agencies and programs to help survivors and provide services and resources.

19% in gift cards to thousands of survivors to help with repairs, immediate needs, and replacement of essentials.

23% direct assistance to survivors to help with temporary shelter, repairs, immediate needs, and replacement of essentials.

\$125,000 from the Governor's Fund to NINE Veteran Serving Organizations



Audited Financial Statements and Grants



Consolidated Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

REVENUES	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Contributions	\$17,020,955	\$5,267,741
Programs support	2,642,047	1,087,874
Miscellaneous income	417,158	248,931
Net investment income	10,577,189	(17,049,555)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$30,657,349	\$ (10,445,009)
EXPENSES		
Distributions	\$9,142,775	\$5,266,233
Scholarships	1,139,859	1,129,232
Programs	3,985,932	3,053,706
Administrative	1,698,467	1,260,056
Development	1,091,873	782,103
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 17,058,906	\$11,491,330
Payments and changes in value of split interest agreements and interest in remainder and lead trusts	2,718,776	(6,779,525)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 16,317,219	\$ (28,715,864)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 128,706,595	\$ 157,422,459
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 145,023,814	\$128,706,595

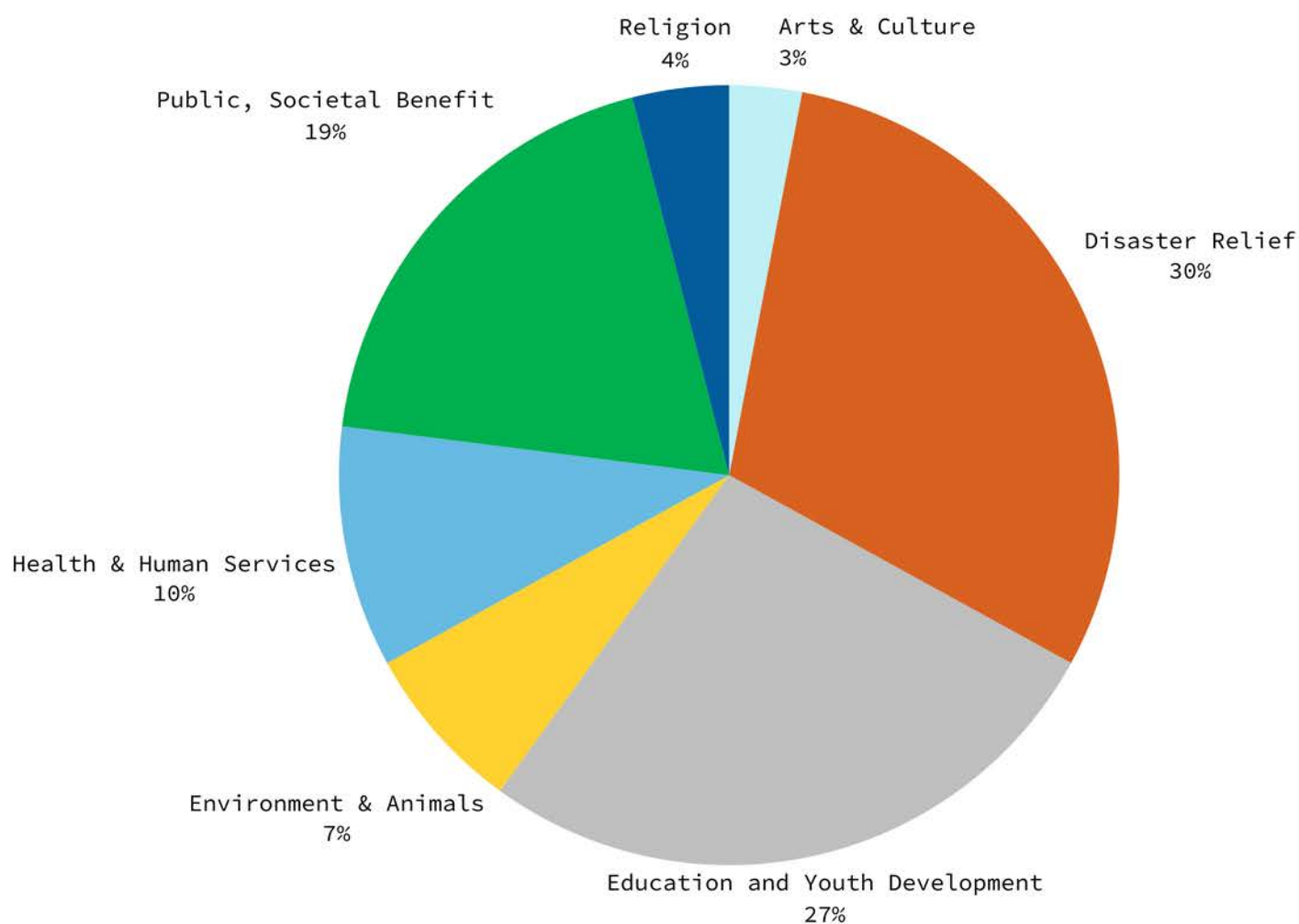
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

