

2026 Peer Network Welcome & Orientation

February 26, 2026

Welcome Check-in



- Name, Org,
Volunteer Role



- What is your
favorite thing
about being a
volunteer?

Orientation Facilitators



Altinay Cortes
Senior Community
Engagement Manager



Dionne Thompson
Chapter Specialist

Orientation Flow

- Welcome!
- State of PEAK and PEAK's 2026 Priorities
- Peer Network Volunteer Expectations
- Q&A
- Close and Next Up

Orientation Objectives

- Learn from PEAK leadership about the current state of PEAK and our 2026 priorities
- Understand an overview of peer networks and volunteer roles
- Connect with resources, staff, and peers



State of PEAK

- Sustained core programming
 - PEAK2026
 - Online courses
 - Peer network meetings
 - Learning workshop series
- Ensured operations running and improving
 - Membership renewals
 - Improving internal processes, procedures, and controls
 - Continual updates to member database
- Financial stability
 - Funding to cover convening costs and our lean summer months
- Provide a full update at Annual Membership Meeting
 - Financials
 - Governance
- We welcome your questions and conversations!
 - Share with Altinay as your point person

2026 Priorities

- Long-term organizational sustainability
 - Financial stabilization
 - Diversifying revenue streams
- Core programming
 - Peer Network support
- Strong member value
- CEO search and onboarding



Peer Networking

PEAK Peer Network Volunteer Strategy

- Principles. Equity. Advocacy. Knowledge.
- Peer Networks include affinity groups, caucuses, and chapters
 - 14 Chapters
 - 8 Caucuses and Affinity Groups
- New, revised **Peer Network Volunteer Leader Playbook** coming soon!



PEAK Peer Network Volunteer Strategy

- None of PEAK's peer networks, affinity groups, or chapters are separate legal entities, so PEAK is responsible for the actions of these groups
- Help us protect PEAK's brand and reputation
- PEAK's Code of Conduct and Peer Network Playbook align with PEAK's core values and principles to protect and support our volunteers and members



Peer Network Volunteer Expectations

Volunteer Expectations

- ✓ Participate in our orientation and check-ins with PEAK team and peers
- ✓ Communicate your ideas, needs, and challenges with the PEAK team
- ✓ Adhere to the PEAK code of conduct
- ✓ Be an active participant in your steering committee
- ✓ Serve as a PEAK champion!
- ✓ Follow the guidelines in the Playbook

What you can expect from us!

- The PEAK team will:
 - manage the bulk of your peer network's administrative and operational functions
 - Support your peer network's events
 - Ensure your peer network's continuity and sustainability

Peer Network Annual Goals

- Develop & submit 2026 Annual Plan
- Host 2-4 meetings:
 - One educational
 - One social or networking
- Engage or recruit 1-5 new volunteers
- Submit your year-end assessment

Chairs, Cochairs, and Vice Chairs

- Lead your volunteer team
 - Host monthly or bimonthly team meetings to check-in with your steering committee
 - Keep team on track
- Serve as a liaison to PEAK Grantmaking staff
 - You are the point person to create & submit annual plan to PEAK
 - Do your best!
 - OK to change
- Build local partnerships



Recruiting and Adding Members to your Peer Network

My Peer Networks

Personal Snapshot	My Peer Networks
Edit My Profile	
My Affiliations	
My Payment Methods	
Security & Login	
My Resources	
My Registrations	
My Orders	
My Peer Networks	
My Scheduled Payments	

Small Foundations Affinity Group	
Status	Current
Start Date	1/1/2025
End Date	12/31/2025

LGBTQ+ Caucus	
Status	Current
Start Date	1/1/2025
End Date	12/31/2025

Latinx Caucus	
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PEAK has a variety of **peer networks** that members can explore to help them make connections, broaden their professional networks, and learn with peers on a deeper level in ways that matter to them.

Join your local Chapter. There are 14 chapters, each representing a geographic region, where PEAK members gather to share knowledge, strengthen practice, and develop skills to meet career goals. While you are welcome to join more than one chapter, we strongly encourage you to join one primary chapter where you are physically located. All members are welcome to attend any chapter event. [Learn more.](#)

Join a Caucus. Based around personal identity, PEAK caucuses provide a safe space where members can connect, speak freely, and be supported by one another. Each caucus is open to all members of the PEAK community who personally identify with the caucus' identity. [Learn more.](#)

Join an Affinity Group. PEAK affinity groups provide space for members to connect, network, build skill sets, and share effective, equitable grantmaking practices with those who share similar roles and work in similar funding institutions. Membership eligibility may vary by group. [Learn more.](#) Once you've added yourself to these Peer Networks, you will be added to the group and can begin connecting with your peers.

