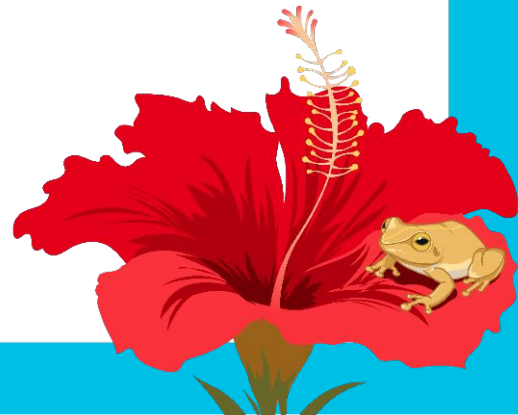
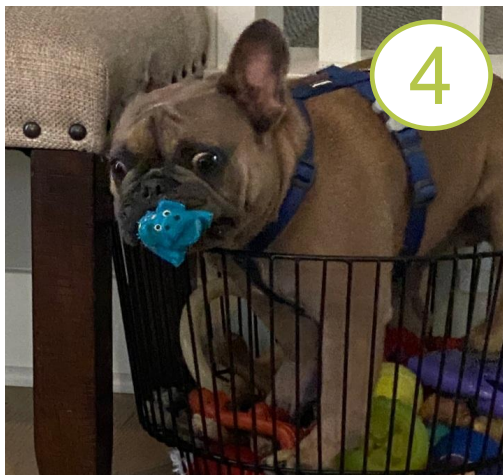


Life Centered Learning

Reimagining the Role of Technical Assistance
in Emerging Coop Ecosystems





Check in:

- Name, org, city
- Which animal represents you today, and why?

LIFE CENTERED LEARNING

PRESENTED BY:

JOHAN MATTHEWS
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

FUNDING THE FUTURE
COOPERATIVE FUND
OF THE NORTHEAST



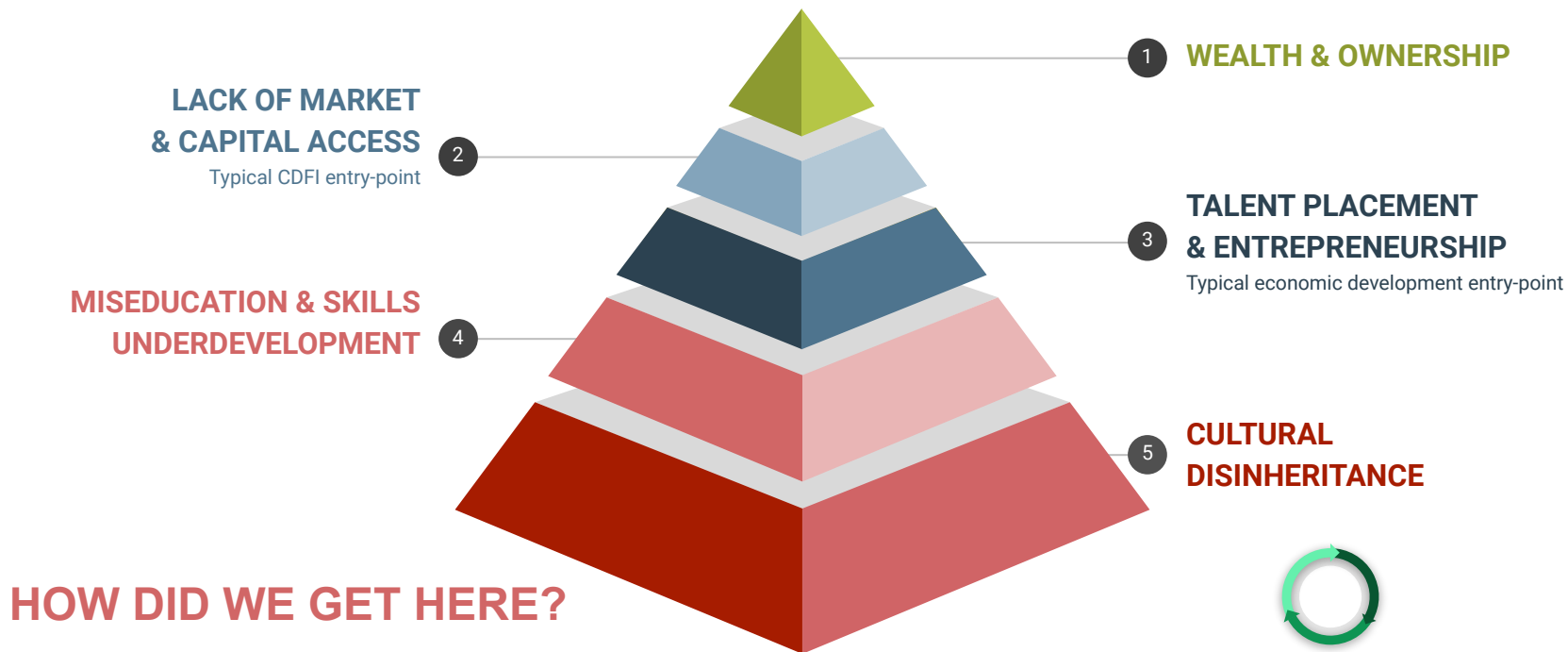
REIMAGINING THE ROLE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN EMERGING CO-OP ECOSYSTEMS

