

Mapping Our Transnational Communities

Eleven Examples of Community
Foundation Research

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Introduction

Connecting Communities in the Americas (CCA)* is an initiative that began in 2016 to facilitate meaningful connections between community foundations across the Americas. CCA is managed by CFLeads and is funded primarily by the Inter-American Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Together, these organizations have invited community foundations across the Americas to join in conversation and, more recently, participate in collaborative projects for the benefit of their local communities.

In the spring of 2017, CCA offered its first round of grants to community foundations to support mapping research on local and regional transnational communities — or communities of people whose previous generations migrated from one country to another and who have established a plural sense of “home.” The experience of mapping these communities have proven to be enriching for community foundations and, we hope, for the communities themselves.

The following report presents 11 mapping projects that engaged 16 community foundations from 2017 through 2019, many collaborating across the Mexico-U.S. border.

The report includes a map and list of participating community foundations and their local partners, followed by approaches to mapping transnational communities, emerging themes from the projects, the added value that mapping brings to community foundations, and results-based opportunities. We hope that this work will inspire others to conduct mapping research in their own regions and in collaboration with others.

**CCA was formerly known as Building Broader Communities in the Americas (BBCA). The initiative rebranded in early 2021.*

Acknowledgments

This work has been made possible thanks to the vision and commitment of so many individuals and institutions over the past several years. We are grateful to the Inter-American Foundation for its commitment to the growth of civil society in Latin America for more than 50 years and to the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation for its vision for the growth of community foundations worldwide.

CFLeads has taken on the leadership and management of CCA's day-to-day tasks, together with the Alliance of Community Foundations of Mexico (Comunalia) and Community Foundations of Canada.

We thank Michael Layton and Sandra Vargas for their knowledge and passion for this initiative, the purpose of which is to make those often invisible transnational communities and their supporting institutions more recognized. Above all, we thank every community foundation and other organization that has been part of the CCA initiative and has made it their quest to foster resilient communities in the Americas.

Glossary

Transnational communities: Communities composed of people who consider themselves to have homes and cultural identities in two or more countries. These communities are often associated with migration patterns.

Community foundations: Public foundations that have diverse funding sources, work in a defined region and strengthen communities, nonprofits and government through alliances and grantmaking. Some community foundations also operate their own programs directly with communities.

Country of origin: Also called the “home country” of a person who has emigrated.

Country of destination: The country where an immigrant has settled, also referred to as the host country.

Latin America: A cultural region that refers to those countries whose primary language has Latin roots (Spanish, French, Portuguese).

Latina, Latino and Latinx: Latina and Latino are terms used in the U.S. and Canada to refer to individuals of Latin American heritage. Latinx is a more recent gender-neutral term used to refer to the same group and is used in this report.

Mapping research: An exercise intended to gain a deeper understanding of a specific population in a defined geographical region (such as a neighborhood, a town, city or state) in order to better serve that population and ensure that they have a voice in local and regional development. Research methods come from community development work around Participatory Mapping and Asset Mapping and can take many forms. For more information, see our reference section at the end of this report.

Locating CCA Mapping Projects 2017-2019

This map shows the various regions of the U.S. and Mexico where mapping projects were conducted between 2017-2019. The hope is that in future calls for mapping projects, community foundations and their partners in Canada, the Caribbean, Central America and South America will also participate.



Community Foundations and Mapping Partners

Building alliances and partnerships with other institutions is a crucial element in the work of community foundations. The following organizations participated in the mapping process of transnational communities in their regions and have rich information to share.

Community Foundations	Region of Study	Research Partners
Arizona Community Foundation Community Foundation for Southern Arizona Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense (Nogales, Obregon)	Arizona, USA & Sonora, Mexico	U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership
The Boston Foundation	Greater Boston, Massachusetts, USA	The Philanthropic Initiative Boston Indicators
The Chicago Community Trust	Greater Chicago, Illinois, USA	Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Corporativa de Fundaciones	Jalisco, Mexico	Laboratorio de Estudios Económicos y Sociales University of Guadalajara
Delaware Community Foundation	Sussex County, Delaware, USA	University of Delaware La Colectiva network
El Paso Community Foundation Fundación Comunitaria de la Frontera Norte	El Paso, Texas, USA & Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico	University of Texas Agencia de Estadística de Mercados
Fundación Comunidad The Minneapolis Foundation	Morelos, Mexico & Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA	National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) National Autonomous University of Morelos, Temixco Colectivo Multidisciplinario por las Alternativas Locales (COMAL)

