

# EVENT RECAP

MAY 10 2023

## COO PARTNER CONVENING WITH DR. ROBIN WALL KIMMERER



**“OUR GOAL** is to have people in power shift culture to be open to [intentional connection building]—it’s just not about the money, but also about connections with the organizations.”

**“BEING COMMUNITY-LED** means you believe in us, get out of the way, and give us support how we want it.”

**“SELF-CARE IS** a community responsibility, not just an individual responsibility.”

### WHAT WE HEARD FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

#### WELLNESS

We are doing the work to support our communities so they can be the best versions of themselves—and at times, **we are neglecting our own self-care and priorities, which drains us.**

There is **narrative power** in how people come together and share successes. We can’t do it alone—we need a sense of community and time and space **to build learning and care.**

**Boundary setting is important for wellness.**

Leadership can share their role, prioritize wellness over work, and **have our backs when funder requirements disrupt or harm our work.**

#### CONNECTIONS

**More intentional community gatherings for fostering practical connections, not just money.**

We’re in a rich area, and we can’t get folks to believe in communities the way we all do. **We must align and bring the relationships we have with people in the area to get buy-in and build for our youth.**

**Uplift our work and foster connection!** Our work leads to the same goal, but it gets watered down because there is a lack of strategy and alignment.

**Fear of not hearing what the community is telling us.**

#### COO AS A FUNDER

**We need more funders to get on this train.** They have a bird’s eye view of the networks and can connect us and our resources.

The dynamic work we do can’t always be captured in an RFP. How can we help COO capture that dynamic work and pitch it to funders?

COO **can help make** RFP processes more creative and innovative so we face less barriers and get funding for our entire programs, not just parts of them.

**Funder briefings would help bring in more money and support more external partners.**



*The COO Learning Community strategy convenes and resources activities to build capacity, share learning, facilitate new connections, and test innovative models that catalyze and sustain momentum toward equity.*