



National Community Foundations Forum 2014

An Australian Community Philanthropy event

Proudly supported by Philanthropy Australia and FRRR



Reflections from the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship

Catherine Brown



Skoll World Forum

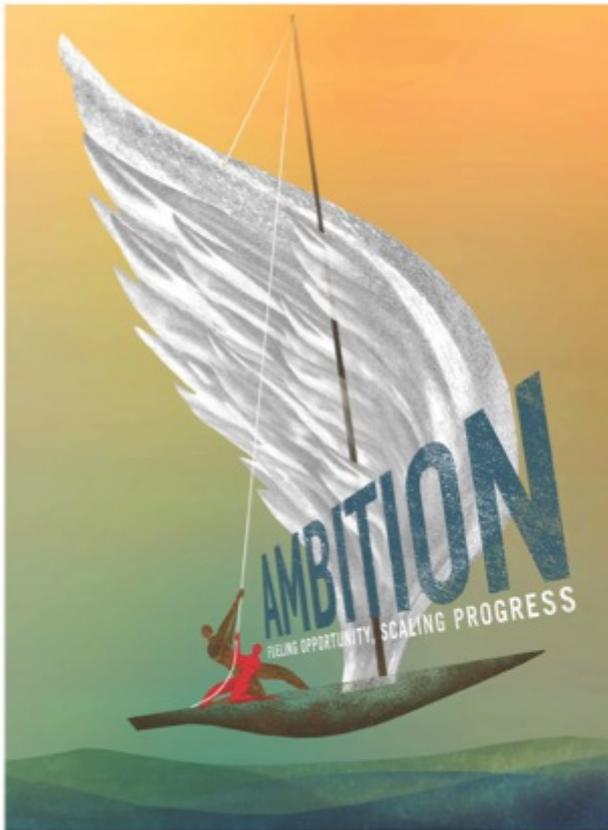
**Forum Theme: Ambition – Fuelling Opportunity,
Scaling Progress**

Oxford, 9-11 April 2014

Catherine Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
National Community Foundations Forum
Date: 04 September 2014

Skoll World Forum 2014

THE 11TH SKOLL WORLD FORUM ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP APRIL 9-11, 2014, OXFORD UK



The mission of the Skoll World Forum is to accelerate the impact of the world's leading social entrepreneurs by uniting them with essential partners in a collaborative pursuit of learning, leverage and large-scale social change.

- Skoll Foundation

Bringing together social entrepreneurs

Social entrepreneurs are not simply driven by the perception of a social need or by their compassion, rather they have a vision of how to achieve improvement and they are determined to make their vision work.

J Gregory Dees, Co-Founder, Centre for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship, Duke University.

Social entrepreneurs – a definition:

Society's change agents. Creators of innovations who disrupt the status quo and transform our world for the better.

- Can come from any sector i.e. business, non-government organisations, philanthropy, government or individual entrepreneurs.
- All represented at the Forum
- More than 1,000 people from 60 countries.

Why the theme “Ambition”?

- “It’s ambition that gives social entrepreneurs the vision and fuel to do good things in smarter and better ways. Their goals: nothing short of a sustainable world of peace and prosperity.”
- “To defeat poverty, injustice and environmental degradation, social entrepreneurs don’t impose solutions. They work with the people they serve, building the scaffolds to shared prosperity, self-determination, and sustainability.” Jeff Skoll, Founder eBay and the Skoll Foundation

Ambitious ideas and projects, not personal ambition

- “Ambition is the path to success, persistence is the vehicle you arrive in.” William Eardley IV
- “Without ambition one starts nothing.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

A defining moment – why?