Session Overview | 45 minutes

- Why Didn't I Learn About Co-ops?
- Life Centered Learning
- Getting Started



*“Why **didn’t** I learn about **co-ops**?”*

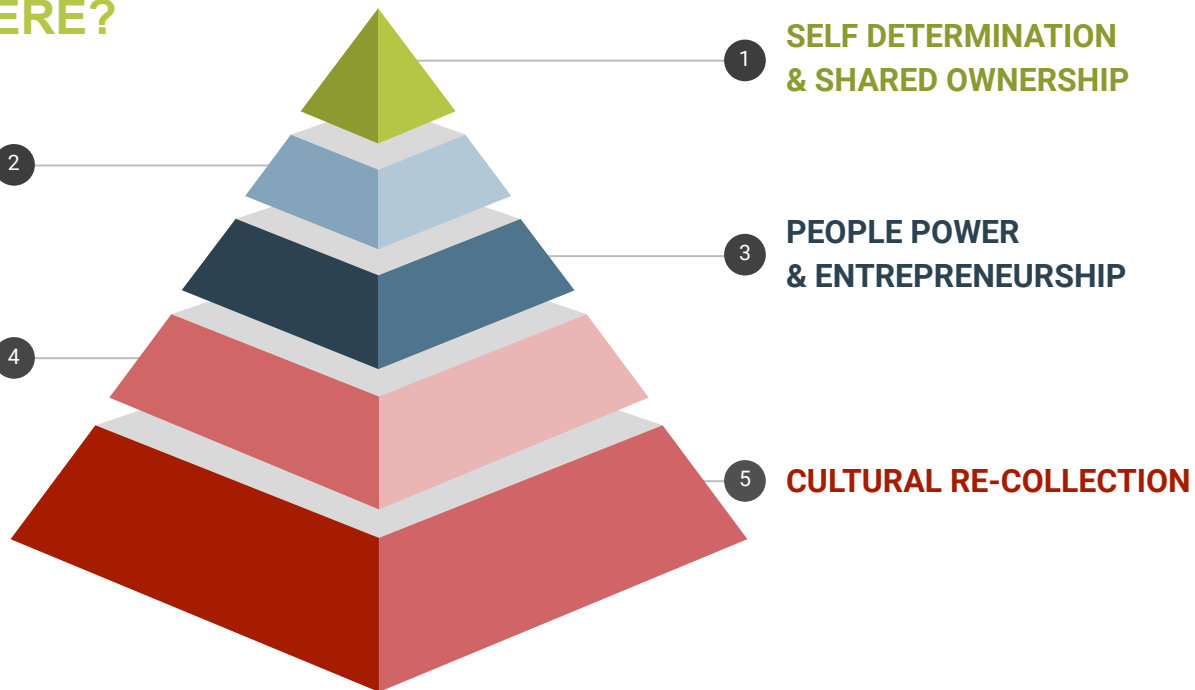


Adapted from *Building Entrepreneurship Ecosystems in Communities of Color*, Dell Guines & Rodney Sampson, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 2020.

HOW DO WE GET HERE?

COMMUNITY MARKET
& CAPITAL PROVISION

SELF DISCOVERY
& DEVELOPMENT



Adapted from *Building Entrepreneurship
Ecosystems in Communities of Color*, Dell
Guines & Rodney Sampson, Federal
Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 2020.