ASSETS	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,555,916	\$3,057,448
Contributions and other receivables, net	935,225	2,649,865
Prepaid expenses	119,513	66,391
Impact investing loans receivable	1,060,375	538,223
Loan receivable	6,651,000	6,651,000
Investments	117,415,245	101,898,749
Investments held in charitable remainder trust	1,309,668	544,521
Split interest agreements and remainder interests	27,707,822	25,023,827
Property and equipment net of depreciation	9,936,130	10,357,976
Other assets	176,765	151,743
TOTAL ASSETS	\$168,867,659	\$150,939,743
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$315,317	\$270,332
Grants payable	2,087,269	1,892,900
Funds held as agency endowments	2,639,537	2,420,807
Deferred revenue	414,358	–
Annuity obligations	277,696	304,588
Charitable remainder trust obligations	1,309,668	544,521
Loans payable	16,800,000	16,800,000
Net assets	145,023,814	128,706,595
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$168,867,659	\$150,939,743
<p>The consolidated financial statements of Collaboratory and supporting organizations for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023 have been audited by Moss Adams LLP.</p> <p>Visit https://collaboratory.org/more/financials-and-investments/ for current financial information.</p> <p>Federal Tax ID #59-6580974. Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.</p>		

Collaboratory granted more than \$10.3M in its 2023 fiscal year by funding various nonprofit impact areas, disaster relief efforts, as well as coalitions supporting education, housing, and health and wellness.

These grants are key to extending the work of the coalitions and supporting the system-level changes Collaboratory and our partners are committed to achieving.

Distributions by Community Impact Area



Impact Investing with Gingras Global

Gingras Global, our impact investing support partner, has been working with Collaboratory since 2019. Gingras Global is internationally known for its gold standards in approach and results. We began our relationship with a focus on impact investment education, moving quickly to making direct investments. Gingras has been assisting us with both private investment administration and custom design specific to strategy. In 2023, we asked Gingras Global to design an investment fund for the region to address the lack of private investment capital in Southwest Florida.

In true Gingras Global elegance, they designed two funds instead of one to better serve both the investors and potential local companies. These two venture capital funds - Florida Growth Opportunity Fund, Southwest and Engage Florida Ventures, Southwest - will be taking in the capital in early 2024. We are proud to be the lead investor and encourage you to reach out to us to see how you can participate. To ensure the full success of private investing in the region, Gingras designed and implemented Cap Table Nation. Cap Table Nation was custom designed to build the infrastructure for more private capital to have a home here in Southwest Florida.

Look for more communications coming soon on this catalytic strategy for our region. To learn more about this project or the funds, please reach out to Natalie Hazen at natalie@gingrasglobal.com





Hi, I'm Marina Nassif, Collaboratory's Chief Financial Officer. Numbers are my thing, especially when they intersect with helping others. I'd be happy to set up some time for a Zoom or a call to discuss our financials or our investment policy further. Email me or give me a ring at 239 308 1023 and I'll get in touch.

mnassif@collaboratory.org



Hi, I'm Gina Dengler, the Philanthropic Services Coordinator. Email me or give me a ring at 239 333 4171 and I'll get in touch.

gdengler@collaboratory.org



<https://collaboratory.org>

2031 Jackson St, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Telephone 239 274 5900

Community Leadership



Community foundations often act as conveners, bringing together diverse stakeholders to address community issues. They may organize forums, workshops, or other events that foster collaboration and collective problem-solving. As we collectively drive towards 2040, our Community Leadership role is to resource, engage, and coordinate regional coalitions aligned around shared goals to change regional outcomes given that no single entity can solve a big social problem on its own.

