

Building Broader Communities in the Americas (BBCA)

Fall 2019
Newsletter

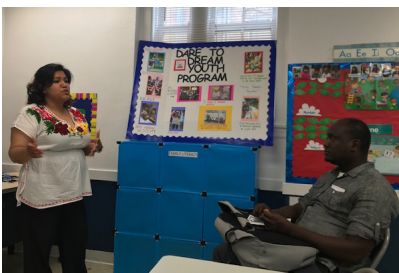
It has been a busy time for the BBCA. We want to share with you not only recent and upcoming events, but also how we are preparing for the BBCA's future.

Chicago Meeting: June 19-21



In June, the BBCA convened a series of meetings in partnership with The Chicago Community Trust (CCT). Mapping grantees from the U.S. and Mexico, conducting research to better understand the

makeup of people who are part of their transnational communities, engaged in conversation and peer learning on day 1 of the meeting.



The following afternoon the group visited Centro Romero on Chicago's northeast side, whose stated mission is, "Helping the immigrant and refugee community achieve self-sufficiency for more than 35 years."

We learned about their programs and had a discussion with other organizations working transnationally on behalf of migrants and refugees from Central America.

The final day was spent at the Casa Michoacán, created by the Federación de Clubes de Michoacanos en Illinois (Federation of Clubs for Michoacanos in Illinois)

on the South Side of the city. There the group engaged with a wide range of organizations - including community foundations, hometown associations (HTAs), federations of HTAs, transnational networks, and diaspora philanthropy promoters - and sought common ground and opportunities for collaboration. What did we accomplish?

- Mapping grantees discussed how to make the most of their research, translating their newly acquired knowledge into expanded engagement with their transnational communities;
- Participants heard about new approaches to resident engagement and asset mobilization with immigrant communities; and,
- Community foundations and transnational organizations explored ways of working with each other more closely.

Thanks to CCT for being an incredible partner and host and for all of the BBCA presenters and participants who made the convening a successful opportunity to learn and build relationships.

Feedback (next page) confirmed the trusting relationships that we are building and the powerful learning that is resulting.



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“ [I liked] the “safe space” that was created to be able to share your knowledge and experience and learn from others.

“ [I liked] the opportunity to reconnect with partners and stakeholders...it was invaluable to hear from other mapping projects, as well as to refine our own projects with the input received.

“ The peer learning process was great!

BBCA Strategic Planning: Public Equity Group (PEG) and Sandy Vargas

BBCA has enlisted Public Equity Group (PEG) to support a review of our progress toward our desired outcomes and the strategies and structures we need to advance our work. PEG describes itself as “a diverse team of strategy & management consultants mobilized to help visionary leaders & organizations achieve impact.”

PEG will have recommendations for 3-5 year goals, program and operations, staffing, and governance. They will interview a wide range of BBCA partners, so don't be surprised if you hear from John Newsome, Aly Bryson,

and Juan Constain over the next few months! The team is bilingual and has an impressive track record of working throughout the hemisphere.

In coordination with PEG, Sandy Vargas, former President and CEO of the Minneapolis Foundation, and Vanesa Mercado, University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs research assistant, will be coordinating their work with PEG as they seek to assess the benefits of participating in the BBCA to both community foundations and transnational communities.

BBCA Sponsors Trip to Mexico: Earthquake Fund Sites and Steering Committee Meeting

One of the BBCA's desired outcomes is to encourage more cross-border philanthropy. The Partnership to Support Post-Earthquake Recovery in Mexico is our first such effort in this area. As you may remember, in September 2017, massive earthquakes hit central and southern Mexico. Four Mexican community foundations, Fundación Comunitaria Malinalco (Mexico State), Fundación Comunidad (Morelos), Fundación Comunitaria Oaxaca, and Fundación Comunitaria Puebla, took on critical roles, not only serving as first responders but also leading the long-term effort to rebuild their communities' social and economic infrastructure.

Many of Mexico's community foundations outside of the affected areas supported their fellow community foundations. Supporters in the U.S. included: El Paso Community Foundation, International Community Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Inter-American Foundation (IAF), Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. On behalf of these U.S. donors, the IAF made reconstruction grants to the four affected Mexican community foundations and is supporting a training program for all Mexican community foundations in disaster preparedness (<https://bit.ly/2knlhYC>). Every dollar contributed in the U.S. was matched by a Mexican donor.

On December 4 and 5, the BBCA will sponsor a visit to these sites in close coordination with IAF staff. On the 6th the BBCA Steering Committee will convene to reflect on the BBCA's achievements and future direction, drawing upon the work of Public Equity Group.

Mapping Summary and Guide

Over the last few months, Michael Layton, Senior Program Specialist, Inter-American Foundation, has been working closely with BBCA mapper grantees to summarize the experience of the community foundations that have undertaken the 11 mapping exercises. The report will draw on their experience to share what has been learned and to help guide and inspire others to undertake mapping exercises. We expect the English version of this guide to be completed before the end of the year and the guide to be translated to Spanish soon thereafter.

The BBCA thanks Michael Layton for his work on this guide and his strong commitment to the work of the BBCA. Michael's last day at the IAF will be November 8. We appreciate the immensely valuable contributions that Michael has made to the BBCA over the past three years and wish him tremendous success in his next professional endeavors. You can stay in contact with Michael after November 8 at mlayton123@gmail.com.

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