FUNDING THE FUTURE
COOPERATIVE FUND
OF THE NORTHEAST

Barriers to Cooperative Education in Emerging Co op Ecosystems?

1. **Mis-Education:**

- a. People need context and history to know it's relevant to their future

2. **Disconnection:**

- a. Lack of access to our ancestor's wealth of experience & knowledge

3. **Infiltration:**

- a. How our co-ops interact with outside institutions



Accessing Cooperative Education in Emerging Co op Ecosystems

1. Co-op Exposure:

- a. **Familiarity:** Lacking deep expertise.

2. Co-op Education:

- a. **Usage:** Mainstream institutions aren't connected to our lived experiences

3. Technical Assistance:

- a. **Reflection:** Direct engagement with a variety of approaches

What is the role of Technical Assistance in Emerging Ecosystems?

AT CFNE, WE RECOGNIZE THAT
OUR NATION'S HISTORY OF
**RACIALLY MOTIVATED
ECONOMIC EXCLUSION**
HAS LEFT EMERGING COMMUNITIES
ACROSS THE NORTHEAST
**WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO
CULTURALLY RELEVANT
CO-OP DEVELOPMENT**
...

CFNE
cooperativefund.org



The Role of Technical Assistance is Changing

Community Engagement:

with, not for

Communities often have members who deeply understand the issues they face and who have creative, viable ideas.

THE 
CO-OP 
NAVIGATOR
FELLOWSHIP



What is Life Centered Learning?

Life Centered Approaches are **Regenerative**.

They facilitate *symbiotic interactions* that respond to life cycles & benefit the entire ecosystem

- What are the essential qualities of the communities we are trying to serve?
 - *How are we helping to discover & express them?*
- Whose lived experiences are really needed to serve this community?
 - *Why aren't they involved or engaged?*
- How are our efforts supporting their regenerative capacities?
 - *Are we a regenerative institution?*

***Symbiotic**: Denoting a mutually beneficial relationship between unlike people or groups

Life Centered Learning Systems

CFNE LEARNING TEAM | 2023 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Reflection

- Strengths/Values Assessment
 - Individual
 - Team
- Program Assessment
- 5 forces cultural Assessment

