

Reflections on *Nonprofit Boot Camp*

Boot Camp 2007

Rest Assured: The Future is in Good Hands

I just returned from giving a presentation entitled “Keys to Success as a Nonprofit Executive Director,” at the 2007 Craigslist Foundation Boot Camp. The event is intended to engage and inspire the next generation of nonprofit leaders.

This year about 1,200 people attended, and about 250 of them came to my session. The participants were a diverse mix in every sense, and about a third of them were already executive directors. Most of the rest hoped to become EDs soon.

After I laid out my views on success as a nonprofit leader we had a lively dialogue and Q&A session. When it ended, many participants stayed around to ask questions, offer support to one another, and generally network. I had a great time, as once again, I saw the future of the nonprofit sector and felt it would be in very good hands.

Boot Camp 2006

The Next Generation of Leaders: Taking the Sector to the Next Level

This past weekend I had the pleasure of giving a talk at the Craigslist Foundation’s annual nonprofit conference, entitled “Nonprofit Boot Camp,” which took place at U.C. Berkeley.

This was the third year of the event, which now draws more than 1,000 attendees. For the most part, the participants represent the next generation of nonprofit leaders and social entrepreneurs.

It was also my third appearance at the annual conference; over this time, I have watched the event grow into a movement. This year I had an audience of about 200 and engaged in a lively discussion with attendees on the topics of competition, collaboration, and strategy.

My session, which was in the track labeled “Big Ideas,” was held in Wheeler Auditorium. This was especially meaningful to me as I, once upon a time, graduated in this hall. Actually it was twice: I received both my B.A. and M.A. in Wheeler.

It was eerie to look back to the time when I was literally and figuratively in the same place as these young people. I reflected on how far the sector has come in those years, as well as on the challenges that lie ahead.

Having had the opportunity to interact with attendees, I have great optimism that the next generation of nonprofit leaders will move the sector to the “next level” and help increase its positive impact.

[Click here to listen to the podcast of David’s 2006 presentation: Tools for Collaboration and Competition.](#)



David La Piana chats with a Nonprofit Boot Camp Participant