Community Leadership



Since February 2023, Collaboratory has provided facilitation support to the Lee County Recovery Task Force. The Recovery Task Force and the eight branches are developing a long-term recovery and resilience plan, which will be presented to the Lee Board of County Commissioners for consideration as a strategic framework for the future resiliency of the entire Lee County community. Learn more at resilientlee.com

In partnership with the Collier and Charlotte Community Foundations, we hosted On the Table SWFL on March 30, 2023, bringing thousands of diverse voices together from across the region to identify the most pressing social issues only exacerbated by Hurricane Ian. Solutions and ideas were shared to address urgent areas of concern such as attainable housing, mental health and substance abuse and more. Read the full Community Conversation Report at onthetableswfl.com.

While still focused on long-term recovery, a stronger Southwest Florida is emerging, one filled with new possibilities and a brighter future.

co•a•li•tion: an alliance for combined action



Our name reflects our mission: a laboratory for experiments in collaboration. As the last 47 years have shown us, we cannot solve these issues in a silo. To make our bold goal a reality, we're bringing people together – regional leaders and workers, nonprofit teams, community members, and impacted residents – to coordinate the solving of these systemic issues, with input and feedback from everyone involved, and informed by state and local data to measure results.

While most of our grants go to support the missions of nonprofit organizations, a portion of our funds are used to build collaborations and coalitions to fundamentally solve the entangled issues that have been challenging our region, such as housing, healthcare, education, and more. Coalitions provide scalable funding and resources to support community partners, much like the \$3.5M FutureMakers has distributed since 2020. Extending FutureMakers' collaborative model, we continue to build momentum with two additional coalitions – Health & Wellness and Housing – with more than 300 organizations and 400 individuals engaged across these three coalitions.

700 hours in collaborative leadership training

300+ organizations and 450+ individuals

30+ active project teams

FutureMakers: A Higher Degree of Human & Economic Development

Created in 2015, FutureMakers Coalition is a shining example of how you build coalitions, how you bring people together, and how you change the system through innovative transformational projects. Collaboratory is proud to provide the backbone support for this robust cross-sector partnership working to change the education and workforce development systems.

They do it by working all along the education pathway, from early childhood on, to get people post-high school, high-quality credentials that qualify them for better than minimum-wage work. For example, providing support for “reconnectors,” adults in the region interested in improving their career prospects through education and training opportunities. They’ve served over 1,500 reconnectors since January 2022.

Powered by a \$22.9 million award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration last year, Florida Gulf Coast University in partnership with FutureMakers, is placing unemployed and underemployed Southwest Floridians in good, quality jobs—a huge win for FutureMakers’ goal to get credentials to 55% of working-age adults by 2025.

With over 400 networked organizations and individuals, they’ve added nearly 55,000 credentials to fill in-demand local jobs since 2014, moving the needle from 39% to 43.74%. Additionally, 60% of partners changed their business practices since they joined FutureMakers.



Stable and Attainable Housing Coalition: Elevating Lives and Our Future

The lasting impact of Hurricane Ian greatly accelerated what had been an escalating attainable housing crisis into an unprecedented one.

Interconnected with stable and attainable housing is the issue of transportation – affordable housing is predominantly far removed from the primary employment centers that drive our economy. The intersection of these two challenges requires a broad, collaborative response, which is why Collaboratory, in partnership with 104 organizations, established the Stable and Attainable Housing Coalition. Its regional goal is to ensure that 80% of SWFL residents spend less than 45% of their income on housing and transportation combined.

While this goal is bold, so is our collective determination to ensure our region thrives. We're building comprehensive teams on the frontline of the challenges related to housing and transportation in order to inform multi-sector solutions.

The coalition has begun to champion innovative strategies, such as a promising pilot project in Charlotte County designed to serve as a model when it comes to pioneering approaches to attainable housing.



Health & Wellness Coalition: Building a Healthier Southwest Florida

The one-two punch of the global pandemic and Ian's ongoing impact has strained the region's health and wellness sector like never before. To meet the challenge, Collaboratory, in partnership with 35 organizations, launched a regional Health & Wellness Coalition. The coalition's goal is to transform the region into one of the healthiest in the nation by exceeding the 90th percentile for Health Indicators (Length of Life and Quality of Life) by 2040. Given where we're currently ranked in poor mental health days (55th), premature death (73rd), and low birth weight (51st), our challenge is great.

