AFTER THE PANDEMIC: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

WELCOME

- **Type** your name and affiliation in your zoom display
- Type a message in zoom chat to **Alyssa Andersen** if you have any troubleshooting questions
- Please stay **muted**.
AFTER THE PANDEMIC:
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

IFTF Briefing
January 13, 2021

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AFTER THE PANDEMIC:
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- **Build** futures thinking practice in civic sector by introducing basic vocabulary, tools, and framework
- **Share** post-pandemic scenarios and toolkit
- **Solicit** input on how to use the materials to help civic sector imagine and build a transformative future
## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00–11:30 AM</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30–12:00 PM</td>
<td>Overview of Post-Pandemic Work and Alternative Scenarios</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00–12:30 PM</td>
<td>Experiment with Futures Tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30–12:50 PM</td>
<td>Deep Dive Into Transformation Scenario: What would it take to bring this scenario to life?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:50–1:15 PM</td>
<td>Catalyzing Civic Futures: How to create inclusive futures?</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15–1:30 PM</td>
<td>Wrap Up &amp; Close</td>
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Wondering about and planning for the future are core to being human.
Everyone needs to participate in conversations and decisions about the future.

“Envisioning and making the future must be a massively public endeavor.”

-Marina Gorbis, The Future As a Way of Life: Alvin Toffler’s Unfinished Business

“We need to begin by creating a strong future-consciousness on the part of the public … what is needed is a concentrated focus on the social and personal implications of the future, not merely on its technological characteristics.”

-Alvin Toffler, The Future As a Way of Life
Futures thinking is a tool for making decisions under conditions of uncertainty... and yet it has not been evenly distributed...
Futures thinking is a powerful intervention for individuals, families and communities.

“If I’m not imagined in your future, do I exist in it?”

— Hodari Davis
Educator, artist, activist, futurist
Futures thinking is different from strategic planning.

- Longer-term horizon
- “Future-back” perspective
- Systems focus
- Integrates multiple voices and sources of expertise
Futures thinking is a cycle
Many factors influence perspectives on the future: political orientation, socioeconomic status, age, health—even current levels of happiness day-to-day.
In the next 10 years, we will see economic and racial disparities lessen in the US.

YOUR TURN!

Find “Reactions” in the bottom right of Zoom.

If you AGREE with the statement, click on this:

If you DO NOT agree with the statement, click on this:
In the next ten years, today’s political polarization will deepen.

YOUR TURN!

Find “Reactions” in the bottom right of Zoom.

If you AGREE with the statement, click on this:

If you DO NOT agree with the statement, click on this:
Help participants explore how different attitudes towards the future might generate different insights and possible actions.

Provoke meaningful, respectful discussion about differences.
Futures thinking is a cycle

**FORESIGHT:** plausible, compelling, provocative narratives and visions of multiple futures.

Built from evidence and a healthy dose of imagination and creativity
Envision Alternative Futures

- GROWTH
- CONSTRAINT
- COLLAPSE
- TRANSFORMATION
AFTER THE PANDEMIC:
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GROWTH
SAVING CAPITALISTS

CONSTRAINT
GERM PODS

COLLAPSE
UNGOVERNING

TRANSFORMATION
SOCIAL SOLIDARITY
Overview of Post-Pandemic: process and deliverables
Project Overview

- In March 2020 with the support of Irvine, BSCF and CalWellness, Cal Endowment, IFTF launched a project called *After the Pandemic: Writing the Stories of the Future*

- We identified **seven system collapses** from health care, racial justice, and economic inequality to political corruption and our frayed social fabric.

- We worked with visionaries from academic experts to frontline workers, to envision **four alternative scenarios** of the post-pandemic future (growth, constraint, collapse, and transformation).

- The result of this work is a package of materials designed to engage civic society foresight and building a transformative future
historical patterns
Major pandemics start as health crises but turn into social, economic, and political upheavals.
1918 Anti-mask league in San Francisco
today’s crisis is a result of multiple system failures

1. Broken Health Systems
2. Economic Inequality
3. Racial Injustice
4. Brittle Supply Chains
5. Political Divisions
6. Climate Emergencies
7. Fragile Social Fabric
future signals
In Santa Cruz, CA, the Center for Farmworkers Families organizes stealth food distribution network for immigrant workers.

Bellingcat named itself the “open intelligence agency for the people.” It uses open source data and social media to investigate war crimes and human rights abuses.
Countries around the world are experimenting with Central Digital Bank Currencies (CDBCs) that could facilitate a global digital currency.

compelling visions
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GROWTH SAVING CAPITALISTS

Valuing the economy
Leveraging stimulus

Growth is erratic. As stimulus packages advantage investors, economic inequality continues to grow. The decade ends with a savings glut at the top that depresses demand by debt-burdened consumers and foreshadows trouble ahead.

RESPONSE | Rush to reopen
RESET | Automation, stimulus, surveillance
REINVENTION | Monopoly

With $2.4 trillion already committed to stimulus, the Federal Reserve Bank promises to extend stimulus as needed.

usatoday.com
CONRAINT

GERM PODS

Valuing health
Leveraging testing and contact tracing

Data-driven health surveillance tools create algorithmic clusters of the immune, the at-risk, and the untested. Over the decade, these so-called germ pods expand to signify a wide range of identity markers and new cultural categories.

RESPONSE | Data-driven policy
RESET | Algorithmic epidemiology
REINVENTION | Pod-based gatekeeping

COVI-PASS, one of many startup apps designed to work as immunity certificates, can scan users’ status at up to 100 meters away.

covipass.com
COLLAPSE
UNGOVERNING

Valuing political power
Leveraging masks as symbols

With leadership that prioritizes political wins, battle lines are drawn between Red Hats and Blue Masks. Street rage escalates as a deeply divided nation proves ungovernable. Coalitions of secessionist states set the stage for a fractured union.

RESPONSE | Masked diversions
RESET | Violent protest, a divided military
REINVENTION | Exit strategies
Experiment with Futures
Thinking Tools

Jake Dunagan
jdunagan@iftf.org
100 Ways

100 Ways ANYTHING could be DIFFERENT in the FUTURE
1. Pick a topic.
2. List 100 things that are true* about it today
3. Now, “flip” these true facts for the future: Rewrite each fact to be the opposite of what it is today, or offer a new alternative.
Any useful statement about the future should at first seem ridiculous.

JIM DATOR
tips

Let the possibilities simmer for awhile. Leave your 100 flipped facts on the wall, or in a spreadsheet, and see what comes up. (This can be a slow-burn activity, done by a team over a week or longer.)

If you’re stumped, try doing a Google search for the new “fact” about the future. You may discover examples of the seemingly impossible future already happening today, that can inspire your story.

Different people may come up with different explanations for the same future – that’s fine and useful!
Your turn

3 minutes

What are statements about philanthropy today that are generally held to be true?
Your turn

3 minutes

“Flip” these truths and explain how we got from here to there.
What are your “flipped” truths?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things that are true about philanthropy</th>
<th>Flipped “truths”</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy supports good causes</td>
<td>Philanthropy doesn’t support good causes -</td>
<td>What is GOOD? Everyone has their own definition of good - in the future we support decline of democracy, civil unrest. Is it needed anymore? Cancels itself out -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy is supported by donations or endowments</td>
<td>Philanthropy is not supported by donations and endowments and government. Philanthropy is a tax that is imposed on the people.</td>
<td>Catholic church puts a tithe on every member. Government does percent levy on every household that has a certain income.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy helps the needy or less fortunate</td>
<td>Philanthropy hurts the needy or less fortunate</td>
<td>Philanthropy continues growth trajectory of funding own self interest and less equitable; 1% focus on their interests to the harm of all others and the government doesn’t step in to change this and continues to incentivize it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy can be place based</td>
<td>Most philanthropy is global</td>
<td>Nonprofits operate in cyberspace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is perceived as being helpful or worthy</td>
<td>philanthropy can be driven by the public or community</td>
<td>Institutions and individual realize the importance of engaging community. Call for social justice related to philanthropy that make it no longer possible for institutions to make decisions. Community demands accountability on the part of institutions and individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy can be individually driven or institution driven</td>
<td>Philanthropic data collection is automatically gathered</td>
<td>There’s a common application for all nonprofit data, and everyone has access to it. A catalytic event occurs, resulting in the survival fewer organizations, and the need to create efficiencies for the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy requires the production, exchange and tracking of detailed data</td>
<td>Philanthropy relies on experience and insights of those being funded</td>
<td>Break down barriers to philanthropy and making sure philanthropy reflects communities it serves. Board turnover and growth in next 9-10 years. Democratic decisionmaking beyond a small board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy relies on experience and insights of staff, many who have worked in the fields being funded</td>
<td>Philanthropy is often bottom up with community members holding the most power</td>
<td>People making decisions have changed, so philanthropy embraces need to spend to address critical issues now; government could require higher spend rates in response to a catastrophic event</td>
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<td>philanthropy is often top-down, with foundation boards often holding the most power</td>
<td>philanthropy uses the majority of its total assets when investing in community</td>
<td>“Gig philanthropy” - individualistic society without organizations; people come directly to philanthropy with individual asks</td>
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<td>philanthropy uses a fraction of its total assets when investing in community</td>
<td>Philanthropy supports anyone</td>
<td>Government imploded (COVID non response lead to many local mutual aid networks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy supports nonprofit organizations</td>
<td>Philanthropy adequately replace the government’s role in social justice</td>
<td>(1) No one needs money. People are taken care of. (2) Culture of shame. People feel bad who receive money. Bad to receive charity. (3) People feel badly giving money because they don’t know enough about where to give support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy cannot adequately replace the government’s role in alleviating social problems</td>
<td>giving money away makes people feel bad</td>
<td>There is a mass movement revolt against the field, to start over institutions. There good be a tax structure requirement that their staff confirm to the census track of their catchment area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy is a way for people with money to feel less guilty about having that money when others do not</td>
<td>Philanthropy becomes the most diverse industry</td>
<td>People maintained practices used in FY20, continued to use the ones that worked well, and made it a regular part of their business. Barriers and beaucracy reduced. Use of technology and crowdsourcing have become second nature thus increasing participation in philanthropy and setting priorities. Democratic process and fast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy is not as diverse or equitable as it could be</td>
<td>Philanthropy divides/separates communities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>philanthropy is one way to bring communities together</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropy can be nimble, flexible, and responsive during a crisis</td>
<td>Philanthropy is nimble, flexible, responsive.</td>
<td></td>
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philanthropy uses a fraction of its total assets when investing in community