Community Foundations	Region of Study	Research Partners
Fundación Comunitaria	Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico	Tecnológico de Monterrey, N.L.
Fundación Comunitaria de Malinalco	Malinalco municipality, Mexico	Instituto del Rincón
International Community Foundation	San Diego, California, USA & Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico	U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad
Southwest Florida Community Foundation	Hendry County, Florida, USA	Banyai Evaluation & Consulting Florida Gulf Coast University EnSite, Inc. Healthy Start, SW Florida Redlands Christian Migrant Association

Mapping Project Areas of Focus

Mapping consultant Michael Layton identified four ways that the community foundations and their partners approached the engagement of transnational communities in their regions. Below is a brief description of each study according to its area of focus. Find the full reports online at [CCA Mapping Project](#).

Transnational Communities in the Country of Origin

Fundación Comunitaria de Malinalco, in central Mexico, conducted interviews and focus groups in 19 different towns. These focus groups helped create a deeper understanding of reasons for emigration, the migration journey and repatriation into home communities, culminating in the report “Migración en Malinalco.”

In another report, “Migración Jalisco - Estados Unidos,” Corporativa de Fundaciones compiled information on the different forms that migration takes, remittances sent back to families in Mexico, and several places in the U.S. where large populations of people from Jalisco live today.

Transnational Communities in the Destination Country

The Boston Foundation, already very active in international giving, gained a deeper understanding of Boston’s large and diverse Latinx population through “Enduring Ties: The Human Connection Between Greater Boston, Latin America and the Caribbean.” The report’s findings encouraged the Foundation to continue supporting Haiti

and Puerto Rico through crises caused by natural disasters, helping residents in the Boston area feel supported back in their home countries or where their families had been affected.

Chicago is another city with a significant Latinx community, largely from Mexico. The research outlined in the Chicago Community Trust’s report, “Exploring Mexican Philanthropy in Chicago,” has given the Trust the groundwork to foster deeper relationships with several Latinx business owners and professionals who have been invited to the table to discuss how to close the racial wealth gap in their city.

The Delaware Community Foundation’s report, “Perspectives on the Latino Population in Sussex County, Delaware,” highlighted the rapidly growing Latinx population in Sussex County and the need to include their voices in future community foundation work and regional development.

In “Building Broader Communities in the Americas: Hendry County Mapping Project Report,” the Southwest Florida Community Foundation found that many families who live in Hendry County contribute significantly to regional development in various ways, yet are often disconnected from essential services. The foundation also learned important lessons in the role of trust when building relationships with transnational communities.

Transnational Communities in Both the Countries of Origin and Destination

A large number of people from Axochiapan, Morelos live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Minneapolis Foundation and Fundación Comunidad in Cuernavaca, Mexico, joined forces to research the push and pull factors for migration to Minneapolis and learn about contributions, realities and challenges of families in both states. These findings are documented in the report “Migración Morelos - Minnesota: Construyendo Comunidades más amplias en las Américas.” This report is also available in English.

In Monterrey, Mexico, Fundación Comunitar developed a deeper understanding of the factors that have caused residents of various economic levels to migrate northward “to the other side,” including wealthy business owners from Monterrey who left during a period of security risks and rampant kidnapping. These findings are captured in the report “Mapeo de Oportunidades de Inversión Transnacional EUA - Nuevo León.” A summary is available in English.

Transnational Communities in the Border Regions

The El Paso Community Foundation partnered with Fundación Comunitaria de la Frontera Norte and others in Juárez, Mexico, to administer a survey to residents in both cities about their perceptions of living and interacting with neighbors and family members on the other side of the border. This study was the first of its kind done in collaboration between the two cities. The partners involved are excited to continue developing projects based on the results of their first report, “Building

Broader Communities in the Americas 2018.”

Businesses and nonprofit organizations also contribute to the border regions, and two of the CCA mapping studies explored the potential of facilitating more effective corporate donations between these groups.

