



# Visions, Myths, and a Path Forward

*For the field of fiscal sponsorship and nonprofit resource sharing*



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License

This means you can adapt this work and share it's contents freely for non-commercial purposes, provided you credit Social Impact Commons.

Asta Petkeviciute, Chief Financial Steward  
[asta@socialimpactcommons.org](mailto:asta@socialimpactcommons.org)

Josh Sattely, Chief Legal Steward  
[josh@socialimpactcommons.org](mailto:josh@socialimpactcommons.org)

Thaddeus Squire, Chief Commons Steward  
[thaddeus@socialimpactcommons.org](mailto:thaddeus@socialimpactcommons.org)



## A Vision for the Field

---

### ACTION & ONTOLOGY

- *Embrace a world of radical pluralism in which independence of ideas and agency does not require independence of infrastructure.*
- *Move from fragmentation to collectivisation, with a focus on localist and distributed network models of scale.*
- *Expand our focus beyond valorization and mere proof of fiscal sponsorship model and give attention to what it will take in knowledge and financial capital to proliferate the field.*
- *Broaden from a field defined by law and finance to a field more defined by organizing, activism, commoning, and movement building.*

### REACTION

*>>> We vastly accelerate the forces of solidarity building and social justice.*

*>>> We re-task billions in funds from needlessly duplicated infrastructure directly to front-line work.*



## **Myths** (Things that *can* be true *but do not have to be* true.)

---

- **The fiscal sponsorship business model doesn't work - it's not sustainable.**
- **Fiscal sponsors are only temporary/transitional, not permanent mission homes.**
- **Fiscal sponsors perpetuate white supremacy and the Nonprofit Industrial Complex.**
- **Fiscal sponsors add needless cost and bureaucracy to front-line programs.**
- **Fiscal sponsors ask visionary leaders to relinquish agency, autonomy, and power.**
- **Fiscal sponsors are only back office purveyors of nonprofit compliance.**
- **Fiscal sponsorship is inherently more equitable than stand-alone structures.**
- **Fiscal sponsors are unicorn nonprofits without capacity struggles of their own.**



## A Path Forward

---

- Create a collection of **Shared Impact Metrics** for sponsors, adaptable to a wide range of models and practices.
- Build a **Knowledge Commons** that democratizes the knowledge of the field and lifts up equity and justice-based practices for fiscal sponsors.
- Gather **Longitudinal Field Data** on the depth and breadth of the ecosystem, with a focus on documenting areas for capacity building investment.
- Develop and retain a more **Diverse Community Practitioners** that seek careers in the development and management of fiscal sponsors.
- Advocate for greater **Direct Philanthropic Investment** in critical areas of capacity need for fiscal sponsors.

