



Spring 2022

A letter To Our Grantees and Peer Foundations

There is nothing more potent than the power of collaboration, but why is it so difficult?

The Wright brothers gave us wings, and The Beatles gave us melodies while Ben and Jerry made life taste sweeter. Conversely, Covid and the tragedies unfolding in eastern Europe have caused us to face the harsh realities of a world that doesn't celebrate a shared vision. Lessons learned point to what can be accomplished *or avoided* if we collaborate and create, as long as we don't confuse hubris with self-confidence.

The entrepreneur in us knows of the power of ideas, but to collaborate; you have to employ three simple truths:

- 1 - It's not about you; it's your approach.**
- 2 - Failing is learning, so feel free to learn.**
- 3 - The power of collaboration is exponential.**

The common thread that runs through the most successful CEOs is curiosity. Be childlike in your approach and not childish. Keep your ego in check and don't just hear, listen. Seek out partners with methods to enhance your strengths and shore up your weaknesses. In collaboration, success is not a zero-sum "game," Your positive outcome does not mean another's loss. Great partnerships will find a way if we create a safe space for humility, an open hand, and a curious approach.

Overcome the fear of failure; failure is learning; own it, then wear it like a badge. From our first day to our last, failure is the mentor whose always there, providing you with the experience that leads to success. At SAGA, if we are not occasionally failing, we believe we are not pushing hard enough for new solutions.

Since beginning of our Convene, Collaborate, and Create campaign three years ago, we have facilitated over 25 initiatives that have become part of our grantee's strategic planning. From local libraries to block-chaining uranium, from California to sub-Saharan Africa, we are experiencing the exponential power of teamwork. We champion the work our grantees made possible through selfless, entrepreneurial collaboration. Yet, we have only scratched the surface of what may be done and with whom we might partner, so if your organization shares these values, we look forward to working with you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David', is located at the bottom left of the page.

David Bartoshuk
President
SAGA Foundation