The community foundations of Arizona and Southern Arizona partnered with two branches of Fundación Empresariado Sonorense to create the “Arizona - Sonora: Building Bridges for a Stronger Future in Community Philanthropy” report. They concluded that, as community foundations, they could play a more intentional role in giving visibility to local needs and the nonprofits who address them, while encouraging businesses to become stronger partners, both locally and across borders.

The International Community Foundation in San Diego partnered with Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad in Tijuana for its study, “Corporate Giving Trends in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region.” The study showed that businesses are often not well connected to nonprofits’ work and that community foundations could take a more active leadership role in fostering corporate donations.

Both of these groups partnered with the U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership to administer surveys to businesses and nonprofits, and better understand their scopes of interest, strategies for giving and receiving, and potential areas to further develop transnational philanthropy.

Emerging Themes: What Have We Learned About our Transnational Communities?

By reading through the reports and talking with project leaders from each of the community foundations that participated, we were able to capture several emerging themes that highlight the overwhelmingly positive impact of transnational communities on the regions in which they live. Here are just a few:

> Transnational communities represent a wide spectrum of demographics and identities.

Various Identities Within the Latinx Population

Community foundations recognized the vast diversity of the national, racial and ethnic identities within the Latinx population in their regions. Among the Mexican mapping reports, there was also a recognition of the diverse Indigenous populations that make up their transnational communities, each with their own mother tongue. Foundations are recognizing the importance of giving voice to the multiple communities in their regions to generate positive growth in the region as a whole.

Recent Migration Versus Diaspora

Transnational communities can be very diverse in their makeup. Some are primarily made up of recent migrants, some represent families who have lived in the region for generations, and some are a mix. Diaspora communities tend to be much more established and with stronger networks, while recent migrant communities – whether leaving or returning – are often struggling to negotiate the systems and access important services.

One-way Migration Versus Circular Migration

Not all individuals migrate with the intention of permanent residence abroad. In many cases, we found that the plan is only to relocate temporarily. In Jalisco, they found that many people who migrated to the U.S. did so intending to be there part time, similar to seasonal workers in Canada or “snowbirds,” a term referring to those who migrate to Mexico and other parts of Latin America for the winter seasons. Whether for economic or other reasons, circular migration is a common form of movement and heightens one’s sense of having more than one home.

Individuals Versus Families

Traditionally, economic pull factors often meant that men went to settle in new places, either sending for their wives and children when they were established or going as young single men before starting a family.

“For people who are non-Latinos, they tend to view us as one group. That’s not necessarily the case. Within our Latino community, there are different types of people from different countries, different religions, different languages.”

(Interviewee in Delaware)

Many of our mapping reports show a shift toward more families migrating — often with a precarious journey ahead of them. Some families report being detrimentally affected by migration, whether from policies that separate children from parents, physical abuse along the journey, or the emotional strain of being away from family members.

Skilled Versus Unskilled Workers

Similar to migration trends in Canada, Corporativa de Fundaciones found that a lot of the people who migrate from the state of Jalisco today already have a certain set of skills and experience. In other parts of Mexico, many who are emigrating do not have any formal skills. For some, it is a “rite of passage” for young men to work in the U.S. for a while. Along the border in El Paso and Frontera Norte, community foundations found that many of their residents cross the border daily, living in one country and working in the other.

Documented Versus Undocumented

People born elsewhere sometimes do not have the necessary residence documentation for the country where they are currently living. Several community foundations encountered people who did not have legal residency themselves or had family members in that situation. These people were hesitant to discuss their experiences.

Transnational Communities Bring Valuable Assets to Their Regions

Many of the foundations began their mapping research by recognizing the valuable assets that transnational communities bring to the broader region, both in the U.S. and Mexico. The community foundation in Malinalco, a municipality 58 miles southwest of Mexico City, found through their interviews that communities with residents who have lived in other countries invest their knowledge and savings into new businesses that bring vital products and services into their towns.

We also found that transnational communities contribute to revitalizing the historical and cultural heritage of their towns of origin, either when living abroad or after returning to their home country. In Minnesota, for example, the transnational community from Morelos, Mexico, has contributed to the cultural vitality of the Twin Cities by celebrating the Day of Saint Paul, the patron saint of Axochiapan. They and other Latinx families also contributed to the Mercado Central on Lake Street in Minneapolis, which has a strong tradition of family-led businesses, social networking and services.

