

# What's Possible...

when funders follow young people's lead.

**What's Possible** is an **Experiential Learning Institute** and **\$1M pooled fund** presented by the Children's Rights Innovation Fund ([CRIF](#)), in partnership with [We Trust You\(th\)](#).

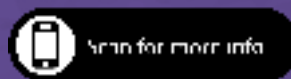
**What's Possible** will enable a cohort of donors to learn and plan WHILE funding participatory youth-driven grantmaking.

## Important Dates

**11 September 2023** -  
*Expression of Interest Deadline*

**1 October 2023** -  
*Firm Commitment Deadline*

**February 2024 (TBD)** -  
*In-person Learning Institute Launch  
in Accra, Ghana*



## What's Possible...

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Are you a donor that wants to learn directly from participatory youth-driven grantmaking processes? Do you want to develop your own incremental plan towards a more decolonized approach that centers youth participation? Join **What's Possible!**

## Does this sound like you?

If these boxes apply, keep reading to explore what we can do together.

### Are you...

A donor that believes in the power of young people?

Striving to be a better funder to children and youth?

A donor that courageously contends with the consequences of colonial legacies and root causes of young people's vulnerability?

Ready to move resources to young people's priorities now through an appropriate structure, while learning how to do this on your own?

**BUT**

You've tried to learn how but mostly in an ad hoc way and are concerned with the potentially extractive and disruptive ways that may have impacted critical grassroots and community-based work.

This intention is not currently reflected in your grantmaking practices.

Your systems are not yet set up to be deeply participatory.

## Interested in learning more?

Join any of our [virtual Information Sessions](#) by registering here.

Submit your [expression of interest form](#) by 11 September 2023. Firm commitments are due by 1 October 2023.



## Why Join Now?

Many child and youth-focused donors\* increasingly recognize the importance of “shifting power” to young people, decolonizing their strategies, and transforming top-down adult-centric grantmaking. Too often, these intentions are impeded by a lack of understanding of how to do this well, by fears of causing harm or of losing power.

At the same time, justice and decolonization-focused participatory grantmaking (PGM) funds such as [CRIF](#), are increasingly documenting their work, but their learnings are not being applied widely. Young people, like [We Trust You\(th\)](#), are self-organizing for donor systems change, but currently lack the collective power to foster accountability.

## Who are we?

[CRIF](#) is a donor learning community and grantmaking fund leading a collective challenge to reinvigorate and transform the global children’s rights field by building power with children and youth activists and their allies., We cultivate innovation and collaboration to dismantle the root causes of children’s vulnerability and strengthen the root drivers of their well-being.

[We Trust You\(th\)](#) is an initiative that is co-led by five youth-led organizations from around the world. Together with other partners, they are here to challenge and support youth-focused donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to partner and fund young people more intentionally and equitably. They are driven by the need to end systemic inequities that currently thrive within relationships between youth-led organizations and youth-focused donors and NGOs.

*\*Note: there are a wide variety of focuses under “child and youth focused donors” differing in age range (i.e., 10-14, 10-24, 19-30), thematic focus (rights, gender justice, education, child protection, etc.), approach (advocacy and activism, movement building, systems change, etc.), and across a variety of geographies. All are welcome if the core values of meaningful youth participation are applicable.*

## What will we do together

We'll utilize these four interdependent components to guide our work together.

### 1. LEARN in Community in Real Time.

The Learning Institute will kick off in February 2024, with a three-day in-person training institute in Accra, Ghana that will teach foundational principles critical to strategy-building and grantmaking with youth.

In 2024, you will participate in a four-part virtual series that will share what we learn as we learn it directly from the process of strategizing and grantmaking with youth.

### 2. FUND While You Learn - Move Money Now.

Young people will design a strategy that we will follow and learn from.

By pooling \$1M in resources and funding a participatory process together, you will move money to child and youth activists through CRIF's signature youth-directed participatory strategy and grantmaking process.

### 3. Develop an Actionable PLAN.

You will have the opportunity to apply this learning by developing an incremental plan to improve your own systems. This plan will be tailored to the needs of each organization and will be on a timeline that challenges you, but is also realistic.

### 4. Be ACCOUNTABLE.

Concurrently, [We Trust You\(th\)](#) will launch a new, youth-defined accountability process to measure the philanthropic sector's progress toward meaningful youth engagement. This holistic accountability standard will prioritize equitable and fair partnerships with young people globally and across multiple thematic areas.

### And why are we doing it this way?

The four components of **What's Possible** are interdependent.

Too often donors only do one or two components, putting them at risk of being extractive or only learning and not taking action, and ultimately stalling progress. With **What's Possible**, your investment (see details below) will cover all four components (learn, fund, plan, accountability) enabling us to collectively demonstrate how it IS possible to collaborate with young people to move resources to their priorities.



## Here's a breakdown of the financial contribution needed to join the cohort and learn experientially:

Level of Organizational Resource Power <sup>1</sup>	Over 10 million USD in annual giving (donor)	Under 10 million USD in annual giving (donor)	NGO/intermediary
Contribution Thresholds	Minimum of 200,000 USD (70% directly to grantmaking fund)	Minimum of 100,000 USD (70% directly to grantmaking fund)	Minimum of 75,000 USD (70% directly to grantmaking fund)
Offerings			
LEARN Experiential Learning	Join one in-person introductory training institute in February 2024 + four virtual learning spaces over the course of the year that transform ways of working with and for children and youth.		
FUND Participatory + Youth-driven Grantmaking	Contribute to CRIF’s joint fund to move resources directly to child and youth activists through a strategy developed by child and youth activists.		
PLAN Pathway Planning	Through guided exercises, you will plan your organization’s pathway to more participatory, youth-centered and decolonized grantmaking strategies.		
ACCOUNTABILITY Youth-led Accountability	A proportion of all funds will go towards building a youth-led accountability system for long term progress.		
Additional Anticipated Costs: You will be responsible for any travel and accommodation costs associated with attending the in-person learning institute, as well as a registration fee. We recommend that 2-4 members of your organization attend together.			
<sup>1</sup> We hope to build a diverse co-hort that represents how young people currently and more ideally should access funding for their work. That said, we may group or include/exclude donors to meet that goal.			

Have questions that could be addressed via email?  
Contact [whatspossible@crifund.org](mailto:whatspossible@crifund.org).