Eligible Peer Networks To Join 🔍 Search this list...

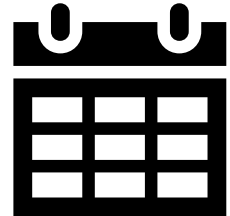
13 of 13 items • 0 items selected

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Mideast
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Pacific Northwest
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Southeast
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Greater Washington DC
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Northern Plains
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Southwest
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Southern California
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK Northern California
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAK New England

[Next](#)

Event Planning, Registration & Promotion

- Plan events at least 6-8 weeks ahead, the earlier the better
- Avoid meetings on Fridays and after 5 pm your time except for happy hours
 - Survey your members to learn their preferred time block to meet
 - PEAK staff coordinates peer group event calendar so that sessions complement and not compete.
- Share event title, date/time, and description with PEAK staff
 - PEAK staff opens registration and posts event to website
 - Cochairs invite peer group members to the event via CONNECT or email
- PEAK staff monitors registration
- There is a shared budget available for speaker honorariums
 - If there is an event speaker, PEAK staff will manage speaker contracting and payment. Reach out for details!



Now that your Event is Planned

- Post about and promote your chapter's events in your networks.
- Invite event participants via email or CONNECT.

Transform Your Grantmaking ▾ Our Story Resources ▾ In

All Upcoming Events ▾ View as: [🗒️]

February 2023

Chapter Meeting
February 16, 2023 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am PST

Monthly Coffee Hour (PEAK Pacific Northwest)

Join us for our monthly chapter gathering to talk about philanthropy in current events, troubleshoot issues in grantmaking, network, plan for future events, and more! After registering, you will...

Chapter Meeting
February 23, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm CST

Connecting Values to Practices through Participatory Grantmaking (PEAK Minnesota)

Join the University of Minnesota Extension Educator Noelle Harden for an engaging workshop about participatory grantmaking methods and how they can advance democracy, equity, and other core values in...

Peer Group Meeting
February 24, 2023 @ 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm EST

Coffee Chat (PEAK Black Caucus)

Grab your coffee, tea, and snack, and join us for this informal

Use CONNECT for Email & Newsletter

The screenshot displays the 'Latinx Caucus' community page on the PEAK Grantmaking platform. At the top, the navigation bar includes the PEAK logo (30 YEARS), 'Home', 'Communities', 'Open Forum', 'Directory', 'Events', 'Browse', a search bar, and a 'Create' button. The community header shows 'Community Home', 'Discussion 32', 'Library 2', 'Blogs 0', 'Events 0', and 'Members 179'. A 'Settings' button is circled in blue. A dropdown menu is open, with the 'Members' option also circled in blue. The menu items are: Administration (Settings, Additional HTML, Members, Reports, Email Community Members), Moderation (Moderation (0)), Events (Manage Events, Event Payment Providers), and Poll (Manage Polls). The main content area features a 'Featured Card' section with a 'Feature Some' heading and an 'Add Featured Card' button. Below this is the 'Latest Discussions' section, which includes a 'Start a Discussion' button. The 'Latest Library Entries' section is partially visible at the bottom.



Volunteer Spotlight

Jina Freiberg, Senior Grants Manager
Katz Amsterdam Foundation



Volunteer Spotlight

Dan Darbandi, Grants Administrator
Broad Reach Foundation



Volunteer Spotlight

Corey Murphy, Senior Community
Impact Officer
Community Foundation for Palm
Beach and Martin Counties



Volunteer Spotlight

Abbey Doyle, Grants & Operations
Coordinator
George Kaiser Family Foundation





Technology & Support

- Zoom hosting
- Mentimeter (www.menti.com)
- SurveyMonkey
- PEAK PowerPoint Templates
- Your Peer Network CONNECT Community
- Refer to the revised Peer Network Playbook to learn more!



Speaker Honorarium and Catering Budget Available

- Honorariums available to compensate trusted experts who have proven public speaking experience on the topic of interest.
- Limited shared budget for in-person catering available upon request.
 - Consider asking an organization to host and/or sponsor an event!



Lunch is on PEAK!

- Each peer network may receive catering for one meal for either a volunteer steering committee retreat or a planning committee meeting scheduled during the 2026 calendar year.



We are your partner in programming!

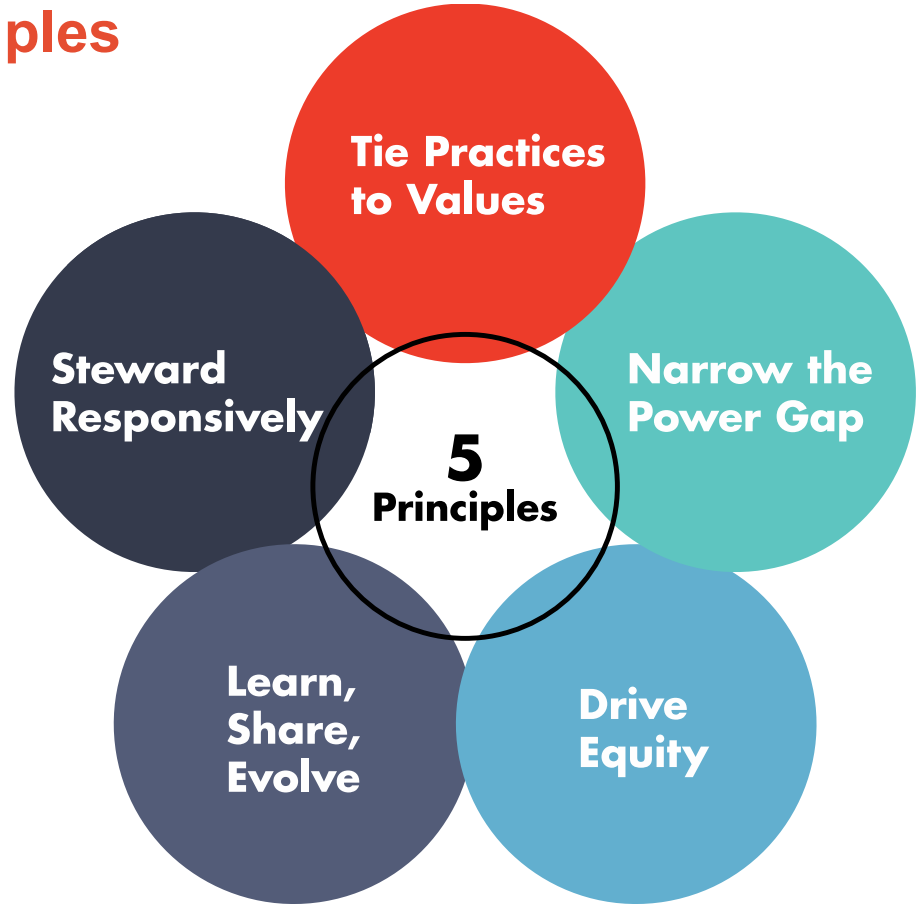
PEAK 2026 Workshop Menu now Live!

- The in-person or virtual sessions can be provided in 1.5-3 hours by PEAK staff.
- We request 10 weeks advance notice for design and promotion.



From Programs to Principles

- Peak staff-led workshops aim to advance our members' and partners' knowledge and skill in operationalizing equity-centered, values-driven grantmaking practices
- The workshops include interactive and engaging activities that feature PEAK staff and community members





PEAK

2026

ST. LOUIS

MARCH 25-27, 2026

The Member Pipeline

Join us: Start with a complimentary Individual Membership



Engage with PEAK: Join a chapter, caucus, or affinity group, access resources, read our newsletter, CONNECT



Invest in PEAK: Join as an Organization Member, volunteer your time

Membership Chair Role

- Welcome new members, so many ways to do this!
- Encourage prospective members to attend an event and follow up with them to join PEAK community
- Reach out to members interested in volunteering
- Use our Champion Guide to promote investment in Organization Membership

Recruit Members to Your Peer Networks

Remember you represent PEAK. Be a PEAK champion!

- Promote to your networks
- Invite colleagues

Tools to help

- PEAK Join us page
- Online member application
- Volunteer Fair
- Volunteer Board
- More coming soon!



Mark your calendar! 2026 Important Dates

- **March 25:** Precon Chapter and Peer Group Retreat, register now!
- **March 25-27:** PEAK2026 in St Louis
- **Sept 23:** Volunteer Leadership Summit (Virtual)



Q & A

After this meeting...

- Host a meeting with your steering committee
- Promote event at PEAK2026
- Submit annual plan to PEAK by February 27th
- RSVP to attend Chapter and Peer Group Leader Volunteer Retreat and Reception
- Receive and confirm receipt of orientation materials via SurveyMonkey



Thank you!