“*Mexicans who are born in the U.S. and come to Mexico are not returning migrants — they are immigrants [...]. And this population has grown in the past few years because the migratory climate for Mexicans in the U.S. hasn't been favorable and they've decided it's necessary to return with everything including their families.*”

(Terán 2019, Malinalco)

Children With Different Identities From Their Parents

A growing number of children are introduced to voluntary or forced migration at an early age, sometimes alone, due to their parents' situations. An estimated 600,000 children born in the U.S. now reside in Mexico (Bravo-Medina, 2017).

The contributions of transnational communities have supported vital economic growth in every region where they live. The mapping research has revealed specific contributions in the areas of sugar beet production (Florida), railroads and meatpacking (Minneapolis) over the decades, but also a wide range of goods and services today (Chicago, El Paso-Ciudad Juárez, Boston and in Mexico).

Many transnational communities also build strong networks that support the broader communities in which they live. Mapping reports documented how groups and organizations across the Americas have been active in providing support in the aftermath of natural disasters and during the COVID-19 pandemic in various countries, as well as in the U.S. by encouraging participation in census processes and federal/state elections.

“Multiculturalism across communities is an asset that serves people well, allowing them to also operate professionally across cultures...There are also a growing number of businesses led by immigrants, both “Mom and Pop bodegas” as well as larger companies. Their entrepreneurial energy contributes to Greater Boston as a whole.”

(Interviewee in Boston)

> Transnational communities define their own successes and challenges in integrating into the host countries and reintegrating into their former home countries.

The majority of the mapping reports included interviews with local community residents, which helped to provide a deeper sense of how transnational communities define their successes and challenges. Networking among themselves or a larger and similar ethnic/cultural group seems to

be one of the most helpful ways to become integrated into the destination country. Networking provides access to resources and services that people need and is a key element in building social, economic and cultural capital.

Examples of networking and community building found in the mapping reports include engaging in hometown associations, churches, community sports, cultural activities, women’s empowerment groups and business or political forums. Others struggle with this access. Indigenous populations often fall through the cracks of support, as some do not speak the official language of the country and cannot connect to the existing networks as easily, whether at home or abroad.

Other challenges mentioned in various mapping reports were the general need for more orientation, language learning opportunities, access to equitable education, healthcare and legal support, more Latinx role models and mentors for young people, and a stronger political voice.

It is important to recognize that those who migrate to other countries do not necessarily prioritize assimilation into the host culture. Many transnational communities focus on maintaining their cultural practices and become concerned

when their children become more distanced from that culture, even though there is a sense of pride when their children grow up having opportunities that the parents never had.

There are also successes and challenges for those who have returned from abroad and now live with a transnational identity in their country of origin. Many return with savings to invest in their homes, businesses and communities, but some do not. Many struggle to find adequate work, wages and working conditions, or simply feel a sense of displacement. In Malinalco, people expressed concern about some people returning with drug habits or gang cultures they didn't have previously. They also mentioned that children who had been born in the U.S. and then moved "back" to Mexico with their parents often struggle in school because of a lack of language skills in Spanish.

“...They're not getting those connections, or job opportunities, or information about where or how to send their kids to schools or extracurricular activities and stuff like that. If they're not aware, then that just diminishes their opportunities...”

(Interviewee of Indigenous heritage in Mexico)

> Transnational communities face risks tied to migration.

Women seem to be more vulnerable than men during migration. The report from Malinalco dedicates a section to the experiences of women. Risks they have encountered during migration include verbal, emotional and physical abuse by drug cartels and the coyotes that arrange illegal border passage. Being separated from their spouses also implies risk, and women reported various challenges and successes related to raising their family “on their own” while their husbands are away.

In some cases, the benefits have outweighed the difficulties of being separated. In other cases, women have been forced to make it on their own, sometimes even choosing to leave their spouses. In destination countries, women can build a stronger security net if they have access to the support networks mentioned before.

Weakened ties to the home country is another risk inherent in choosing to live elsewhere, despite efforts to continue family and cultural traditions. In Chicago, participants in the mapping study mentioned that younger generations sometimes lose interest in connecting with their parents' or grandparents' home country. This value is much stronger in the first generation. It is seen economically as well: first generations contribute much more in remittances to families back home, while the next generations may not feel the need or desire to do so.

