

COMMUNION

MAVEN LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE 2025 IMPACT REPORT



CHAPTER 2. ESSAY 1

Queering Philanthropy

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Queering Philanthropy Maven
Alex Rosales & Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb
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Chapter 2 | Essay 1

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([00:00](#)):

I think that for us to have just communities, we're going to have to have some deeper conversations and to create a blueprint, if you would, about what queer philanthropy looks like.

Alex Rosales ([00:18](#)):

Queering philanthropy is exactly disrupting the default settings of philanthropy.

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([00:23](#)):

I think it makes for a more just community, a kinder community, a more receiving kind of community. And I think queering philanthropy is an ideal way to expose more about what the need is.

Alex Rosales ([00:38](#)):

We're not implementing those tools that we know exist. What we have is an intentional abandonment. So when we queer philanthropy, it's a return. It's also an active practice of trust-based philanthropy. It's basically abandoning short-term measurement for long-term strategy by being people first, by being relationship first.

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([01:01](#)):

Those interpersonal relationships, they just matter.

Alex Rosales ([01:06](#)):

As queer community members, we know that we have to rely on each other for survival and for our story to be told. And if traditional philanthropy were to finally instill agency and actual leadership among queer practitioners, it would look completely different.

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([01:21](#)):

It seems that we've had to wiggle our way into the larger community.

Alex Rosales ([01:27](#)):

There's a lot of gatekeeping. Everything's determined by access and what I call galliguarding. There is a small group of donors that concentrate in particular circles, and that ruins any prospect for proximity. Queer groups are not proximate to power, and that is reflected in philanthropy through and through.

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([01:47](#)):

It almost seems like it has a walled around it, like it's within a confined space as opposed to being more free, more open, more exposed.

Alex Rosales ([01:57](#)):

We need to build our siblinghood and reimagine the world together. It would mean re-imagining what impact means. It would mean contending with the systems that actually prevent that progress from happening. And finally, it would mean that communities can be able to tell their own story and have agency.

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([02:16](#)):

What do you want to see happen in your community? What does justice look like for us? What does our long-term need look like? And how do we get there?

Alex Rosales ([02:26](#)):

We have each other. We have to talk to each other. We have to connect across all lines of difference, geographically, other identities, of course, and that's how we achieve that intersectional organizing approach.

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([02:37](#)):

I've come through so much. I cannot not be optimistic.

Alex Rosales ([02:42](#)):

I'm hopeful that there will be a groundswell that will build and build and more voices will demand true accountability, true justice, a practice that is movement centered and one that heals.

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb ([02:53](#)):

As long as we need to have these conversations, we're not there yet.

