



How **Modern Grantmaking** helped the Spectris Foundation: a Case Study

The goals

[The Spectris Foundation](#) believes that every person should have an equal right to quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) education. They support charitable initiatives through distributing grants in these fields, and aim to empower students from all backgrounds.

Established in July 2021 via an endowment from Spectris Plc, the foundation is now reviewing learning to date with a view to continuously improve its grantmaking approach.

Modern Grantmaking was invited to design and deliver a hybrid-style learning workshop for the board of trustees to support them to understand the fundamentals of Modern Grantmaking and to debate key issues, such as, how to develop and maintain long-term relationships with grantees.

Our approach

Our approach to working with the Spectris Foundation was based on co-design and working with the client to understand their needs upfront and to then keep iterating or revising the workshop plan until we were satisfied that it would meet their needs. Therefore, we worked closely with the foundation director to understand 1.) which aspects of Modern Grantmaking values and practices may be of most interest and 2.) which specific grantmaking topics would be most useful for the board to review and debate.

After determining this, we drafted an initial workshop plan that included detailed exercises and our suggested approach to this kind of group facilitation. We then worked with the foundation director to refine this plan.



On the day of the workshop, we helped the board of the Spectris Foundation to learn more about Modern Grantmaking values, such as, humility and equity, as well as key grantmaking practices, such as, more flexible and longer-term funding. We also helped the board to debate how the foundation could improve its approach to giving grants internationally and to develop a deeper understanding of impact..

The impact

“Gemma and Tom are delightful to work with; they’re knowledgeable and thoughtful to their approach to designing and implementing workshops. Our board had nothing but praise for the modern-granting workshop, and it’s given us a lot of discussion points to advance and improve our approach to grant-making.

In board meetings since the workshop the trustees have referred to Modern Grant-making techniques and are challenging their thinking and approach to grant-making. It’s been a great reference point and helpful when making funding decisions.”

Rebecca Levy, Director, The Spectris Foundation