Deportation and other legal consequences are an inherent risk to illegal immigration, no matter how long a person has lived in the country or contributed to its economy. Two of the mapping reports revealed that some residents were hesitant to engage in mapping activities for fear of their loved ones being deported. For safety reasons, some did not want to be identified as those receiving money from relatives in the U.S.

Risks to children are increasingly becoming a concern in transnational communities where parents have high levels of irregular legal status. Although many parents choose to have children while abroad in order to guarantee their children's legal documentation in the country, they experience the risk of either being separated from their children or having to return with them to their home country and facing the challenge of language and cultural barriers.

These children, despite having the right to dual citizenship, often feel alienated in their parents' countries of origin when they do not speak the language fluently or identify with the culture as well as their parents do.

In Malinalco, one interviewee expressed concern that their children feel discriminated against when they are called "gringos" by classmates, a sometimes derogatory term used to refer to U.S. citizens.

> Transnational communities engage in philanthropy in unique ways.

The Chicago Community Trust identified various ways in which Latinx business owners were philanthropic, both locally in Chicago and in collaboration with hometown associations, yet were unaware of the Trust's charitable opportunities. A result of the Trust's mapping research was identifying the importance of inviting Latinx leaders to the table and collaborating on new strategies to support the communities in greater Chicago more effectively.

Further west, the community foundations in Arizona, Sonora, Baja California and California sought to maximize the potential of corporate philanthropy across their borders, starting with mapping research. In border regions, characterized as being fundamentally transnational, businesses have a great potential to serve their communities and encourage their employees to give toward causes across the border. With valuable information about businesses' current practices and their views toward smaller nonprofits, community foundations can become essential allies in more effective social investment.

The community foundations of Delaware, Chicago, and Malinalco all found that good intentions do not always result in effective, sustainable projects. There is often a discrepancy between what the donor group wants to contribute toward and what the beneficiaries identify as a need. This points toward the need for more participatory and inclusive methods of decision-making and equalizing the power structure so that a community's voice is not only heard but is driving the direction of philanthropy.

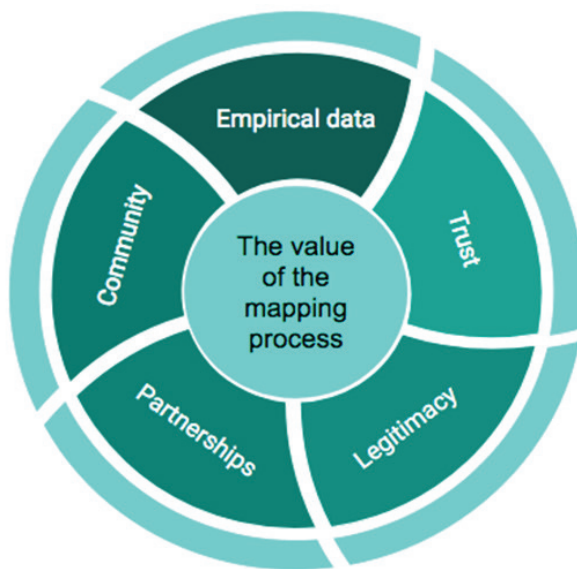
The most common form of philanthropy that community foundations identified among transnational communities is in the form of remittances, or money sent from someone in the destination country to family in the country of origin, in this case from the U.S. to Mexico. The Bank of Mexico estimated that in 2019, the country received \$39.48 billion in revenue from remittances, mostly person-to-person electronic transfers (Télez, 2020). Given the meager wages in Mexico (the current minimum wage is 123.22 pesos/\$5.82 USD per day), it is no surprise that people seek out opportunities further north despite the risks involved, especially when labor is needed and businesses continue hiring. As interviewees claimed in the Jalisco report, there is a heightened sense of responsibility to go where the opportunities are in order to help provide for even the most basic needs of one's family.

All of these themes are crucial to understanding the residents in our communities and ensuring that all populations are given a place at the table when planning regional development. Doing so can be an enormous help to community foundations as they move forward with their strategic planning and implementation.