Health and wellness spans a gamut of issues, and we've established regional teams to focus on four key areas: active living, health systems, food access and nutrition, and behavioral health. Our goals are underpinned by two key guiding principles: to foster equitable access and to rely on uniform data to track outcomes and inform strategies.



We can't solve big problems as a single entity.
Join us.

Collaboratory: The Physical Space



As a physical space, Collaboratory is an innovative gathering place for the community to have vital conversations on HOW we come together to solve our biggest challenges. Together, we can reshape the future of Southwest Florida, creating a region where everyone is better off.

Thanks to our donors and partnerships, investments into Collaboratory also contribute to the ability for the physical space to be available at a reduced rate or free to the nonprofit sector.



January 1, 2023–December 31, 2023

2,000+ Meetings

33,000+ Visitors

4 Night Markets with an estimated 1,200+ attendees.

23 Co-working organizations.

\$350K+ in-kind space provided

Immediately, following Hurricane Ian, Collaboratory became home to hundreds of first responders for much needed food and rest. Given Collaboratory's innovative design and hurricane-proof structures, the space served as a key location for first responders to gather, strategize and deploy rapid assistance to the community.



Take a tour!

Jesse Daniels runs tours on Tuesday between 10am and 2pm. You'll love him. He'll give you a behind-the-scenes look at how community change is created.



Capacity Building



Community foundations often provide training and resources to strengthen the capacity of local nonprofit organizations. They may offer workshops on topics such as fundraising, board development, and strategic planning, as well as provide access to research, data, and best practices to help nonprofits improve their effectiveness and sustainability. In addition to the coalition onboarding program we provide, we are offering training and resources to regional partner organizations to strengthen our collective ability to solve problems together.



Readying Coalition Team to Support Regional Partners

No single entity can solve a big social problem on its own. It takes all of us working together to make our community a better place. Backbone organizations serve as coordinating bodies that bring together a diverse group of stakeholders and support a synchronized effort to achieve a common goal. Facilitating collaboration is a skill that must be learned, practiced, and honed overtime. Building on 8 years of experience as the backbone organization for FutureMakers Coalition, Collaboratory provided 700 hours of training to ready the backbone support team for three coalitions.

Adult Mental Health First Aid

In response to employer feedback, FutureMakers Coalition, for which Collaboratory provides backbone support, partnered with David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health (DLC) to offer mental health first aid training to FutureMakers Coalition partners. The Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training program addresses behavioral health concerns in individuals 18 and older. Certification consists of 2-hours of self-paced online coursework followed by a 6.5-hour in-person, instructor-led training session.

Through this interactive training, 60 partners learned to identify concerns by better understanding signs and symptoms and risk factors. MHFA is offered to adult participants and certifications are valid for three years from the effective training date.



FutureMakers Coalition Building Rural Learning Systems in Hendry County

FutureMakers Coalition was selected by CivicLab as one of five rural partnerships across the U.S. to participate in a two-year initiative to improve higher education and workforce systems. Supported by Ascendium Education Group, FutureMakers Coalition partners in Hendry County received training, technical assistance, and direct financial support valued at \$150,000 to develop and implement system-level strategies that create pathways to prosperity for low-income learners.



Collaboratory leveraged this opportunity to create additional opportunities for technical assistance for the partners in Hendry County from the Florida College Access Network. In total, the initiative resulted in 660 hours of capacity building to change student and workforce outcomes in Hendry County.



FutureMakers Coalition partners at Florida Southwestern State College and Collaboratory worked to secure this opportunity for Hendry County. FutureMakers Coalition was selected through a national call for proposals. To be selected, partnerships were required to submit plans that both improve outcomes for their residents and make lasting changes on higher education and workforce systems during the two-year grant period.

Connecting the Americas



In February 2023, Collaboratory and a group of community partners had the opportunity to attend the Connecting Communities in the Americas (CCA) gathering in Guadalajara, Mexico. Collaboratory received a grant from CF Leads to build stronger relationships with our partner, Corporativa de Fundaciones, to understand how we can better serve the Mexican diaspora in Southwest Florida. Our general objective for the project was to promote the connection between our transnational communities, seeking to know their needs and experiences from both the diaspora communities and the community foundations.