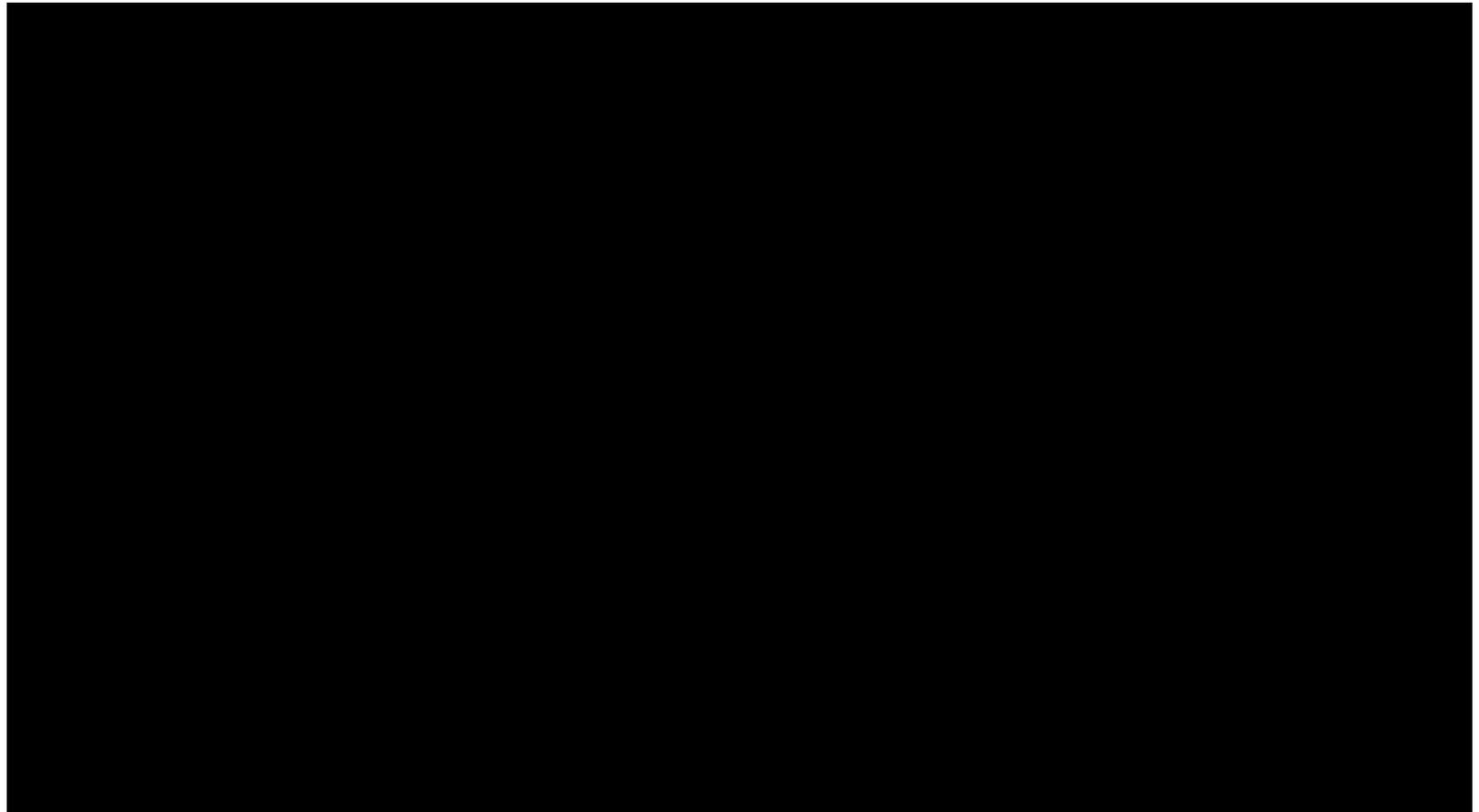
- Information revolution is putting powerful data in the hands of good people doing good things – power to drive solutions.
- Growing networks of innovators and partners are working across all sectors around the world.
- New collaborations are occurring across sectors, requiring strong planning and implementation and the use of technology to empower communities.

Nobody thinks that they can do it alone – this is a new understanding.