The Added Value of Mapping for Community Foundations

As the community foundations worked through their mapping projects and reviewed the results with various stakeholder groups, they realized the substantial added value of doing this type of community engagement work.

The following model highlights five ways that conducting mapping research adds value to community foundation strategic planning.



Conducting mapping research has enabled community foundations to:

a. Have more updated and relevant empirical data for the design of their strategic programming

Prior to the mapping research, several of the foundations could only refer to outdated census data for their work. Most found very little relevant information about migration

and specific transnational communities in their regions from the past five years. Having updated information has been vital to reassessing and improving their outreach to residents.

The community foundations also faced challenges around collecting data on undocumented immigrants, even though they represent an important portion of each community foundation's region and need to be taken into account. In Mexico, it was challenging to connect with those who had returned to their home communities. Once the connection was established, they provided invaluable perspectives about their experiences.

b. Establish trust with marginalized communities

One cannot underestimate the inequities of power in society and how it can interfere with building relationships. Both of the community foundations in Southwest Florida and Malinalco sought out local leaders and nonprofit organizations to deepen their understanding of assets and needs within their communities, thus opening the opportunity to strengthen work that is already underway.

In Ciudad Juárez, the foundations chose to collaborate with public health workers who already knew the families. In Delaware, the community foundation sought out Latinx community leaders and began establishing relationships that could be enduring.

In Malinalco, most of the meetings were held at schools, churches and soccer fields — public spaces that were viewed as “safe” and encouraged community participation.

c. Create legitimacy as a community partner that exists to listen to and include all population sectors in the region

The El Paso Community Foundation felt that reaching out to communities in new ways legitimized its role as a community foundation. Both the El Paso and Chicago community foundations found that many of the people within the Latinx community that they reached out to had not been aware of the foundation’s work. The people they spoke to gave positive feedback regarding the outreach, saying they felt appreciated and recognized as an important sector of the population. This feedback shows how important it will be for the foundations to continue with follow-up on the mapping process so that the outreach through mapping is the beginning of an ongoing relationship.

d. Foster long-term partnerships with key institutions around the topic of migration and marginalized communities

Several community foundations established partnerships with key universities in their regions, including the Tecnológico de Monterrey, National Autonomous University of Mexico and Morelos, University of Guadalajara, University of Delaware, Florida Gulf University and the University of Texas. These partnerships brought visibility to the community foundations in their regions as invested research partners with the infrastructure to support follow-up projects.

Community foundations also established key partnerships with local hometown associations and federations, the U.S.-

Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership in San Diego, research institutes in Boston and Juárez, the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Mexican consulates in Chicago and Minneapolis, local networks such as La Colectiva in Delaware, Fundación para la Educación Social, Económico y Cultural (FUPEC) of El Salvador, and other local nonprofits such as the Redlands Christian Migrant Association in Florida and Instituto del Rincón in Malinalco. For many community foundations, mapping opened the doors to important relationship building with these partner organizations.

e. Foster a stronger, more inclusive sense of community, not only within geographical regions but between community foundations themselves

The mapping process has allowed community foundations to build closer relationships with sectors of the population that they did not necessarily have before. Many felt this experience enriched their own growth and created opportunities to learn from others. Following up with their research, many foundations continue to deepen relationships with local nonprofits, hometown associations, business associations and other local leaders in order to strengthen the region.

This work through CCA has also provided spaces for foundations to build community with each other and learn from others’ experiences. As we move forward with the CCA initiative, we are creating new sharing and peer learning spaces.

“ Promoting the value of transnational connections to Greater Boston begins with understanding what connections already exist. Now is a critical time to examine these connections and promote the inherent value they bring to all residents.”

(Interviewee from The Boston Foundation)

Results-Based Opportunities for Community Foundations

Mapping research is an effective mechanism that community foundations can use to inform their decision-making and better serve their regions.

The following are recommendations for community foundations seeking to create a more inclusive environment in their regions and give voice to traditionally “invisible” communities. These recommendations can apply not only to transnational communities but to every population sector within a given region.

