

P PHILANTHROPY SYMPOSIUM **23**

Empowering the next Evolution

Philanthropy Symposium 23 brought together impactful donors, strategic thinkers, and philanthropy champions and enablers, for a morning of knowledge sharing, network building, and vision shaping.

Throughout the Symposium, ideas, structures, and relationships were advanced, all in the name of empowering the next evolution of philanthropy in Ireland.

This report captures some key themes and takeaways from the Symposium. This is not a one-day conference, this is movement building. We hope you can use the information in this report to support your own movement, whatever that may look like.

Emerging themes

**Diversity of
Philanthropy
Models**



**Data
Matters**



**Harnessing
the Energy**



**Connect and
Engage**



**Growing
Philanthropy**



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Philanthropy has no definition- it can be agile and take risks



Collaboration is critical, from policy to practice

Empowering the next Evolution

With the new National Policy on Philanthropy, increasing wealth and the surge of inter-generational wealth, philanthropists and grant makers have an opportunity to accelerate social change in Ireland in support of a more equitable society.

Philanthropy can learn, unlearn, and relearn to meet challenges



The growing energy for philanthropy at a government and societal level is optimistic



Seek solutions for philanthropists, facilitate good giving

Alternative financing mechanisms are needed

Support resilience building to challenge crises

GENERATION PANDEMIC

Crisis Giving

We have experienced an unprecedented series of crises in recent times. When giving during crises there are no right or wrong answers, especially if we are working in a vacuum of evidence and data.

In times of crisis, funding needs to be agile- a key benefit of philanthropy

Strategic thinking is essential in responding to crises and should be built into overall strategy



Innovative responses challenge the status quo



Networks are the fabric to build resilience and sustainability



Global Giving

Modern day philanthropy has fewer borders, especially within the corporate world with ever expanding markets. Global giving models have become localised, creating both opportunities and challenges.



Promote the solution, go beyond aid, invest

Consensus may be hard but difference is enriching

Next Generation Philanthropy

Next gen philanthropy can take many different forms, but one thing is certain, they are going to be the changemakers of tomorrow. For those looking to pass on the philanthropy torch we looked at the practicalities from a family involving three generations in their giving.

Important not to impose the current vision on the next generation but let them decide their own vision

Creating a family statement can guide giving

Building in planning sessions can engage family members



PHILANTHROPY IRELAND

SHARE TODAY. SHAPE TOMORROW.

LONG TERM FOUNDATION
Focused on Farming

Measure, learn and modernise when faced with challenges

Can local entrepreneurship be a catalyst for global giving?

Advancing Philanthropy: Using the Energy

The common theme throughout Philanthropy Symposium 23 was optimism for the future of Irish philanthropy. There is a real and growing energy around philanthropy in Ireland and the Symposium echoed this. Reflections on the legacy of The Atlantic Philanthropies and the late Chuck Feeney and other trailblazers have contributed to an air of positivity and inspiration. The philanthropy community's response to ongoing crises, domestically and internationally, coupled with the upcoming publication of the National Policy on Philanthropy, have generated increased momentum and optimism in the sector. Philanthropy often involves addressing dynamic and evolving social challenges. An energised environment fosters a dynamic mindset, encouraging philanthropy to be adaptable and resilient in the face of changing circumstances and unexpected challenges. There is a real opportunity now to harness that energy to increase and improve public awareness and perception of philanthropy and encourage new and emerging changemakers to get involved in philanthropy.

Next Steps: Following several years of proactively engaging with the Department of Rural and Community Development and our members, Philanthropy Ireland is delighted to be part of the launch of the National Policy on Philanthropy on December 13th. We will continue to work to activate the policy through dedicated support for implementation groups in 2024. We are also developing plans to ensure the next Government understands the benefits of philanthropy and why we need to create an enabling environment for philanthropy to continue to grow.

Connecting Philanthropy: Engaging in Networks

The Philanthropy Symposium, now in its seventh year, was started to create a space to share experiences, knowledge, challenges, and successes, and ultimately as a vehicle to empower philanthropy. Philanthropy Symposium 23 highlighted the need to continue to create spaces for donors and those who are part of the philanthropy ecosystem to connect. Having the space to discuss, relate, and inform giving can encourage other contributors and grow our collective impact. Networks, local, national, and international, can play a vital role in supporting philanthropic giving and the Symposium showed us there is an increasing desire to share and collaborate. When connections are strengthened, philanthropy can engage with the government, creatively address new challenges, and champion issues of need. An ecosystem of support networks can serve as repositories of knowledge, facilitating continuous learning and deepening understanding. They can assist philanthropists in navigating the complexities of giving and help us all to manage and synchronise efforts to create more impactful and sustainable philanthropic initiatives for social benefit.

Next Steps: Philanthropy Ireland has an ambitious calendar for 2024 and we look forward to bringing our members a series of learning, sharing, and information events that can support the desire for connection and knowledge sharing. As a tool to enable this strategy, we will launch our new Membership Hub in collaboration with SmartSimple in January 2024. This will be available to all our members.

Accelerating Philanthropy: Realising the Potential

There is significant engagement in philanthropic giving, this should be recognised. But we know there is capacity to do more. The challenge is to unlock this potential, inspiring deeper and greater engagement in philanthropy. Professional advisory support can contribute by ensuring the discussion on philanthropy is part of conversations on wealth advice and planning. Advisors equally need to be supported with relevant knowledge and information. An enabling fiscal environment is also important, as noted and discussed by speakers at the Symposium, pointing to both the need for and importance of the upcoming Policy development. With the emergence of the transfer of wealth and indeed growth of wealth, the next generation is a significant cohort of potential influencers. Engaging this audience supports the development of a necessary understanding and mindset on philanthropy, which will endure. Creatively engaging can accelerate the development of philanthropy and positively contribute to realizing the potential of philanthropic giving.

Next Steps: Philanthropy Ireland is currently working on a number of potential initiatives to provide learning opportunities, networking, and support for professional advisors who want to engage with philanthropy. We will be launching our Associate Membership in 2024, this will provide a space for individuals working in the philanthropy ecosystem to engage with philanthropy on a deeper level. We are also exploring opportunities for accredited philanthropy training and the inclusion of philanthropy on certain syllabuses.

Informing Philanthropy: Drawing on Data

Timely, accurate data on philanthropy and the non-profit sector informs key decisions on fund allocation, ensuring integrity in decision-making. A positive philanthropic culture depends on trust and transparency, with credible publicly available data being crucial for building the confidence of philanthropists to allocate funds strategically. Trusted open data sources, accessible to all, are essential for analytical insights, supporting policy planning, and trend analysis, and fostering transparency and public accountability. Effective measurement and evidence-based needs support the effective targeting of resources for positive and sustainable change for social benefit. Many of the Symposium speakers pointed to the need for this type of data to support the philanthropy community and with increased data comes increased awareness about the importance of philanthropy in our society. It supports effective decision-making on where to allocate funds, with speakers noting it can be challenging for donors to make informed decisions.

Next Steps: Philanthropy Ireland will launch an updated version of the 'Philanthropy in Ireland Map' in Q1 2024, this map showcases how our members are supporting social issues in Ireland and abroad. We are also exploring opportunities to provide comprehensive datasets and research on philanthropic giving in Ireland, that will delineate philanthropy from charity.

Modelling Philanthropy: There is no One Way

At the core of philanthropy is the inherent generosity of individuals, a natural inclination to give, and a desire to impact change for social good. Just as there are a vast number of causes to support, there are also many ways to model and structure philanthropic giving. For donors, the philanthropy journey can be one of adaptation and change over time, evolving and innovating, utilising various approaches to giving as determined by needs at any given time. One key lesson from Philanthropy Symposium 23 is the importance of listening to donors and seeking to design giving models to align with their needs. Pursuing solutions for philanthropists to facilitate their giving with meaning and impact, can maximise the value added. By tailoring the giving experience to reflect personal desires and beliefs, philanthropy becomes a potent tool for effecting impactful social change. The key takeaway here is that giving models will continue to evolve and adapt as alternative financing mechanisms are explored and tested, and this should be encouraged so giving does not remain stagnant. There is no one way to engage in philanthropy and diversity in approaches is essential to create the richness of learning to inform the next evolutions.

Next Steps: Philanthropy Ireland will use the Symposium as an opportunity to extract themes and topics that are of interest to our members and the wider philanthropy community. Exploring Giving and Finance models repeatedly came up throughout the Symposium. It is a theme we will be sure to include in our series of events, so those who want to delve deeper into the topic can hear from the experiences of those already using different giving and finance models, providing advice from experts in the field and an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons. Philanthropy Ireland is here to listen and we want to ensure our members receive timely information to support their area of philanthropy.



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Philanthropy Ireland is passionate about growing the philanthropy community in Ireland. We will build on the themes from Philanthropy Symposium 23 to support our three key pillars of work:

- Promotion- of the concept and value of philanthropy.
- Policy input- to support the development of an enabling environment for philanthropy.
- Practice- to build knowledge and learning to support good giving.

If you would like to find out more information about your current Membership, becoming a Member, or becoming an Associate Member of Philanthropy Ireland please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

You can reach our CEO, Éilis Murray at eilis@philanthropy.ie or you can reach our Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Hazel Hennessy at hazel@philanthropy.ie

We look forward to seeing you at Philanthropy Symposium 24!

Thank you to our partners



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
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