Projection

- Key Themes + insights
- Probable + preferable futures
- Vision

Planning

- Goals
 - Start
 - Stop
- Priorities
- Roles

Life Centered Learning Systems

CFNE LEARNING TEAM | 2023 CORE COMPETENCIES

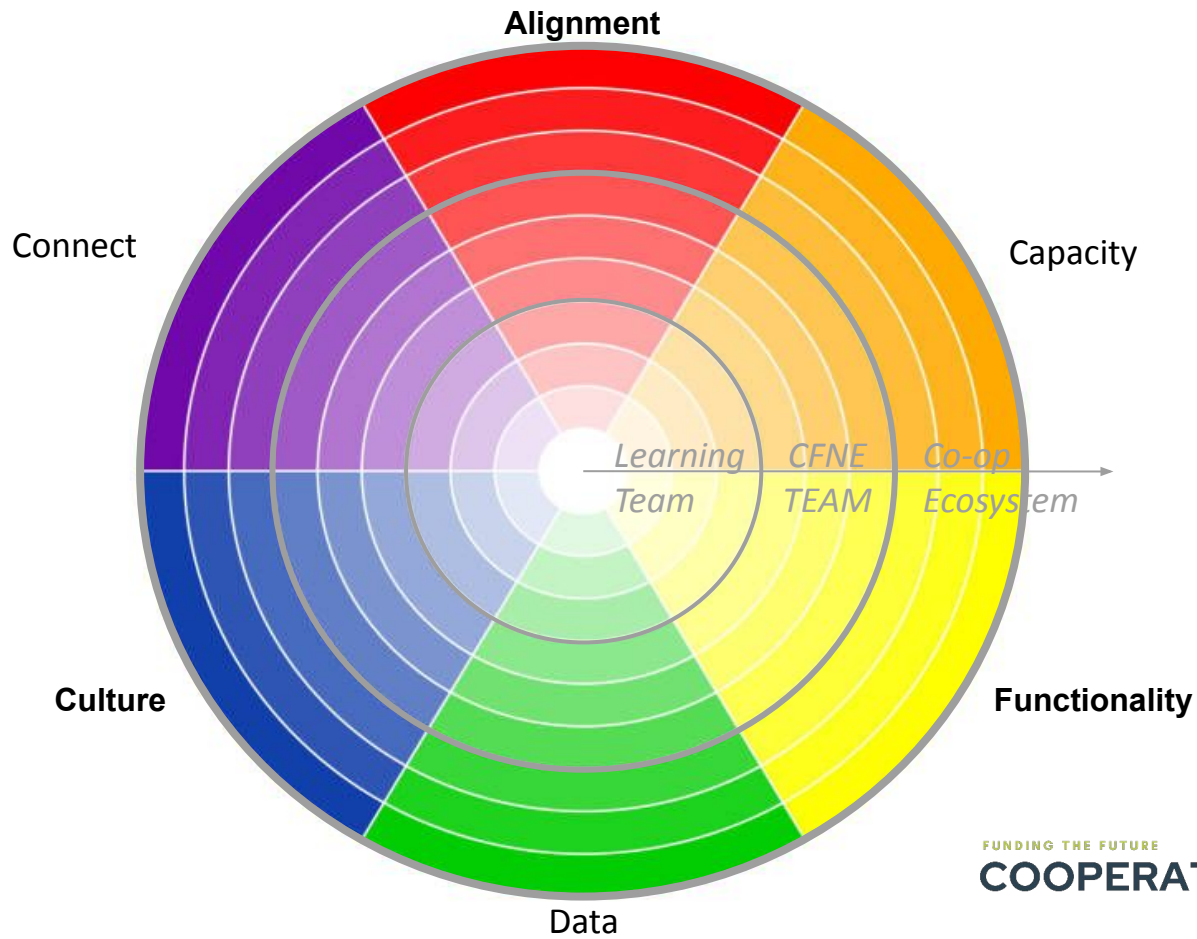
Our collective strengths & values inform our core competencies:

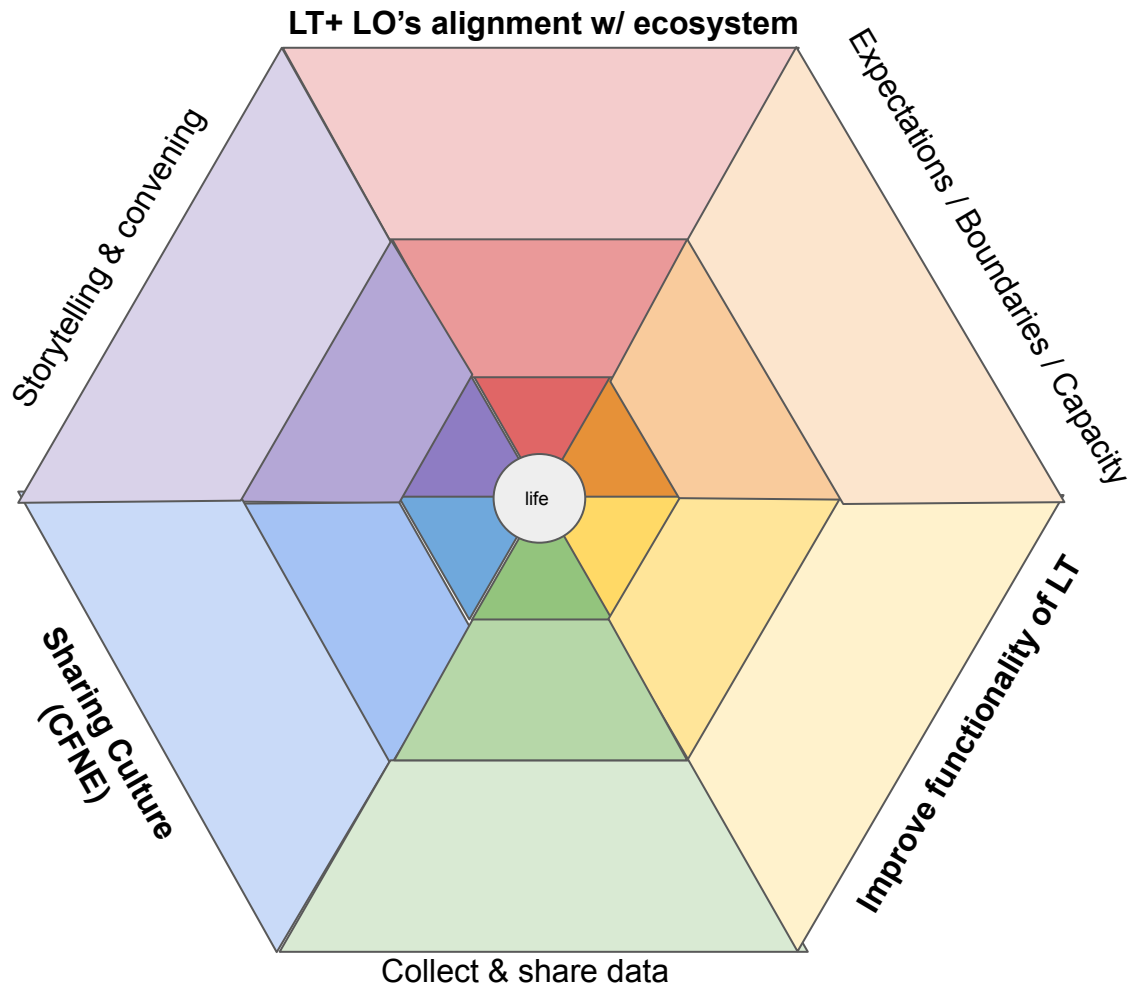
- **Ecosystem Engagement:** We listen in order to serve
- **Equity & Innovation:** We create value for the underserved
- **Shared Learning:** We learn from our shared lived experiences

