SIFT Tips for Becoming A Stronger Funder Network

1. INVEST IN STRONG COMMUNICATIONS
   - Expert facilitation is vital and can showcase new communication models to replicate.
   - Trust is key, and information sharing builds trust. Prepare for this to take a lot of time.
   - Create a deep level of buy-in and challenge participants to bring their best strategic thinking to the center of the room, not share it in back channels.

2. ENCOURAGE SMARTER FUNDING
   - Instead of surfacing more civic engagement money for state work, this project revealed that in order to sustain the state-based civic engagement infrastructure that has already been built, we need to help issue funders find smarter (tactical) strategies for state impact.

3. TRY NEW TOOLS + APPROACHES
   - Cultivate a willingness to trying new things.
   - Utilize a virtual meeting platform to bridge the geographic divide.
   - Consider adopting a shared leadership model where everyone takes responsibility for the group process.
   - Challenge each member to strengthen their ability to participate in the network process.

In the end, participants agreed that taking time to be part of a process that learned from others, shared stories and connected with peers was very valuable. Those relationships continue today.