

Activating in Critical Times Worksheet



Reflect. Plan. Act.

Use this simple worksheet as a companion to our blog series. It's designed to help you clarify your values, explore giving strategies and take meaningful steps in support of the causes that matter most to you.

1. Understand the Landscape | Chart what you care about, then learn what's needed.

A. What causes or communities do you care most about?

List up to 3 issue areas or organizations that matter to you. Use our [Nonprofits We Fund](#) tool to discover aligned organizations. *Example: Youth mental health, housing stability, arts access*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. What do you know about the current landscape and opportunities?

Explore local and statewide resources, including [East Metro Pulse](#), [Minnesota Compass](#), [Wilder Research](#) and the [Minnesota Council of Nonprofits](#), then briefly note what you learn.

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Amplify Your Giving | Take stock of what's possible — and what's next.

A. What is your current approach to giving?

- ☐ I give annually
☐ I give monthly

- ☐ I give through a donor advised fund
- ☐ I respond to giving requests as they come
- ☐ Other: _____

B. What could an increase in giving look like for you this year? *Check any that apply:*

- ☐ Increase the number or size of my grants
- ☐ Give to general operating funds
- ☐ Support a new organization
- ☐ Make a gift of appreciated or non-cash assets
- ☐ Start or grow a donor advised fund
- ☐ Other: _____

C. What's holding you back? What's possible?

Note any personal or financial constraints — and any areas of flexibility or new capacity.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. Use Your Advocacy | Advocacy is part of philanthropy, too.

A. List 1–2 issues or causes where you want to speak up or engage more deeply:

1. _____
2. _____

What actions could you take? *Check any that resonates with you.*

- ☐ Contact an elected official
- ☐ Attend a community forum
- ☐ Share a personal story
- ☐ Join an advocacy campaign
- ☐ Talk with friends or family

☐ Write an op-ed or social media post

☐ Other: _____

4. Invest in a Sustainable Ecosystem | Move from urgency to long-term impact.

A. What values drive your giving? *Check all that apply or add your own.*

☐ Accountability

☐ Beauty

☐ Community

☐ Compassion

☐ Equity

☐ Faith

☐ Growth

☐ Innovation

☐ Justice

☐ Knowledge

☐ Love

☐ Peace

☐ Other:

☐ Other:

B. Which of these values feel under threat right now – and why?

Reflect briefly on what you're seeing in the world that challenges these values.

C. Where do you see an opportunity to give differently for long-term impact?

Examples: capacity-building grants, staff development, evaluation support, pooled funds

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Make a Plan | Let's put it all together.

A. In the next...

- 7 days, I will:

- 30 days, I will:

- 3 months, I will:

Want help thinking through your giving plan?

Contact a [philanthropic advisor](#) at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation.