



A collective leadership practice of disciplined human connection and exchange that replenishes individual faith in expansive culture shift and possibility.

COMMUNION

maven.
Maven Leadership Collective



“Improvisation is at the core of everything I do. Even the things that I do that are composed have deep elements of improvisation in the process of creation and, at times, in the performance you use improvisation as another color on your palette.”

— MAVEN DIEGO MELGAR



CHAPTER 1

Shared Expectations Accelerate Meaningful Relationships

A shared understanding of care and accountability serves as a reliable shorthand for reputation or social capital in interactions between decision-makers belonging to trust-based professional networks designed to share assets, opportunities, and information.

CHAPTER 1. VIDEO ESSAY 1

The Hard R. The Death of Rigor

Corey Davis (helthey)
Founder & Creative Director | Maven Leadership Collective

The loss of rigor in shaping ideas has fundamentally altered the ways we relate to each other and work together. Increased inability to rely on certain norms or expectations can atrophy our capacity for trust, partnership, and imagination. How did we end up here and what will it take for us to reclaim reliable standards for effort and accountability as valued currency among professionals?

CHAPTER 1. VIDEO ESSAY 2

Maven Spotlight. Improvisation: Meditations on Rule-breaking, Recovery & Finding a Collective Groove

Maven Diego Melgar (helhim)
Musician & Educator

Maven Diego Melgar-guitarist, composer, and educator-demystifies improvisation using fundamentals distilled from a decade of performance and research. His generosity transforms artistry into practical tools for us to cultivate relationships, curiosity and discipline in our professional social impact practice.

CHAPTER 2

Questioning. What Faith Invites & Change Requires

Experts who lead change from a place of curiosity inspire more creative and collaborative environments. The community culture that emerges nourishes broad-based possibility and invites deeper thinking with accessibility for others to contribute.

CHAPTER 2. VIDEO ESSAY 1

Queering Philanthropy

Dr. Naomi Ruth Cobb (shelher). Sociologist & Foundation Board Member
Maven Alexander Rosales (helhim). Foundation Executive

What does it look like to reimagine established organized giving practices and our relationship to them using the deep knowing gained from the lived experience, proximity to pressing issues, and professional expertise of queer and trans practitioners? Here, thought leaders with deep ties to community share current trends, aspirations for the field, and recommendations for practitioners of all identities reimagining their roles.

“We need to create a blueprint for what queering philanthropy looks like.” — DR. NAOMI RUTH COBB

CHAPTER 2. VIDEO ESSAY 2 & 3

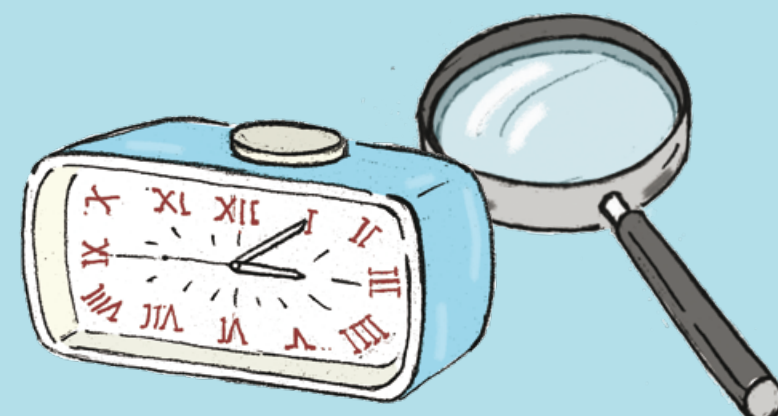
What Were You Thinking?

Maven Pioneer Winter (helthey). Founder, Choreographer & Artistic Director
Maven Kyle Maharika (helhim). Operations Executive

For high profile decision-makers, shifting gears may come with the territory, but rarely is there an instruction manual. Mavens share never-before-heard accounts of their thought process in make-or-break moments when unexpected events dictate they chart a new path in high stakes pivots. Navigate uncertainty with more confidence having the benefit of their insights.