Life Centered Learning Systems

CFNE LEARNING TEAM | 2023 PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

	Fellowship	PMI	Coaching	Co-op Monthly	Workshops	CFNE Capacity building	Area Score
Alignment	4	3.5	4	4	3.7	3	3.7
Excellence	3.7	4	3	3	3	3	3.3
Fills a gap	4	4	3.5	3.3	1.3	3	3.2
Depth	4	3	3.5	2.3	1.7	2.3	2.8
Builds community	3	3	2	2.3	2.3	3	2.6
Scale	2.3	2	2	3	3.7	1.3	2.4
Score	3.5	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.6	3





LO / LT alignment w/ ecosystem

Ecosystem Engagement: Listening to serve

- Expectations, Boundaries, Capacity
 - Expectations: What do cooperators + partners need, what benefits can they expect from CFNE?
 - Boundaries of our offering; What clearly defined roles and responsibility exist/ are needed?
 - Capacity: What can we do realistically? How do we know? How might we communicate that?

Improve functionality of LT

Equity & Innovation: Creating value for everyone

- Collect & share data
 - Making sense of what we hear
 - Changing the way we do things to better meet the needs of those we serve

Sharing culture (CFNE)

Mentorship: Learning from lived experiences

- Storytelling & convening
 - What did we do, what did we learn?
 - What's happening, what are we learning?
 - What don't we know, Who can we learn from?

FUNDING THE FUTURE

COOPERATIVE FUND
OF THE NORTHEAST

Life Centered Learning

CFNE LEARNING TEAM | 2023 VISION

We will increase the quality + consistency of collaboration with our partners, *so that* we can reduce friction for our most underserved clients and be in integrity in these relationships.

3 key issues:

- CFNE Staff Capacity:
 - expansion – specialization
- CFNE Org Culture:
 - equity – control
- Co-op Economy:
 - adoption – abandonment

We anticipate a need for symbiotic *systems* that facilitate:

- *Communication* between more specialized staff
 - *rehumanized roles & responsibilities*
- *Opportunities* for CFNE to venture further into equity
 - *empathetically engaging conflicts*
- *Nurturing* of long term, cross-org, team & level relationships
 - *avoiding siloing & sharing resources*

Learning Team Action Plan

CFNE LEARNING TEAM | 2023 GOALS

Start something new to invoke more life centered learning

Stop doing something to invoke more life centered learning

We will start | We will stop

- **Workshops:** As Forums for our co-op community (fellows, borrowers, partners) to tell their stories
- **CFNE capacity building:** Prioritizing support for great client interactions; getting clear on expectations
- **Coop monthly:** Developing longer form content delivered through multiple channels, CFNE as a character
- **Coaching:** Sharing digestible insights w/ LOs
- **Fellowship:** Platforming partners to tell their stories
- **PMI:** Collaborating with partners to tell the story of PMI

- **Workshops:** Shallow content that don't fill ecosystem gaps or build community
- **CFNE capacity building:** shallow interventions that won't transform our engagement with a target segment
- **Coop monthly:** shallow pieces of content that don't build community
- **Coaching:** coaching non target market
- **Fellowship:** Exclusively archiving content on Teachable
- **PMI:** Not Sharing responsibility for + story of sessions



Alignment w/ ecosystem & teams

- Are we helping LOs build confidence and deepen connections?
- Are we collaborating across departments/roles?
- Are we communicating capacity and what we can offer?



