



2024 Program Syllabus and Schedule

SESSION ONE: CFT 101: WHERE PASSION MEETS PURPOSE

October 9, 2024 | 2:00–4:30 pm Session | 4:30-6:00 pm Optional Happy Hour

To some, the term “philanthropy” is thought of as an exclusive club open only to those who can afford it. Beyond wealth and money, how else can a person give and engage with nonprofits in a meaningful way? In this session we will begin to explore the idea of aligning your values and passions with your giving goals, and how we need to redefine ‘philanthropy’ to include diverse perspectives and the giving of time, talent, treasure, and voice.

This session will feature a CFT overview and participation in a group exercise using CFT’s Identifying Values and Defining Passions cards. After the session, join us for an optional off-site happy hour at Columbian Country Club where you will have the chance to connect with your fellow cohort members and ELP alumni.

SESSION TWO: EQUITABLE GRANT MAKING

November 20, 2024 | 2:00-4:30 pm

Before getting to the point of making a grant to an organization, it is helpful to understand the current philanthropic landscape in North Texas. This includes both opportunity and need within our community. In this session, the cohort will learn more about who we are as a region – our historical inequities and their continued impact on our community today – as well as how CFT approaches funding using an equity lens. Groups will have the opportunity to break up into small table discussions during the session.

SESSION THREE: GRANTMAKING AND PLANNING

January 15, 2025 | 2:00–4:30 pm

This session provides an opportunity for cohort members to give input on the grantmaking process that will occur over the course of the program. The group will decide on a shared list of values and funding priorities in an intensive workshop that will involve table discussions and a group vote on the focus issue areas. This work will provide CFT staff with the necessary framework to bring forward an array of nonprofits that vary in size and serve diverse populations that align with the cohort's funding priorities.

SESSION FOUR: NONPROFIT MATCHMAKING

February 19, 2024 | 2:00-4:30 pm | 4:30-6:00 pm Optional Happy Hour

We have all had our heartstrings tugged on when reading stories or watching videos about nonprofits and their impact in the community, whether we have an existing relationship with them or are learning about them for the first time. What tools can be used in assessing whether a nonprofit is actually effective or impactful – and what does that mean? This session will address what is important to you when you decide you may want to give to an organization, things to consider, and hopefully, address some misconceptions. It will include smaller group discussions and report-outs to the larger group.

SESSION FIVE: QUESTION AND APPLICATION WORKSHOP

March 26, 2025 | 2:00–4:30 pm

Through the CFT Philanthropy team's vetting, using the ELP cohort's priority focus areas and values, six nonprofits will be invited to apply for funding from the group. This session will include group discussions on each of the proposals and will follow with a vote to determine which three will move forward in the funding process. Proposals will be provided prior to the session for your review. After the proposals have been reviewed by your groups, we will workshop, together, what questions you'd like the three nonprofit finalists to answer.

SESSION SIX: NONPROFIT FINALIST PANEL

April 16, 2025 | 2:00-4:30 pm

Applications and photos do not fully capture the work that nonprofits do in the community. During this session, the cohort will be able to ask questions and hear firsthand how each of the three nonprofit finalists operate and would use the funding. After hearing from each, a facilitated debrief and group discussion will help prepare the group for the final funding decision.

SESSION SEVEN: FUNDING AN ORGANIZATION + GRANT DECISION AND CHECK PRESENTATIONS

May 21, 2025 | 2:00–3:30 pm Session | 3:30–5:30 pm Optional Graduation Happy Hour

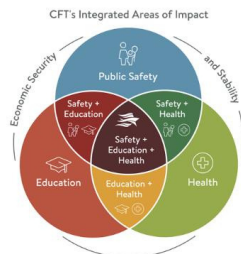
This session is when the cohort will make their final grant decisions with their \$500 grant to one of the three final organizations. Here, you will have the opportunity to advocate, discuss, and determine the outcome for the final grant to organization(s). The decisions will be made through an intensive workshop of table discussions and voting. There will be a celebration among cohort members following the grant decision with cohort members and nonprofit recipients.

CFT's Key Initiatives



COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

Supports community convenings on key issues, overall donor and nonprofit services and education, disaster recovery, and general operating support.



CFT COMMUNITY IMPACT

Supports CFT efforts to create a healthy and thriving community for all, especially at the intersection of needs across health, wealth, living, and learning with focus on equity and connectedness.



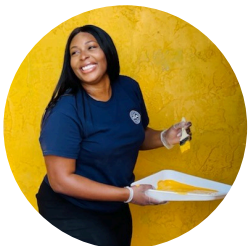
CFT'S EMERGING LEADERS IN PHILANTHROPY

Educates and guides highly engaged, community-minded professionals ages 25-40 to ensure that our region's legacy of generosity continues to thrive and grow.



CFT'S COLLIN COUNTY IMPACT FUND

Helps ensure that as Collin County grows, there will be dedicated resources to support the increasing needs for community services.



CENTER FOR BUSINESS IMPACT

Partners with businesses to create lasting community impact through Strategic Giving, Employee Engagement, and Professional Development. We provide tailored solutions that align with corporate values, helping businesses maximize their impact and foster a purpose-driven company culture.



