

FOCUS

Working with communities in Melbourne's West for a just and equitable future

We are committed to walking alongside communities as they define and lead the changes needed for a just and equitable future. This initiative is the Foundation's longer-term commitment to supporting such change in Melbourne's West. It is focused on advancing economic and climate justice - recognising that housing and other community priorities are essential means to achieving dignity, opportunity, and resilience. This initiative is about strengthening the conditions for long-term, community-led solutions that address interconnected challenges, strengthen local leadership, and shift systems that shape our shared future towards justice and equity where everyone can thrive.

OUR THEORY OF EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY IS...

If we...



first **strengthen the enabling conditions**, by supporting and helping connect community-led work, including key institutional actors, **this initiative will contribute towards** stronger conditions for collaborative planning and action towards economic and climate justice in Melbourne's West.

If we then...



co-create and design the next phase of multi-year work by working with communities and our partners, and evolving funding practices to better support depth, continuity, and locally led systems change, **this initiative will contribute to** a shared sense of purpose and enable a portfolio of community-led initiatives that demonstrate possibilities for a socially just and resilient future in Melbourne's West.

Finally, if we then...



work and plan together, for transition from externally supported efforts to **community-held stewardship and governance**, by working with communities and partners to explore and test models for long-term resourcing and community wealth-building, **this initiative will contribute to** stronger foundations for intergenerational equity and resilience in Melbourne's West.

PRINCIPLES

We seek to progress this work guided by the following principles:

- **Adaptive and Phased:** support and strengthen the foundations needed for community-led, systems change work to grow, iterate and adapt as collaborators learn together.
- **Principles-Led Practice:** place-based principles and values are embedded in both what we fund and how we fund - centering relationships, community leadership, and the strengthening of bonding and bridging capital.
- **Space for Emergence:** support flexible, locally-defined models that reflect the complexity of urban contexts and avoid reinforcing power imbalances between organisations.
- **Community-Defined Value:** work in ways that enable communities to help shape the role we play, while recognising and being accountable for the power and influence we hold.
- **Redefining Success:** support communities to define progress on their own terms, recognising that meaningful change may look different for different communities, and over short and long horizons.
- **Community Ownership:** design, review, and adapt the initiative with a clear focus on long-term, sustainable community ownership, building both social and community financial infrastructure from the outset.