

Keynote

Nonprofits’ Necessary Existential Crisis: Are We Perpetuating the Injustice We Seek to Address?

As our work intensifies in today’s sociopolitical landscape, nonprofits and foundations must do some soul searching. In this follow-up to last year’s conversation (“Star Trek and the Future of the Nonprofit Sector”), we will discuss how we may be complicit in perpetuating the injustice we are trying to fight. How can dynamics of power and privilege impede the positive changes we’re trying to make? How do larger organizations become good partners to grassroots organizations? How do our own privileges and personal motivations affect our work? These are questions for our entire society—but as the sector that works every day for the benefit of communities, nonprofits and funders we are uniquely positioned to lead the search for answers and model the changes we want to see in the world.

Facilitated by: Vu Le, Executive Director, Rainier Valley Corps

Vu Le (“voo lay”) is a writer, speaker, vegan, Pisces, and the Executive Director of Rainier Valley Corps, a nonprofit in Seattle that promotes social justice by developing leaders of color, strengthening organizations led by communities of color, and fostering collaboration between diverse communities.



Vu’s passion to make the world better, combined with a low score on the Law School Admission Test, drove him into the field of nonprofit work, where he learned that we should take the work seriously, but not ourselves. ***There’s tons of humor in the nonprofit world***, and someone needs to document it. He is going to do that, with the hope that one day, a TV producer will see how cool and interesting our field is and make a show about nonprofit work, featuring attractive actors attending strategic planning meetings and filing 990 tax forms.

Known for his no-BS approach, irreverent sense of humor, and love of unicorns, Vu has been featured in dozens, if not hundreds, of his own blog posts at NonprofitAF.com