1. Encourage more **equitable representation** of your regional population within the **board and staff** of your foundation.
2. Encourage more **equitable representation** of your regional population within your **donor base and grant recipients**.
3. Align your findings **with your community foundation’s programming**. For example, The Boston Foundation continues to grow its Latino Legacy Fund and Haiti Development Fund. El Paso Community Foundation and the International Community Foundation partner with community foundations in Mexico to facilitate individual and corporate donor interest and funding.
4. Reach out to your transnational communities to **offer opportunities for partnering**. The Chicago Community Trust is strengthening their alliance with the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Mexican consulate in this way.
5. Partner **with transnational community organizations to advocate** for more equitable access to education, healthcare, employment and other services. This access to services is critical for Latinx communities in the U.S. and Canada and for migrant communities within Latin American countries.
6. Work **with donors to promote more effective transnational philanthropy**. There are immense opportunities for transnational philanthropy through trusted organizations already functioning in this space, and participation in CCA is a great way to meet some of these leaders in philanthropy and learn about the processes in place for giving across borders. Whether it is an individual or family foundation, a business or hometown association, community foundations throughout the American continent are often poised to facilitate giving and grantmaking to other nonprofits in their countries.
7. Partner **with government and civil society** on what it means to be a **generous, hospitable host country**, state, region or town. In Mexico, this could mean becoming more inclusive toward receiving immigrants and refugees from Central America and other regions.

Conclusion

Would you like to know more about how to do mapping research of your own communities?

One of the products of our collaboration in CCA that will be published in 2021 is “Mapping Our Transnational Communities: A Guide for Community Foundations,” by former consultant for the Inter-American Foundation, Dr. Michael Layton. This guide builds on the rich existing experience of the 16 community foundations that have pioneered this work in their own communities so that you don’t have to “reinvent the wheel.” Please contact info@cfleads.org for more information.

References

The 11 mapping reports are available on the CCA website at www.cfleads.org/cca.

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Appendix A: Chart of Mapping Projects 2017-2019

Compiled from notes from S. Vargas, M. Layton, L. Schalla

<p>Arizona Community Foundation Community Foundation of Southwest Arizona Fundación Empresarial Sonorense in Nogales and Obregón, Chihuahua</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen philanthropic giving in Arizona and Sonora <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online surveys to businesses and nonprofits <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where nonprofits are registered, years, income, stability, relationship with corporations • Information about businesses on both sides of the border and their philanthropic practices
<p>The Boston Foundation The Philanthropic Initiative</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand transnational communities (TNC), strengthen support to them, strengthen TNC philanthropy in countries of origin <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary research and 18 interviews with experts on Latino, Caribbean, immigrant and diaspora issues <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified assets and needs • Language as a unifying element in an unfriendly environment toward those who do not speak English • Social remittances as well as economic (both directions)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving (in smaller amounts) through hometown associations; varying levels of trust with institutions in countries of origin • Importance of strengthening local nonprofits to be able to receive funding • Alliances with Haiti and Puerto Rico
<p>The Chicago Community Trust</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify new philanthropic leaders in order to promote collaborative philanthropy that will strengthen the region's social impact sector and move our strategic direction forward <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary research and Interviews with 25 Mexican business leaders <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on Latinx-owned businesses in Chicago • Examples of Mexican philanthropic practices in Chicago • Assets and needs of the Mexican community in Chicago • All support philanthropic activities but do not know CCT • Need for programs in education, health and youth • Concern about intergenerational gap and losing value of heritage – possibility of entrepreneurship projects as a solution • Opportunity for leadership training among Latinx youth and adults

<p>Comunidar, Nuevo León Mexico</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify potential donors in the U.S. who are from Nuevo León and who want to contribute to their home state <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary research, interviews and focus groups in three towns in Nuevo Leon and three community foundations in the U.S. Interviews with public officials and family members of returned migrants <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes for migration in three towns of Nuevo León, ages, destinations, type of work Characteristics (profiles) of rural emigrants Incentives for U.S. philanthropy Skepticism toward donating from U.S. to communities in Mexico: not aware of possible partners, not sure what they would get from it Rural versus urban migrants (with and without visa) Characteristics of “golden” migrants (urban, upper class) Ample recommendations to continue work (contact researcher, as this will not be a focus of Comunidar)
<p>Corporativa de Fundaciones, Jalisco, Mexico</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify migration patterns between Jalisco and the U.S., and migrant organizations of Jalisco in the U.S.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote programs, policies and support systems for migrants between Jalisco and the U.S. • Strengthen regional cooperation on the topic of migration <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary research of existing data, 30 interviews <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patterns of migration are changing in Jalisco; no longer the poorest rural areas but rather have some access to resources • Migration as a “rite of passage” for young men in rural areas • Lower costs of migration and attraction of higher salaries as the main attraction • Less circular migration and more permanence • Jalisco as a passageway for Central American migrants, they return and sometimes stay in Jalisco • Primary states and cities of Jalisciense settlement • Transfer of intellectual and economic resources to place of origin • Three types of migrant organizations in the U.S.
<p>Delaware Community Foundation</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage and strengthen investments and initiatives with the Latino community in the state • Identify unique assets of the Latino population in Sussex County • Identify patterns and impacts of immigration • Identify gaps in service provision to immigrants and Latino Americans