Example: Marine Council US

Session: Ambitious Storytelling

When I Walk

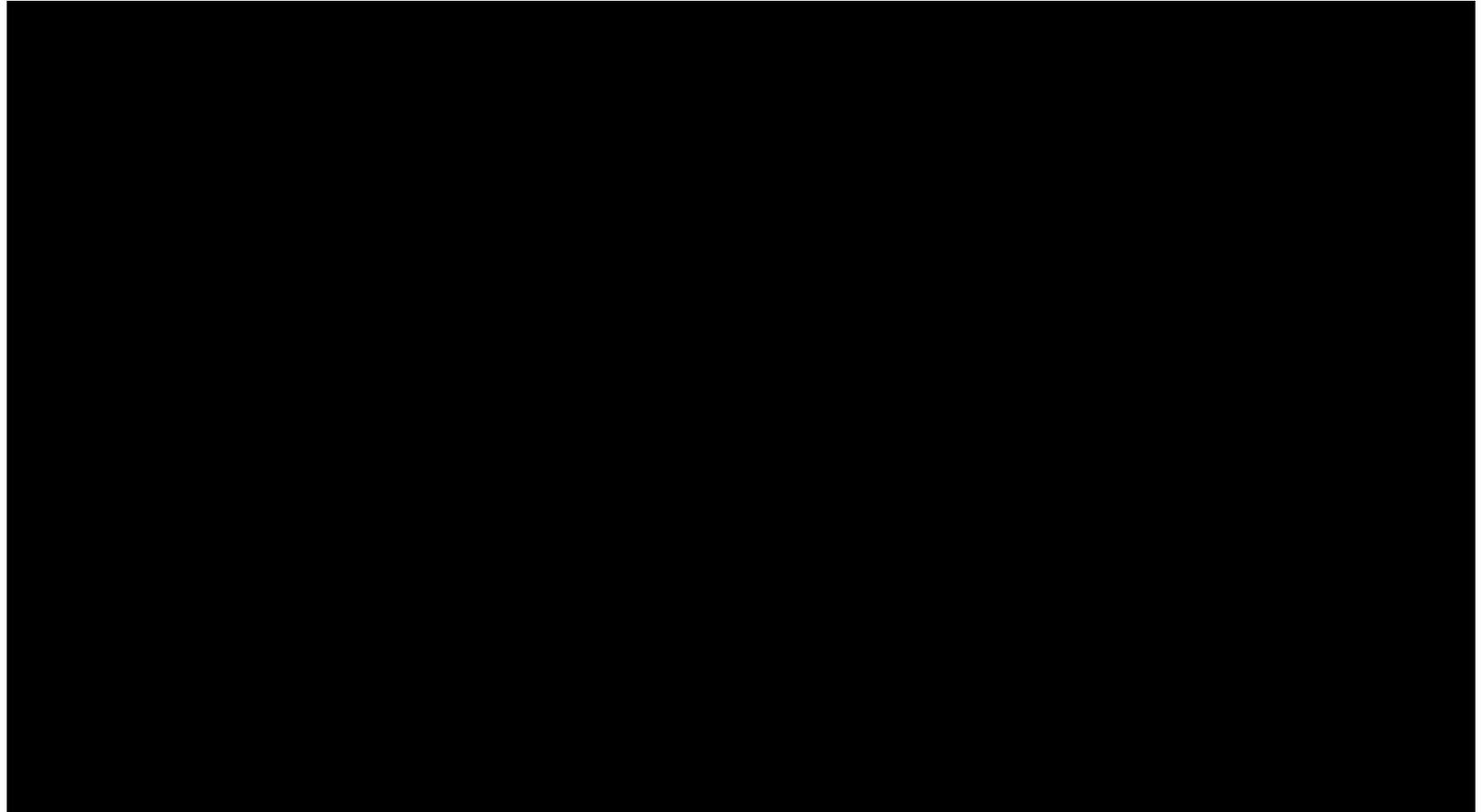


[WHEN I WALK \(Official Trailer\)](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX-sngNJlXU>

Session: Ambitious Storytelling

Map Your World



[Independent Lens | The Revolutionary Optimists | Map Your World | PBS](#)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6ai_HK8KYM

Plenary: Skoll Awards

LMCF @MelbourneLMCF

#SkollWF humbling to hear from the Skoll Award winners, including Malala Yousafzai. Making huge impacts on sanitation, education, poverty.

3:17 PM - 11 Apr 2014

AshokaVerified account @Ashoka

"There are no silver bullets to eradicate poverty, but girls education comes pretty close" @jeffskoll #skollwf

#AshokaAtSkoll from Oxford, Oxfordshire 10 Apr 2014

LMCF @MelbourneLMCF

#SkollWF Inspiring plenary with Jeff Skoll, Sir Richard Branson and more. Enormous power of media used for social and environmental good.

