



Jewish Philanthropic Values Cards Facilitation Guide

Introductory Information

About the Cards

Philanthropy is an expression of values. Our values inform all of the elements of our philanthropic journey: what we believe to be important, the difference we seek to make in the world and how we prioritize causes or select nonprofits or projects to fund. Values come from many sources, lessons and experiences, including from the Jewish tradition. Jewish teachings provide a foundation for philanthropy that is rooted in tradition yet profoundly relevant today.

The Jewish Philanthropic Values cards are a tool to help individuals and groups approach philanthropy from a values-based perspective. The cards invite exploration and reflection. They can be used to prompt and support discussion of core personal Jewish philanthropic values and to surface values shared by a group. They are intended for use by individuals, families, foundations and giving circles.

Using the Cards and the Guide

Each card has two sides: a value side and a text side. Users should approach the cards from the value side first, referring to the text side for a source selected to add depth to the concept of the value. Some texts are an early explanation of a value – the place where the concept first appears in the Jewish lexicon. Other texts provide a contemporary lens through which to view an enduring concept. This Guide will refer to the value side and the text side of the cards in providing suggestions for use.

This Guide outlines two specific activities for groups interested in using Jewish philanthropic values to inform their giving. It ends with a list of additional discussion prompts for groups interested in using these cards in other ways. We also invite you to create your own activities and discussions using the Cards. If you do, please tell us about it! Please send your ideas to Sarah Indyk at Rose Community Foundation: sindyk@rcfdenver.org.



Jewish Philanthropic Values Cards
created by
Rose Community Foundation

We'd Love Your Feedback

The Cards and the Guide are new tools and are currently (as of Spring 2014) in the beta test phase. We at Rose Community Foundation would love to know what you think of these tools, how we might add to or improve them, additional uses you identify for the cards, and any other feedback you have to share with us. Please send your feedback to Sarah Indyk at Rose Community Foundation: sindyk@rcfdenver.org.

Acknowledgements

The Jewish Philanthropic Values cards are a compilation of concepts, teachings and texts from ancient and modern Jewish leaders, scholars and thinkers. Jewish values-based tools that we consulted in the creation of these cards include Keshet's *Seven Jewish Values for Inclusive Community*, Panim's *Jewish Values Matrix* and Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett's *7 Hebrew Words and Phrases Every Activist Should Know*. We especially acknowledge the innovative work of 21/64, whose Motivational Values Cards inspired us to create a deck focused on Jewish philanthropic values and teachings.

Activity 1: Exploring Individual and Shared Jewish Philanthropic Values



45 MINUTES
- 1 HOUR

Purpose

Each individual explores and identifies the Jewish philanthropic values that resonate most for him/her

Members of the group learn about each other's values

The group identifies shared values and discusses the meaning of each

What You Need

- One deck of Jewish Philanthropic Values Cards for each participant (decks can be shared between participants if necessary)
- A flip chart
- Markers

1 FRAMING & INTRODUCTION (3 MIN)

The facilitator introduces the activity, briefly explaining the goals and outlining the elements that follow. The facilitator also introduces the cards, briefly explaining their purpose and design.

2 TOP SHARED VALUE SELECTION (5 - 10 MIN)

Each participant spends 5-10 minutes flipping through the cards, initially focusing on the value side, identifying 3 to 5 values that most resonate for him/her personally. For each of the cards selected, and any others that are of interest, participants should read the text side of the card.

3 SHARING (10 - 15 MIN)

Either in pairs or as a whole group, depending on group size, each participant shares the cards s/he selected and why those values resonated with him/her.

4 COMPILING (10 MIN)

If sharing was done as a whole group, this step can be combined with step III by having a notetaker record a list of the values selected, with tally marks for the number of people selecting each one.

If sharing was done in pairs, use this time for the group to compile and tally each member's selections. The facilitator or notetaker can post a list of all of the values and have each person individually note the ones s/he selected, or each person can verbally list the values s/he selected while the notetaker records everyone's responses, with tally marks for the number of people selecting each one

5 REFLECTING & CONCLUDING (15 MIN)

The group looks at the compiled list of values and shares reflections and observations (e.g. areas of density, overlapping or related values, values that are conspicuously missing and any that may have been inadvertently overlooked and should be added). Ask if there are any conclusions that can be drawn about the group's shared values and record those on a separate flip chart.

Activity 2: Mapping Shared Values to Issues *(Must be preceded by Activity 1)*



Purpose

The group connects its shared values to contemporary issues

The group identifies issues to address through its grantmaking

What You Need

- One deck of Jewish Philanthropic Values Cards for each participant (decks can be shared between participants if necessary)
- A list of the shared values that emerged in Activity 1
- A flip chart and markers

Preparation

It is helpful for participants to begin this activity with some knowledge of issues affecting the community or region in which they will be funding (e.g. hunger, lack of Jewish engagement, homelessness, barriers to Jewish education). This knowledge can be gleaned from newspaper and magazine articles; reports published by think tanks, foundations or nonprofits; or from personal and professional experience.

1 FRAMING & INTRODUCTION (3 MIN)

The facilitator introduces the activity, briefly explaining the goals and outlining the elements that follow.

2 TOP SHARED VALUE SELECTION (10 MIN)

The group discusses and identifies the top 2 or 3 values from the list generated in Activity 1 that could inform how the group will give together (the attitudes or approaches that will frame the group's giving) and the top 3 values that could inform what the group will give to (the issues or causes the group will address with its giving).

Note: The rest of this activity is focused on the what values. However, the group should keep the how values posted and return to them at later meetings when finalizing the funding focus, process, and types of organizations or programs the group will support.

3 MAPPING (10 MIN)

Divide the group into pairs or smaller groups and assign one of the top what values to each group or pair. Each pair reflects on the value and text side of its assigned card and identifies up to 3 contemporary issues that represent that value. *See Amplifier's [Grant Focus Areas document for lists of contemporary issues.](#)*

4 SHARING (15 MIN)

Each small group or pair shares the issues it identified relating to its assigned value. The notetaker records all issues, grouped by value.

5 REFLECTING & DISCUSSING (20 MIN)

Together the whole group reflects on and discusses the issues that have surfaced. Possible discussion questions:

- Are any issues listed in more than one place? Are any related? What themes emerge?
- Were any what values difficult to map to specific issues? (Perhaps they are really how values?)
- Are any issues missing that are important to the group?
- Are any issues listed that the group isn't collectively excited about?
- Do any issues rise to the top for the group?
- Take a pulse – have each person in the group answer the question "If we had to select one issue as our group's focus, which should the group select and why?"

6 CONCLUDING (15 MIN)

Think of the list of issues as a shortlist from which the group will ultimately select its focus area. Discuss the other information the group needs in order to select a single focus area. What other discussions does the group need to have? What needs to happen between now and the next meeting? What other background information does the group need on the issue? How will that information be obtained, and who will obtain it?

Additional Discussion Prompts

- Focusing on the text side of the cards, identify one that speaks to something you have learned or experienced through your philanthropy. Share the value, the text and how you have learned about or experienced this concept.
- Each member of the group selects a card or two at random and shares an example of how that value is represented – or not – in current local, national or world events.
- Identify a card that represents a value you learned from a parent or grandparent or have taught to your children. Share the value and what it means to you/your family.