

Collaborate. Create. Accelerate.



Building Collaborative Capacity in Communities

Chicago's Strategic Restructuring Initiative

The launch of [Forefront's Mission Sustainability Initiative](#) has intersected with the release of the [Mergers as a Strategy for Success](#) report to elevate collaborative strategies in Chicago's social sector. [In this article, *Building Collaborative Capacities in Communities*](#), Forefront's Eric Weinheimer and Genita C. Robinson, Jean Butzen of Mission+Strategy Consulting, and our own [Bob Harrington](#) offer an insider view of how it all came together, why community ownership is key, what has been accomplished, and what more can still be done.

Read more [here](#).

Our Team Welcomes Two New Senior Consultants

Onuka Ibe and Lara Jakubowski Join La Piana Consulting

After an extensive search that surfaced over 600 impressive candidates, we are thrilled to announce our recent hire of [Onuka Ibe](#) and [Lara Jakubowski](#), both as Senior Consultants.

Onuka has worked extensively to expand access to higher education as a Vice President at [College Summit](#), helping shape the organization's evolution



operationally and programmatically. Based in D.C., Onuka will work nationally. Learn more about Onuka [here](#).

Lara comes to us from [The Nonprofit Centers Network](#), where as Executive Director she led its work helping nonprofits take advantage of [shared space](#) opportunities. Based in Denver, Lara will also work with clients nationally. Learn more about Lara [here](#).

Resources

Extend Your Impact with Advocacy: Be sure to check out [Doug Green](#)'s recent article on [Seven Success Factors for Adopting an Advocacy Strategy](#), now in downloadable PDF format. (And if you missed the [original post](#), there's no time like the present to **subscribe to our blog!**)

Learn to Think More Flexibly: [Vu Le's recent blog on the constraints of linear thinking](#) offers practical ideas and resources to help nonprofits and funders embrace the creative, emergent, and unexpected.

Boost Your Foundation's Effectiveness: This summer saw the release of two new go-to philanthropy resources: [Frameworks for Private Foundations: A New Model for Impact](#) from GrantCraft's Leadership Series and GuideStar's [A Guide to Good Practices in Foundation Operations](#).

Just need some time to reflect? Take it! Here's inspiration from [The Energy Project](#) and [a practical worksheet](#) from [Rockwood Leadership Institute](#). Get refreshed and reenergized for fall — because together we have important work to do.

News and Events

A Fond Farewell: In July, the La Piana team gathered to [celebrate Heather Gowdy, who is leaving consulting for new pursuits](#). One of our first employees from back in 1998, Heather has helped make the firm what we are today, and she'll be missed.

Mergers and More: This summer has seen exciting new nonprofit partnerships take form to advance racial equity, international development, legal aid, and affordable housing. See our website for information on the mergers of [Race Forward](#) (Center for Social Inclusion + Race Forward) and [Humentum](#) (InsideNGO + LINGOs + Mango). We are also proud to have undertaken [business planning](#) for a [joint program to help Contra Costa County elders in residential facilities create health and legal directives](#) and helped formalize the [affiliation of Common Capital, Inc. with Way Finders](#) (formerly HAP Housing) in western Massachusetts.

Ujima! Leveraging the Chief Executive-Board Chair Partnership: Look for us in Seattle on October 19 at the [BoardSource Leadership Forum](#), where [David La Piana](#) and [Makiyah Moody](#) will lead a [Chief Executive - Board Chair Track session](#) on effective board-staff relationships.

The Power of Possibility: Starting the Conversation Around Strategic Partnerships: Bob Harrington will also be at [BoardSource Leadership Forum on October 19](#), co-presenting with Kate Barr of **Nonprofits Assistance Fund** and Jennifer Gager Holland of [BoardSource](#) on how nonprofits can integrate collaborative thinking into board discussions.

Mergers: Friend or Foe? On November 14, [Scott Cotenoff](#) will join the [Society of Animal Welfare Administrators](#) in Miami to present a [conference session](#) examining strategic issues in partnerships and mergers.

Institute for Nonprofit Practice: On November 15, Makiyah Moody will lead a workshop on [Real-Time Strategic Planning](#) for the [Institute for Nonprofit Practice](#)'s Cape Cod community of nonprofit leaders.

Dynamic Partnerships, Relevant Results: On November 16, Bob Harrington will be at the [Annual Conference](#) of the [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#) in Sacramento to share lessons from watershed-related partnerships in Southern Oregon, such as the [formation of the Rogue River Watershed Council](#).

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