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philanthropy uses the majority of its total assets when investing in community

Philanthropy supports anyone

Philanthropy adequately replace the government's role in social justice

People making decisions have changed, so philanthropy embraces need to spend to address critical issues now; government could require higher spend rates in response to a catastrophic event

"Gig philanthropy" - individualistic society without organizations; people come directly to philanthropy with individual asks

Government imploded (Covid non response lead to many local mutual aid networks)
Here are some questions to consider:

What **assumptions did you uncover** (true facts about today) that you now would say are most important to be challenged or questioned as you design for the future?

What **reasons for change** were most compelling, or came up most frequently, as you crafted your stories about how anything could be different in the future?

Which of the possible futures would you **most want to wake up in**? Why?

Which of the possible futures would you **most want to avoid**? Why?
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TRANSFORMATION

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

Valuing social well-being
Leveraging mutuality

Building on the best of collective grassroots actions to provide mutual aid in a moment of collapsing health, the country relaunches the sharing economy ethos of the 2000s with new civic infrastructures to provide and protect universal basic rights.

RESPONSE | Mutual aid
RESET | Sharing economies, civic literacies
REINVENTION | A global new deal

PDX's Mutual Aid Network is one of dozens of networks that have used crowdfunding to provide services during early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

gofundme.com
principles of mutualism

- **Interdependence**, not rugged individualism
- **Stewardship**, not exploitation
- **Rights**, not commodities
- **Resilience**, not scale
“Only a crisis - actual or perceived - produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes the politically inevitable.”

– Milton Friedman
new ideas lying around
action plans

**HOW** to engage civic society foresight and build a transformative future
scenarios build capacity for foresight and futures thinking

- **Use** scenarios as a first step to engage team in futures work
- **Change** who participates in conversations about the future
- **Embed** futures thinking into civic society
the toolkit inspires action

What is it:

• A set of tools for a **call-to-action to build a new global agenda**—from small conversations to a movement for action

• A practical interactive set of **toolkit cards** for use with groups to explore, inspire and catalyze a reimagining of the future to create tangible actions

How to use:

• Detailed guidelines for planning a group conversation, preparing the materials, and leading conversations

• Three-step process is designed to start with small community groups to develop other visions and **create their own scenarios**
discussion

**HOW** might you use these scenarios and future thinking tools and processes within your organizations and communities?
AFTER THE PANDEMIC:
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• **Share** post-pandemic scenarios and toolkit with your communities
• **Build** futures thinking as a practice in civic sector
• **Participate** in an IFTF training
Up-skill your foresight with scenario thinking

Frame and develop robust alternative futures scenarios

Build an action agenda from futures scenarios

Map potential impacts of the pandemic

Format: 9 hours of class + 3 hours of homework, over 1 week

Contact register@iftf.org to save your spot or inquire further.
Foresight is a skill. Learn it with the experts.

Visit iftf.org/foresightessentials

register@iftf.org

Spring 2021 Dates
Live-Online

IFTF Scenario Building
March 22, 24, 26

IFTF Foresight Essentials
(6 sessions spread over dates)
• February 9-23
• April 7-May 7
• May 25-June 17

IFTF Design Futures
May 11, 18, 25