	<p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary research and 15 interviews <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge diversity within Latino culture • Identified flows of migration historically; pull and push factors • Insight on Indigenous groups and discrimination within Latino population in the U.S. • Educational profile; variations in immigrant status and security; American Dream; need for Latino role models • Addressed perceived vs. real needs; good (temporary) intentions of researchers and donors vs. real support
<p>Fundación Empresarial de la Frontera Norte, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand perspectives of residents on both sides of the border in order to design better policies and initiatives between the two cities <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys in English and Spanish to residents in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, applied door to door <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives from residents of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez on the topics of demographics, environment, education and culture, economic development, integration as a border community, important problems of both communities, political participation and border crossings • First of its kind as a cooperation between the two municipalities

<p>Fundación Comunidad, Morelos Minneapolis Community Foundation</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify new migration flows between Morelos and Minneapolis • Identify the impact on origin and destination communities • Improve and broaden the type of support we are giving <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary research, workshops, interviews, visit to Minneapolis <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified history of migration from Mexico to the U.S. and to Minnesota • Conflict between wanting to return to Mexico and wanting to stay (nostalgia vs. cost) • Strong institutions in Minneapolis (Mexican consulate, public school system, immigration clubs) • Third highest racial disparities in salaries in the country • Information on repatriation to Mexico • Need for greater political representation in Minneapolis • Identified important contributions for Minneapolis (el Mercado en Lake Street y remesas en Morelos)
<p>Fundación Comunitaria de Malinalco, Estado de México</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify issues of returning immigrants • Learn from how U.S. immigrants from Edo. de Mexico are organized and self-supporting • Identify potential partnerships across borders <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups, interviews, surveys

	<p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge of distrust and concern for protection of undocumented migrants • Identified characteristics of legal and illegal immigration • No large communities from Malinalco in the U.S. • Positive outcomes of migration (family infrastructure and businesses, education levels) • Motivations for migration; experiences; changes to one's self • Experiences of women • Identified some specific organizations in the U.S. that provided support • Challenges of returning migrants
<p>International Community Foundation Fundación de la Comunidad, Tijuana, Baja California</p>	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help community foundations learn about corporations that are doing business in the border region (Tijuana/Ensenada) and engage them in charitable giving • Uncover potential new donors and build momentum <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys for businesses and nonprofits <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate giving, although high, has not grown (in dollars) since 2005 • Topics and location of corporate donations, how decisions are made • Role of trust of nonprofits, more so in Tijuana • Types of support given • Barriers of corporate giving, as perceived by nonprofits

Southwest Florida Community Foundation	<p>PURPOSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build trust between transnational communities and partners• Invite transnational populations to participatory problem-solving• Connect transnational communities to foundation and other resources <p>METHODS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grounded Theory Research: geographic asset mapping, neighborhood focus groups, participatory photography, neighborhood focal point surveys <p>FINDINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asset mapping: identified locations of transnational communities and gathering places• Focus groups: relationship between migrants and federal immigration enforcers• Worked with two intermediary nonprofits who were trust partners, to do the focus groups• Identified community needs and assets• Demographic features• How and where Hendry County residents are connected
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Appendix B: Access to Shared Instruments

We asked the participating community foundations if they were willing to share their interview guides, surveys and other ideas with you. You are welcome to use any of these and give credits to their authors. **To request access to these guides, please email Lisa Schalla at lschalla@cfleads.org.**