5:36 AM - 10 Apr 2014

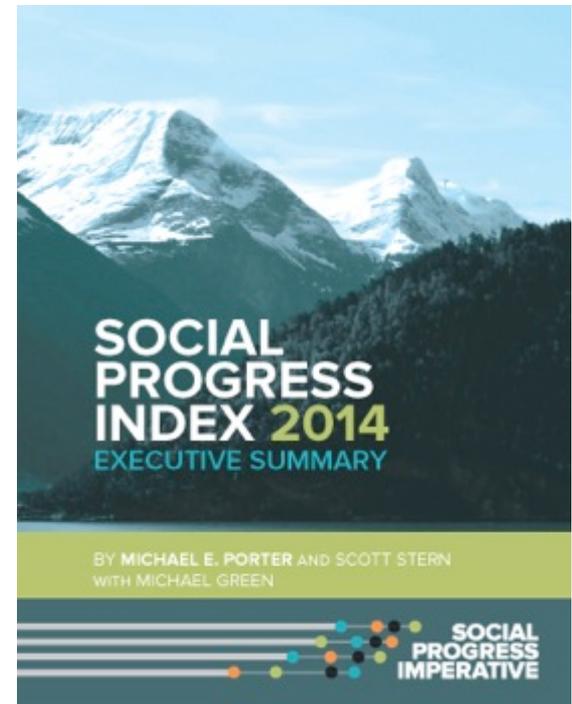
Session: Measuring What Matters, Aligning for Impact.



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#SkollWF Social Progress Index measures satisfaction of basic needs, well being and opportunity for 132 countries & compares GDP. Fantastic.

3:07 PM - 11 Apr 2014



Session: Unlocking the Entrepreneurial Ambition of Women



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#SkollWF unlocking the entrepreneurial ambition of women takes fair access to capital, mentoring, networks, use of technology, and energy!

3:10 PM - 11 Apr 2014

Session: Artists as Activists: Using Creative Talent for Social Progress



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#SkollWF saving the most powerful session for last. Music, song, film and still photography distil [social and environmental] issues and connect us through emotion.

Why did it take so long for the arts to be invited as presenters at the Skoll World Forum?!

Key Insights

Insight 1

21st century social change is about new collaborations across sectors, strong planning and implementation and use of new technology to empower communities. Nobody thinks they can do it alone - this is a new understanding.

Insight 2

There are no silver bullets but girls' education comes pretty close. This is because educated women have less children, leading to the stabilisation of the world population. Educated women have opportunities for self-employment and more sustainable ways of farming and are committed to the education and health of their children.

Insight 3

Philanthropy must respond creatively to this environment and be open minded about how philanthropy can achieve impact in the areas we are working on. We can and should be social entrepreneurs and supporters of social entrepreneurs.

Insight 4

Philanthropy is needed as one source of investment for social entrepreneurs. Our funding is critical in the planning and testing phases of social enterprises, and sometimes beginning to scale up. Our grants should lead to leveraging social investment from outside philanthropy (corporate and government). Philanthropy is not enough on its own.

Key Insights

Insight 5

Investing in documentary film can help shine a light on social and environmental issues that can be accessed by millions of people (e.g. by YouTube). Photography, art, TV series and music also have important roles to play in engaging people to tackle tough social and environmental issues.

Insight 6

Philanthropy must use data more actively in its work, both to plan its priorities and to also support evidence about social and environmental needs. The concept of “powerful data in good hands doing powerful things”! (Starting to sound a bit American but the issue is important).

Insight 7

New forms of legal entities that are hybrid for profit models with social purpose(s) are emerging all around the world.

Discussion

Key Message: Think creatively about how community foundations can achieve impact in the areas we are working on. We can be social entrepreneurs.

Some questions:

- How will we help a demonstration project (including a social enterprise) grow to scale?
- Would funding research shine a light on issues and provide evidence of the need for change (e.g. Social Progress Index)?
- Would it make sense to fund documentary film (short and full length, involving people working on or facing challenges)?
- Can we develop new collaborations to make more impact?



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