“The loss of rigor causes our faith in relationships and institutions to atrophy.”

— COREY DAVIS



“The body is so political.. We are organizing the body in such a way there’s this collective experience beyond the individual.”

— MAVEN PIONEER WINTER



CHAPTER 3

Context Clues Aren’t Written In The Margins

Considering the true costs to deliver sustainable outcomes is at the core of equitable social impact and strategies for mobilizing support for innovators and creatives.

CHAPTER 3. VIDEO ESSAY 1

Taste & See

Maven Nzingah Onisowa (shelher) Maven Wellbeing Instructor

Building a new business or community effort involves intense collaboration and learning that require tremendous energy that can be disruptive to the wellbeing of founders. Requests for business plans and grant proposals seldom include plans for our mental and physical health, which are just as critical to our success. Maven’s latest digital series serves familiar Caribbean comfort food with a plant-based twist. Join 1000+ viewers who have integrated these tips and recipes with ease.

“Being in a space that tends to value logic and reason, it can be really confusing to find your voice, the intuitive part of you that’s telling you that it’s time to make a pivot, even though it might sound crazy to a lot of other people.”

— MAVEN KYLE MAHARIKA



CHAPTER 4

Social Desire Lines

Innovators will remake environments not meant for them by creating pathways to meaningful human connection with like minds. The resulting ecosystems of support forge pressure-resistant ease, agency, and belonging for them.

CHAPTER 4. VIDEO ESSAY 1

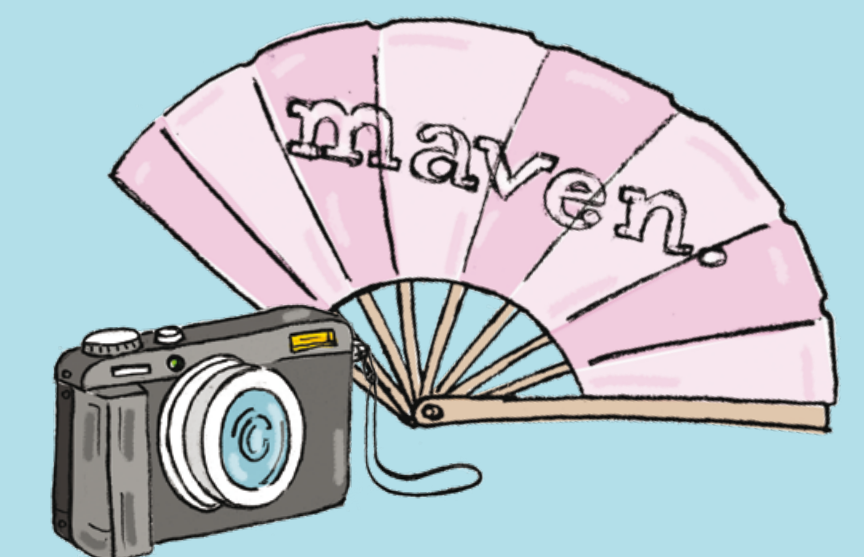
How Good it Can Be?

Sarah Gedeon (shelher). Social Impact Executive
Corey Davis (helthey). Culture Shift Strategist & Creative Producer
Maven Kunya Rowley (helthey). Founder & Artistic Director

Community-builders deserve thoughtful resources and strategies that demystify impact measurement, the various methods for understanding and communicating our work’s value to the people we serve. But, they are budget constrained and busy saving the world. And, for those with missions that untangle root causes of complex societal issues or ask us to reimagine collective futures, conventional methods can be burdensome, insufficient, and out of reach. Maven’s coaching clients share how creative approaches to process design are key to making impact measurement accessible and viable for them.

“Building capacity and building a culture around [implementing new impact measurement strategies] makes it more sustainable. Because sometimes it’s not possible to hire a new person to help. We need to work with what we have.”

— SARAH GEDEON



Filmmaker: Alexa Caravia. Illustration & graphic design: Mariana Pariani

