

The IDEX Academy

Grant Type: Dollar

Grant Amount: \$57,000

Organization: International Development Exchange (IDEX)



What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

The objective of the grant was to curate the IDEX Academy, a high-impact training program targeted at next generation leaders in philanthropy. The goal of the academy is to train graduates—or Impact Influencers—as empowered and collaborative change agents whose philanthropy is inspired by a learning behavior based on reflection, dialogue, and authentic connection with grantee partners.

The IDEX Academy was born out of the International Development Exchange's (IDEX's) learning and evaluation process. IDEX convened peer grantmakers, grantees, academics, and leaders in the sector to design and bring the academy to life. Built on principles of cooperation and cultural humility, we envision that, over time, the Impact Influencers will become exemplars of a new era of philanthropy who are able to successfully tackle the most pressing challenges of our times.

What was your approach?

The IDEX Academy took place in June 2014 and successfully connected next generation philanthropists to world-class thought leaders and practitioners from the field in a weeklong experiential course. The academy format was a combination of discussions, group activities, creative exercises involving art and performance, nature walks, presentations, individual projects, physical movement, and team-building exercises. The curriculum was covered in several modules based on IDEX's theory of change.

During an inspiring and enriching week, participants:

- Learned how to practice relationships in giving based on trust and respect
- Conducted deep self-inquiry and examination around their own cultural assumptions
- Learned how to work in authentic partnership with community-based organizations

- Formed networks of learning, support, and solidarity with peers and sector-leader mentors

What were the outsized results?

Some of the outsized results of the inaugural academy were:

- 72.5 % of graduates are likely to channel philanthropic dollars to grassroots groups.
- 95% are likely to fund or advocate for local and holistic solutions to poverty and injustice.
- 65% are likely to invite a global Southern grassroots leader to serve on their board.
- 70% are likely to invite input from community organizations on their strategic priorities.
- 100% intend to keep practicing self-awareness, humility, active listening, soliciting feedback, and refining what they do as grantmakers as a result of what they learned.

www.idex.org/academy