Purpose of Guide
The following reading list offers a concrete set of resources that will orient you to Fund the People’s ideas and advocacy efforts for talent-development and talent-investing.

How to Use
We recommend that your foundation carry out these discussions over the course of three to four months to allow for time to discuss this topic, reflect and consider opportunities to build the talent of nonprofit grantees, and take action on your grantmaking strategy. It is essential that you involve several groups in driving this process: representatives from your foundation’s leadership, program, grants management (if applicable), board of trustees, and other key staff. The guide can be used with the foundation’s full team or sub-groups (executive leadership, program staff, program teams, grants committees, board, etc.).

Where this comes from
This list was created based in part on the citations in the Fund the People (formerly Talent Philanthropy Project) article published in The Foundation Review in October 2013. The result of a year of intensive study and research and development, the article offers a straightforward, intellectual grounding for Fund the People, which launched a year later.

A recent history of thinking
These materials also offer a window into the evolution of thought on nonprofit talent during the last 15 years or so. Some of the publications are influential and offer phrases and frameworks that have resonated powerfully across the field. Other useful ideas encompassed herein are less prominent and remain on the margins. Fund the People informed some of these ideas and have folded into our campaign’s framework; others we are challenging.

Themes across the readings
Overall, this reading list addresses four inter-locking themes that, taken together, inform the Fund the People framework.

- Generational change in nonprofit workplace
- Employment, career, and labor market trends
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in nonprofits
- Nonprofit finances and funding

For each reading, we have provided a link.
Reading List


The Initiative for Nonprofit Sector Careers (which was later housed at American Humancics (the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance) and publicly referred to as the Nonprofit Workforce Coalition).


Dan Pallota. (2006). *Why the Way We Think About Charity is Dead Wrong.* TED Talks.


Note: This is the “framing paper” for EPIP’s (Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy) Generating Change Initiative, which was the predecessor of Talent Philanthropy Project / Fund the People. The paper and case study series with which it was paired were conceptualized, commissioned, informed, and edited by Rusty Stahl.


Upholt, G. & Stahl, R. (2013). *The Nonprofit Talent Ratio: Final Report on a Pilot Study*. Note: This paper was self-published by Talent Philanthropy Project. The research and writing was done primarily by Gretchen Upholt, an NYU graduate student and Graduate Fellow at Talent Philanthropy Project.

Stahl, R. (2013). *Talent Philanthropy: Investing in Nonprofit People to Advance Nonprofit Performance*. The Foundation Review. Note: This article is the culmination of nearly a year of research, writing, and reflection by Rusty Stahl, with funding from Tides and Public Welfare Foundation, with support from NYU Wagner School of Public Service. It was written to offer a conceptual framework on which to build Talent Philanthropy Project.


Fund the People is the national campaign to maximize investment in the nonprofit workforce. To achieve this goal, we make the case, equip for action, and build a movement to change the attitudes and behaviors of funders, fundraising nonprofits, and the intermediaries that support them. There is a long-standing, sector-wide deficit of investment in the nonprofit workforce. Nonprofit professionals work in environments typified by high burnout and stretched resources. So there is a real demand for equitable salaries and benefits; more and better professional development; improved human resources functions; and healthy organizational culture. Together, we can address these challenges by reshaping existing resources to prioritize nonprofit people as the central asset of nonprofit performance. Now more than ever, we can ensure that America’s civic leadership is diverse, well-supported, high-performing, and sustainable for the long haul. Launched in 2014 and headquartered in Beacon, NY, Fund the People (originally known as Talent Philanthropy Project) is a project of Community Partners. Our work is informed by an Advisory Council of diverse leaders and a team of skilled staff and consultants, and is supported by a coalition of regional and national foundations.

To learn more about Fund the People visit: fundthepeople.org

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