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NONPROFIT WESTCHESTER WRAPS UP 2022 LEARNING LABS SERIES

Focusing on Building the Capacity of Nonprofit Organizations Led by People of Color

White Plains, N.Y. (December 21, 2022) – On Thursday, December 8, [Nonprofit Westchester](#) (NPW) hosted its final course of the 2022 Learning Labs series, which focused on how to measure the impact of a nonprofit’s work and followed Grant Writing and Financial Management classes. The 2022 Learning Lab Series consisted of five sessions over the course of three months, each focusing on a different key topic that is crucial to the success of nonprofit organizations. These free in-depth classes, targeted nonprofits led by people of color, and provided participants with new tools to build organizational capacity, develop individual skills, and enhance efficient and effective service.

NPW’s commitment to racial equity was the lens through which these programs were designed. In a proposal to Westchester County for funding for this initiative, NPW stressed, “Westchester’s nonprofit organizations led by people either living in or from the community they are serving should benefit from funding opportunities to build capacity, receive technical assistance, and establish a learning community. These organizations are often led by Black people and Brown people - for Black people and Brown people - who are best equipped to meet the needs of the community. In large part, due to systemic racism and exclusion from funding and other opportunities, these organizations often lack the expertise and resources to fortify their financial infrastructure.”

“I participated in each of Nonprofit Westchester’s Learning Labs and gained new skills that I could use immediately,” said DaQueen Monroe, CEO of [The Autism Project-FLOS](#). “The instructors were high level, and it was energizing to learn together with other Westchester nonprofit professionals. The trainings were so valuable, and I am grateful that my organization – especially as a small nonprofit – was presented with such a meaningful opportunity.”

Westchester County set the stage to launch the Learning Labs for free, and Hudson Valley Credit Union and Thompkins Community Bank generously contributed to the initiative, which will now be offered annually at a very reasonable fee.

“Westchester County was proud to provide funding for Nonprofit Westchester’s 2022 Learning Labs Series,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. “We recognize the critical work of our nonprofit sector in supporting the social and economic health of our County, and through this program, participants were able to learn about the most effective ways to ensure the success of nonprofit organizations in Westchester.”

“The Board of Legislators is proud to support NPW’s Learning Labs and other initiatives in order to continue to strive toward racial equity,” said Catherine Borgia, Chair of the Westchester court board of legislators. “I want to congratulate Jan Fisher and the entire NPW staff on another successful year of programming for those who need it most in Westchester. I look forward to our continued partnership in 2023 in serving the people of Westchester.”

The last interactive course, which took place at [The Westchester Library System](#), was headed by Laurel Molloy, Founder and Lead Consultant at [Innovations Quantified](#). There were three main topics covered throughout the series, and courses were offered free of charge through the generous support of Westchester County. Previous sessions included the Grant Writing Learning Lab instructed by Alison Paul of Alison Paul Grantwriting & Consulting on September 14 and September 21; and the Financial Management Learning Lab led by Tonia Papke, President of [MDI Consulting](#), and Phillip G. Morton, Chief Financial Officer of [Hope's Door](#) on October 25 and November 1.

Find Learning Lab Photos [HERE](#).

About Nonprofit Westchester

[Nonprofit Westchester](#) (NPW) is Westchester's only membership organization dedicated solely to advancing and advocating for the needs and interests of the county's nonprofit sector, the people and populations served, and the nonprofit workforce. Representing more than 300 members, NPW's vision is to build a thriving county with vibrant nonprofits and resilient, inclusive communities that value equity and inclusion, innovation, and integrity. The mission of NPW is to strengthen Westchester's nonprofit organizations as they transform lives, empower communities, and drive positive change. This mission and vision are supported through advocacy, education, and connection. To learn more about Nonprofit Westchester, visit their website: <https://npwestchester.org/>.