



Maine  
Philanthropy  
Center

# Strategic Framework

# About MPC

## MISSION

Maine Philanthropy Center's mission is to provide opportunity, leadership, and support to advance the effectiveness of philanthropy in Maine and its ability to make a meaningful difference.

## VISION

We collaborate to create a vibrant, just, and equitable Maine.

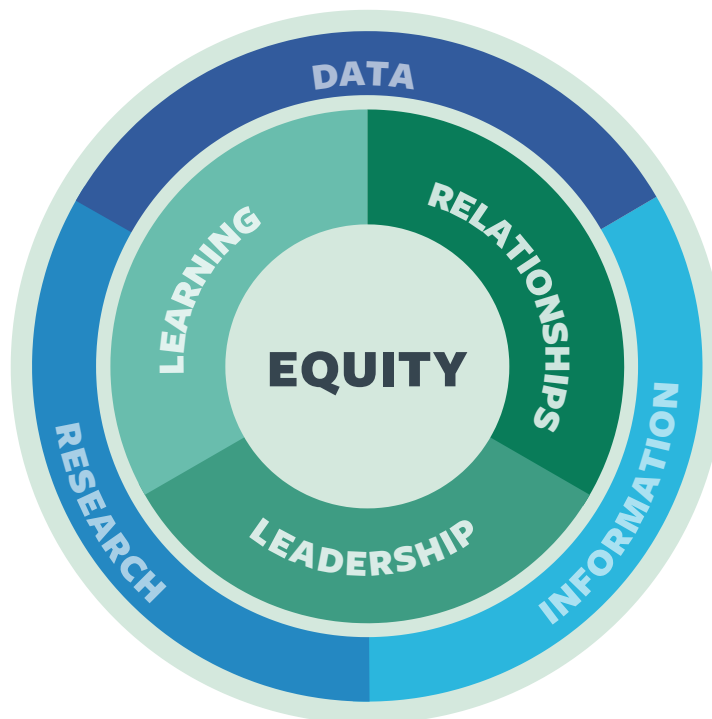
A vibrant, just, and equitable Maine is built upon the acknowledgment of the deep, rich history and contributions of the Wabanaki peoples and works to be in a restorative relationship with Indigenous communities and the earth – so that the natural environment is stewarded sustainably and with care. It is a state that promotes and secures the health and wellbeing of all Maine people. In this Maine, all people are ensured, under the law and in practice, equal rights, protections, opportunities, and access to the resources they need regardless of race, gender identity and expression, age, ability, socio-economic level, immigration status, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

## OUR COMMUNITY

We are foundations (corporate, private, public, family, and community), nonprofits, individuals, and other philanthropic practitioners. Maine is the epicenter of our work and we come together to build relationships, deepen knowledge, and move resources. Our diverse membership is our strength; allowing us to facilitate cross-sector collaboration, create shared understanding, dismantle ineffective silos, and shift power to ensure that Maine is a leader in advancing equity.

## OUR VALUES & APPROACH

Equity is at the center of everything we do. It is a core value and underpins our values of learning, relationships, and leadership. Additionally, equity is the foundation of the informed approach we take as we use data, research, and information to do our work.



# Our Values

## RELATIONSHIPS

We believe in the value of RELATIONSHIPS. Relationships are the foundation for all philanthropic efforts. Without deep and trusting relationships, philanthropy would be rudderless and significantly less effective. Therefore we:

- provide opportunities and encourage people to connect at multiple levels.
- facilitate and nurture relationship building in diverse, regular, and ongoing ways.
- convene and connect those with common interests and complementary strengths.
- strive to model a culture of constant relationship development and nurturing in how we operate.

## LEARNING

We believe in the value of LEARNING. We are what we learn. Learning is how we grow as a philanthropic community to become the most effective we can be. Therefore we:

- believe learning comes from everywhere.
- promote learning with a diverse array of purpose and opportunity.
- value diversity in learning delivery.
- offer programs and other educational activities that are relevant, thought-provoking, and high quality.
- consider ourselves a learning organization and act as one.

## LEADERSHIP

We believe in the value of LEADERSHIP, therefore we:

- unapologetically take up the mantle of convening and mobilizing Maine's philanthropic community.
- develop, expand and support leadership in others.
- lead by example and model leadership in who we are and how we operate.
- are seen and valued as a leader in the philanthropic, nonprofit and other sectors in Maine.

## EQUITY

We believe in the value of EQUITY as an outcome of diversity and inclusion, therefore we:

- commit to a journey that examines the relationship between equity and philanthropy and enlightens our practice.
- create space for our members and ourselves to learn/expand our organizational muscle around DEI.
- constantly labor for MPC itself to become a more equitable, just organization.
- actively cultivate a culture of diversity and inclusion among our community of funders.

**Our strategies are our values in action.**

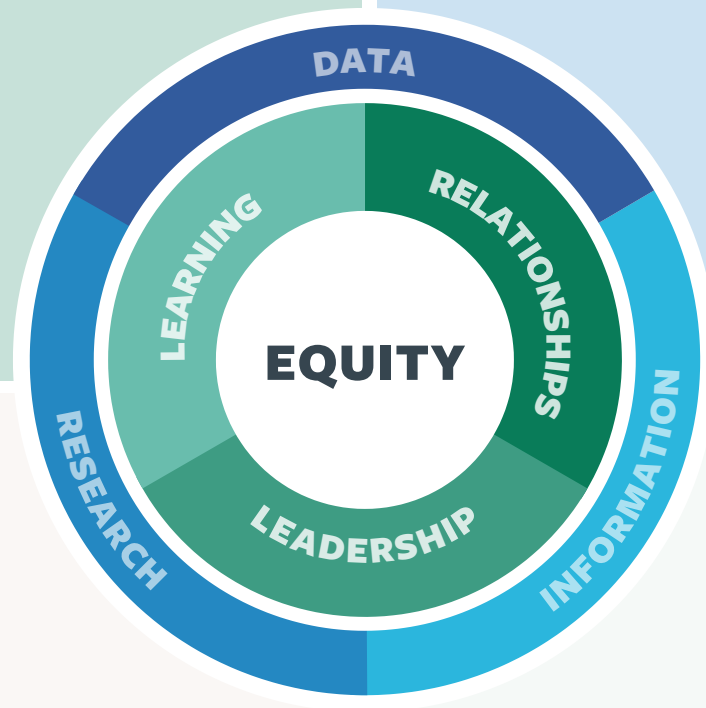
# Our Strategies

## ADVANCE LEARNING

As a learning organization we commit to build the capacity of the sector through ongoing and relevant education. As our values state, we are what we learn. Learning is how we grow as a philanthropic community to become the most effective we can be.

## BUILD COMMUNITY

We believe effective change is best achieved with networked organizations that encompass the rich diversity and experiences of Mainers, so we create opportunities for those engaged in social impact work to connect, collaborate, and advance more equitable power structures.



## MODEL LEADERSHIP

We are a statewide organization connected to national nonprofit and philanthropic conversations and as such are in a unique position of privilege. We are committed to using this to introduce and elevate important topics and resources to our sector—especially those relating to equity, inclusion and justice.

## STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY

Policy and issue advocacy are critical to making Maine a more equitable state. MPC strives to lead our sector to harness its collective power in advocacy, allowing transformational change for the community. Informed policy change solves the problems philanthropy addresses.

## BUILD COMMUNITY

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### Outcomes

- Our community is more networked & connected.
- More equitable relationships & increased power sharing exist within MPC & our community.
- MPC's membership tools & resources foster community, engage members, & add value to all member levels.

### We do this through:

- Network groups
- Convenings between funders and across sectors
- Job boards
- Feedback solicitation
- Community-led programming & event sharing
- Concierge services

## ADVANCE LEARNING

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### Outcomes

- Members learn, apply & adapt best practices for Maine philanthropy.
- Members have ready access to resources & tools to inform & support their grant making & seeking efforts.
- MPC embodies a culture of self-reflection, learning & growth.

### We do this through:

- Grant research tutorials & individual research appointments
- Philanthropy Partners Conference
- Newsletters
- Workshops & webinars
- Website news feed
- Access to FDO

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### Outcomes

- Our community is aware of, in dialogue about, & can integrate new & pressing concepts impacting the field & Maine.
- Increased awareness, collaboration, & informed decision making based on the data & research MPC produces.
- The community understands the work we do, how we do it, & recognizes MPC as a field leader & vital resource.

### We do this through:

- Directory of Maine Grantmakers
- Maine-focused research (Giving in Maine report)
- Get on the Map
- Transparent processes
- Professional development, networking & learning
- Resource libraries

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### Outcomes

- MPC leads the sector in understanding how philanthropy perpetuates inequity and actively advocates for equitable solutions.
- Members understand why advocacy matters and have skills and knowledge to incorporate it in their work.
- Policy makers know MPC and our members as active thought leaders and experts.

### We do this through:

- Issue education & advocacy
- Policy positions
- Census support strategy
- Building relationships with state administration, federal and local delegates, and Tribal Chiefs
- Technical assistance

If we do our work well, our community is more informed, more connected, more equitable, and more resourced -- leading to a vibrant, just, and equitable Maine.

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