



# OPPORTUNITY COLLABORATION

convene / connect / create

## 2012 Testimonials

“The format allowed me to have in-depth meetings with over 20 leaders of early-stage organizations, our foundation’s target audience. In addition, I enjoyed quality time with several of our grantees, and still had time, over breakfast and while walking on the beach, to meet with my incredible peers, many of whom continue to inform my work and enhance my impact.”

~Anne Marie Burgoyne, Portfolio Director, [Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation](#), USA

“Opportunity Collaboration was fun and informative and the Cordes Fellows were beyond fascinating. I have made not only new friends, but have connected with CEMEX to collaborate throughout Latin America. I will also be meeting in two weeks in Mexico City about becoming an Ashoka Fellow. I will be returning next year. You have made a significant difference for me and for our organization.”

~Nancy Hughes, Founder & President, [StoveTeam International](#), El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras & Mexico

“The people who attend Opportunity Collaboration are a true inspiration. Each year, we see ‘old friends’ but also meet many new faces. This was our third Collaboration and it has clearly been a catalyst for our own activities. More than 80% of our impact investments to date and probably the same percentage of the new contacts and friends we have made since joining the fight against global poverty two years ago have stemmed from Opportunity Collaboration. Before making the trip this year, we were thinking that we might take a rain check next year, but it’s really not an option! The whole family loves Opportunity Collaboration. It’s a great way of exposing our children to our work and to the work of others while taking great strides in progressing our own mission.”

~ John Ayliffe, Chairman and Co-Founder, [1to4 Foundation](#), Switzerland

“I’ve been a delegate at the Clinton Global Initiative, Skoll World Forum, and Global Philanthropy Forum. Over time, I have become increasingly critical about their content quality and backroom deals. Opportunity Collaboration is the very BEST conference I have ever attended. Today, I no longer attend the high profile conferences. Opportunity Collaboration is the sole focus of my ongoing social education.”

~Darlene Daggett, Founder & Executive Director, [Ikatu International](#), USA

"Opportunity Collaboration reminds us every year that our work is anchored in the belief that ideas matter and our strength and resolve as human beings is amplified through collaboration. The world is smaller one week a year and we get to hear and understand the passion and fire that keeps us going – the Opportunity Collaboration is the one place that makes us feel as one and the world feel a little smaller.

I am amazed at the open mindedness, selflessness, love and passion laid out at the Opportunity Collaboration and the utter joy that flows throughout. When you walk in the room there is no need for a bridge or ice-breaker, because the yearning to learn from one another's experience and passion certainly bridges every gap between philanthropy and practitioners, between passion and grief.

My grandfather told me that life is about people choosing to be human with each other. I left the Opportunity Collaboration feeling reassured, confident, and looking forward to partnerships with people across sectors, water, impact investing, education and philanthropy. I am grateful to the Opportunity Collaboration team for bringing the world together one week a year."

~Pierre Noel, Executive Director, [The Haiti Fund at the Boston Foundation](#), Haiti

"In 2012, I was a first-time Delegate to Opportunity Collaboration. My intention was to meet and learn from people who live every day to make a difference and are doing so. I quickly learned there are big themes and individual ideas...against a canyon of need.

At Opportunity Collaboration, the "water" story was crystalized: "a community and local economy cannot survive without plants and water, for the people themselves and for the commerce to multiply." I now think differently about the importance of water. Also, the definition of poverty crystalized, extending the obvious and commonly used economic/wage metric to human rights, justice, respect, choice.

I will be a better leader following my Opportunity Collaboration experience. I now have meaningful relationships with individuals who can help make a difference and think beyond the obvious!"

~Craig Pfeiffer, President, [Bright Seed Foundation](#), USA

"I want to express how grateful I am for the Opportunity Collaboration this year. It was an intense, substantial, eye- and mind-opening experience, both personally and professionally. Being able to meet such amazing and inspiring people is truly invaluable. Important contacts for my organization's mission definitely arose from the event."

~Daniel Buchbinder, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, [Alternia](#), Guatemala

“High powered networking and problem solving. Not your usual conference.”

“A collection of doers funder and thinkers brought together to have real talks about how to do more and how to do things better. All done in a place and with a spirit that invites relaxation and connection.”

“We secured a \$300K program investment from one connection, built several new important partnerships, and started a new communications strategy for the organization.”

“A chance for leaders in the social sector to shed their pretense and engage in discussions about the thing that matter to them, the areas where they are struggling, and ways they can help each other.”

“Participant-led content raises the level of accountability for leader and listener. The best conference on the circuit.”

"The most extraordinary intellects and hearts unite to support each other in solving poverty."

"An incredible opportunity to learn from and engage with ideas and programs on the cutting edge of this field."

"A place to meet colleagues and friends you want to help, but they will end up helping you even more."

"Opportunity Collaboration is a retreat in which passionate leaders with innovative solutions to challenges in their country network to find and share resources and ideas to enhance work for the common good."

"Transformative, intense, thought provoking, inspiring and emotional."

“A place to collaborate and partner with other funders and entrepreneurs...a deep dive into the issues of poverty.”

“A robust, intense, thought-provoking experience where an instant family of friends and colleagues are create with whom to collaborate personally or professionally.”

“Chicken soup for the soul of a nonprofit warrior.”

“Interact with humanitarian problem solvers and issue-tacklers.”

"Connect with people in a place that takes the pretense and garbage out of the air. Truly an open and energizing learning experience."

***Sourced from anonymous survey feedback from one of over [300 Delegates](#) from around the globe, including impact investors, grant-makers, nonprofit directors, social entrepreneurs, solution journalists, and social innovation leaders from corporate & academic sectors.***