CFT'S NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

Empowers every person to give back to their community by supporting local nonprofits and causes they care about. North Texas Giving Day is an annual event that builds awareness and support for nonprofits like nothing else. In 2024, North Texas Giving Day raised \$67.3 million benefiting over 3,200 local nonprofits.



EDUCATE TEXAS

Helps improve outcomes for students through investments in college and career readiness, higher education, teacher effectiveness and regional collaboration across the state.

CFT Staff Directory - ELP



CAROLINE BROWN

Marketing and Communications Specialist
Communities Foundation of Texas
cbrown@cftexas.org

TOP VALUES

community, creativity, resilience



ELIZABETH CORLEY

Business Engagement Officer
Communities Foundation of Texas
ecorley@cftexas.org

TOP VALUES

compassion, equity, curiosity



LEXI MCCARTHY

Public Relations & Communications Coordinator
Communities Foundation of Texas
lmccarthy@cftexas.org

TOP VALUES

resilience, community, compassion



NICOLE PAQUETTE

Senior Director, Communications, Public Relations, and External Affairs
Communities Foundation of Texas
npaquette@cftexas.org

TOP VALUES

relationships, community, leadership



MICHELLE MAI

Senior Officer, Strategic Partnerships
Communities Foundation of Texas
mmai@cftexas.org

TOP VALUES

relationships, community, education



CANDACE THOMPSON

Community Philanthropy Officer
Communities Foundation of Texas
cthompson@cftexas.org

TOP VALUES

integrity, community, collaboration



EMERGING LEADERS
IN PHILANTHROPY
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

Session One:

CFT 101: WHERE PASSION MEETS PURPOSE



To some, the term “philanthropy” is thought of as an exclusive club open only to those who can afford it. Beyond wealth and money, how else can a person give and engage with nonprofits in a meaningful way? In this session we will begin to explore the idea of aligning your values and passions with your giving goals, and how we need to redefine ‘philanthropy’ to include diverse perspectives and the giving of time, talent, treasure, and voice.

This session will feature a CFT overview and participation in a group exercise using CFT’s Identifying Values and Defining Passions cards. After the session, join us for an optional off-site happy hour at Columbian Country Club where you will have the chance to connect with your fellow cohort members, CFT staff, and ELP alumni.

Pre-Session Reflections

- How do you currently define philanthropy?
- What cause areas do you currently give to? In what ways?
- What are your philanthropic goals?

Goals for Session One

- Identify your personal values
- Identify your top issue areas
- Identify how your passions can align with your philanthropic goals
- Determine your personal giving statement
- Meet the other members of the 2024 ELP Cohort
- Meet CFT staff and learn more about our work in the community



WAYS TO GIVE & ENGAGE FINDING YOUR PASSION

MY TOP 5 VALUES:

CAUSE AREA EXAMPLES:

Animals
Arts, Culture & Humanities
Community Improvement
Domestic/Family Violence & Advocacy
Economic/Financial Insecurity/Poverty
Education & Literacy
Employment & Workforce Development
Environment & Conservation
Health Care
Housing, Shelter & Homelessness
Human Rights, Civil Rights & Advocacy
Human Trafficking & Exploitation
Hunger, Food Access & Nutrition
Immigrants & Refugees
Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Justice-Involved Adults or Youth
LGBTQIA
Medical/Scientific Research
Mental/Behavioral Health
Public Safety
Racial Equity
Re-entry/Formerly Incarcerated
Religion/Spiritual Focus
Seniors
Social Services
Veterans
Women & Girls
Youth & Children

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

I give back because:

Issues I am interested in include:

My giving style includes:

One action I will take before next meeting:

MY PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENT



WAYS TO GIVE AND ENGAGE YOUR TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, VOICE, & NETWORK

AREA



TIME

EXAMPLES

Volunteering hours
and/or days of service

QUESTIONS

- Do you know what you can reasonably commit of your time and energy?
- Do you know what the nonprofit(s) expects of you?
- Does your company offer volunteer days?
- How do you find experiences?



TALENT

Using one's expertise or
skills to benefit a cause

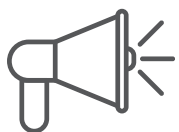
- Are you using your natural gifts or professional talents in volunteer efforts?
- What can you offer as a thought partner?
- How can you contribute to a committee or nonprofit board?



TREASURE

Financial contributions
(big or small) donated to
charity

- How do you structure your giving?
- Do you give directly to organizations or through a charitable giving vehicle such as a donor-advised fund?
- How do you amplify your giving?



VOICE

Time spent advocating and
educating others about your
cause

- How can you leverage your voice for the causes and interests you value?
- How can you raise awareness about specific issues?
- How can you communicate and advocate for the causes and interests you value?



NETWORK

Leveraging personal and
professional relationships or
online followings to benefit a
cause

- How can you capitalize on your personal or professional networks to expose other people to a cause?
- How can you leverage the potential of your online presence to spread awareness, inspire action, and invite others to join you?



**EMERGING LEADERS
IN PHILANTHROPY**
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS