



GPC Members Meeting 2018: Building Trust for Philanthropic Impact

Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue, New York, NY

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Closing Reflection

Peggy Dulany, Founder and Chair, Synergos

Thank you again for coming.

Before we close, Peggy's coming up to close.

UNKNOWN: So, before Peggy closes, I have one last request for you guys to reflect which is what we call an evaluation at Synergos. So, on your tables, you each have an index card and on one side, I will ask you to put what was your main takeaway from today? Your one little gem? And if you can put a little star next to that, that would be great.

And the second question on the other side, how can Synergos and the GPC be even more valuable to you? What can we improve? What can we do better? What should we add? So, thank you for taking just two minutes to do that.

UNKNOWN: So, please leave your comments on the table and we'll collect them when we're done.

For the closing, I'd like to hand us over to Peggy Dulany, our...

DULANY: So, before -- before doing a checkout, I wanted to thank Olafur. I need the mike. But even more than thanking Olafur, I might be even madder with him than I am already about him stealing John away from us. If John, not only were going to such a wonderful organization, through which I'm sure we're going to stay in touch, but also if my gratitude to John -- no, I'm going to cry again. Darn it.

If my gratitude to John didn't far outweigh my grief about his leaving, John has been with us on and off for 18 years. He's been part of almost every part of the organization. And in the last six months, when Synergos has been going through a big transition, he and Surita, who's sitting there in the back have done such a remarkable job working with me, with the board, with the staff, to really begin the process of reinventing who we're going to be.

So, your spirit will be with us. I know you're not leaving New York, at least not totally. And so, we intend to call on you frequently. But most of all, we just want to thank you, John.

(APPLAUSE)

So, it would be impossible to try to summarize what happened today. For me, it was really inspiring and a coming together of many, many of the themes that we, at Synergos, whether in Ethiopia or Nigeria or Egypt or South Africa or Brazil or Namibia, think about and work on every day.

But having this group from so many countries, many of you from the global philanthropy circle, many of you visiting us, a number of you from Brazil, for example, from our bridging leadership workshop, coming together and really looking at issues across our different experiences, but all putting your hearts and minds into, what it is that we've been talking about, about trying to create a better world.

So, the unity that I felt today in the room which is part of what we try to create wherever we are and whatever we're doing, I had tried to characterize in this poem. A few of you might have heard it before.

Separate, but not apart
United by tremors of earth and heart
By warmth of sun, the wind, the drum of thunder and rain
The silent glistening of snow
Drawn here together by the thread of nature's gifts
The cold of night, descending arch of moon
Ant's eye perspective on the lavender and greens, yellows, and blues
By bird songs, meadowlark, and western jay
By buzz of airplanes, hummingbird, and bee
By common prayer, by lamentations felt by all, by wonder at the thrall of sacredness
Present on the belly of our Mother Earth to our own selves and purposes in life
Yet also to the fears and struggles, joys and hopes
That each has brought with us, we sit, we hold this moment's grace
The risk is that the timelessness herein recedes to rush of daily tasks
Each moment adding to a sum of not that particles of energy
And heart spin not a whole but aimlessly apart
The hope is that we all, and joined by nature's call, by passion for the good of all
Stay joined by separate and connecting threads
To weave a widening circle out of love, commitment common cause
To foster truth and justice on earth
And starting with ourselves, hold each of her creations in our heart
Yes, separate we are, but not apart.

Thank you so much.

(APPLAUSE)

END