During this gathering, we shared our Bold Goal and how we need to change the idea of “burning issues” into “burning possibilities.” Tessa LeSage, FutureMakers Coalition Director, moderated a panel discussion about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how foundations are incorporating them into their work. Jon Romine, Entanglements Lead, shared our learnings from the project with the conference attendees.

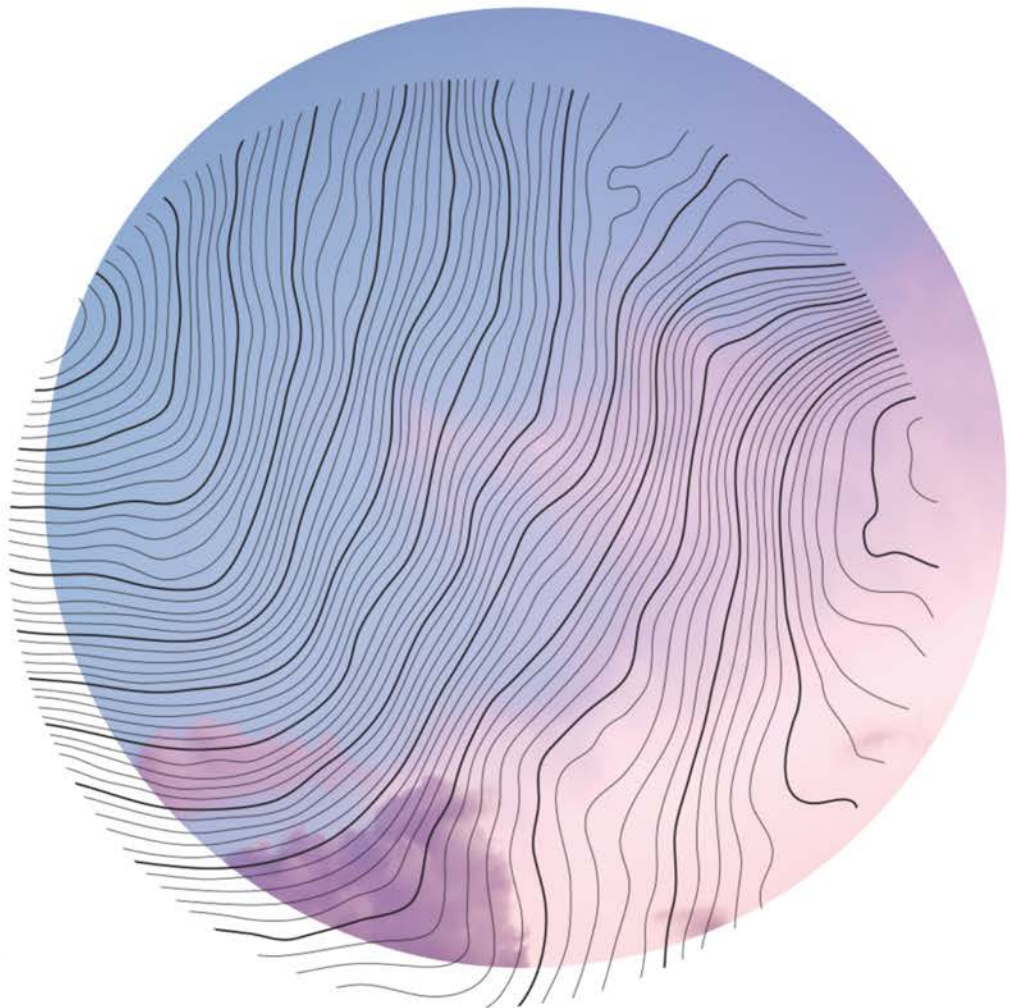
Joining us from the Southwest Florida community were representatives from arts and culture, housing, education and workforce, health and wellness, and of course, immigrant-supporting organizations. Our partners at Corporativa de Fundaciones created many opportunities for us to be immersed in the traditional Mexican culture.

Learn more at

cfleads.org/issues-we-work-on/connecting-communities-in-the-americas/

Explanation Sessions

Every week, we host inspiring, online “Explanation Sessions” to explain what we’re up to and what we’d like you to be up to with us. Sign-up at collaboratory.org or scan this QR code.



What can we do
together that
we can't do on
our own?

<https://collaboratory.org>

Find this report online:
collaboratory.org/annualreport

collaboratory