

Brief background to:

Southern Africa Community Grantmakers Leaders Cooperative

The Cooperative was initially a joint initiative of **Inyathelo: South African Institute for Advancement (SAIA)** and **The Synergos Institute** to bring together leaders of Southern African community grantmaker organisations in a knowledge-sharing and peer learning partnership. Inyathelo has since exited the initiative although they remain supportive of the cooperative and are often involved in the activities of the Cooperative through its CEO and co-founder, Ms Shelagh Gastrow. The CGLC was established in 2005 to bring together leaders of Southern African community grantmaker organisations in a knowledge-sharing and peer learning network to enhance the growth and sustainability of the independent development funding sector in the region.

The inaugural meeting of the Coop was attended by leaders of 22 community grantmaker organisations from Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. After more than 10 meetings over 3 years, the Coop has experienced dynamic growth with a committed core of members joined by new member organisations, as well as new leaders from existing member organisations.

The Cooperative has been designed to enhance the growth and sustainability of the independent development funding sector in the region by developing the knowledge and capacity of leadership personnel, specifically with regard to sustainability.

By **'community grantmaker'** we mean: independent, non-government, non-corporate development grantmakers; intermediary grantmakers; and community foundations and development trusts. By **'community grantmaker leader'** we mean the Chief Executive, senior executive staff, or members of the Board.

Participation in the Cooperative and its activities is by invitation only and the costs of activities are subsidized (transport, meals and accommodation will be covered).

The Cooperative has 3 annual events, namely 2 learning events (of which one took place in March already) as well as a further Retreat which is usually planned for November. Learning events each are usually convened in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Synergos has engaged **Ms. Erika Joubert** to assist with coordinating the Cooperative and its activities.

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