Sharing Culture

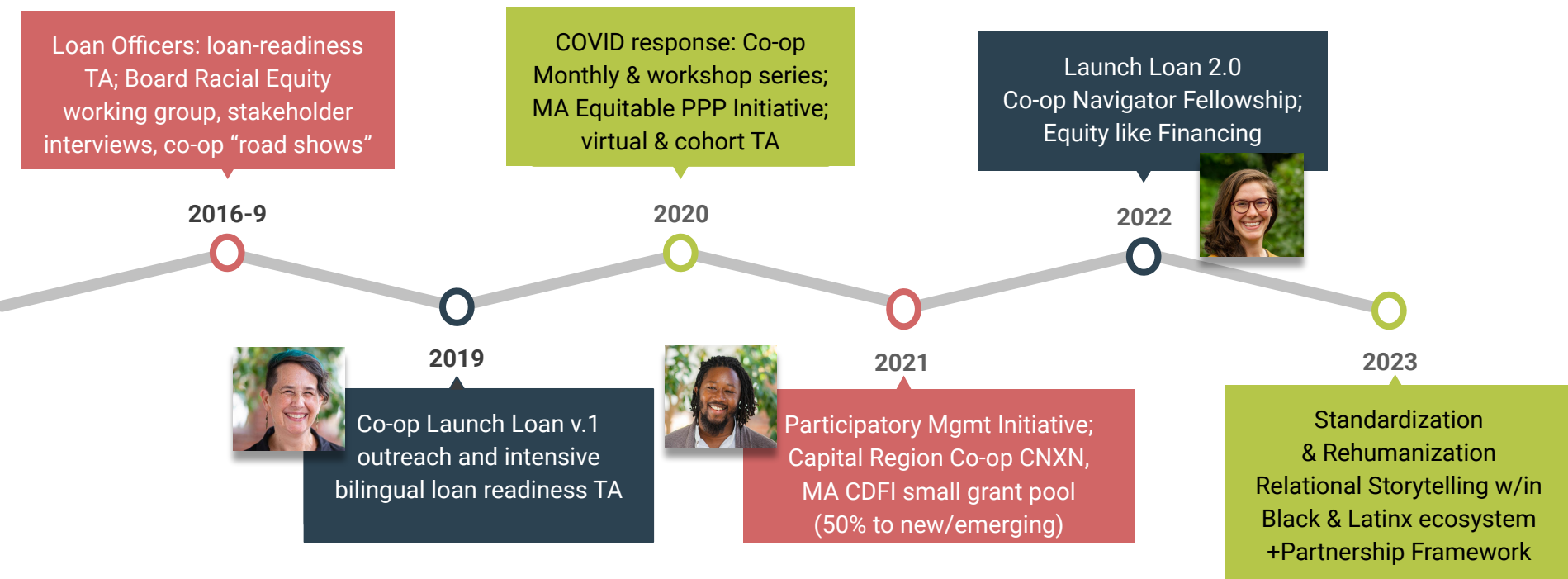
- Are we capturing our experiences?
- Are we listening to our stakeholders?
- Are we sharing what we're seeing/learning?



Improving functionality of LT

- Are our services accessible?
- Are we measuring what's important to us?
- Are our coaching engagements moving the needle for co-ops?

What's next?



FUNDING THE FUTURE

COOPERATIVE FUND
OF THE NORTHEAST



Getting Started

1. Facilitating Fellowship
→ Life Heals
2. Nurturing Mentorship
→ Life Grows
3. Co-Evolution
→ Life Evolves

BECOMING LIFE CENTERED

What do we need to start doing to cultivate life centered learning systems?

What do we need to stop doing to cultivate life centered learning systems?

We will start | We will stop



NEXT STEPS?

GET ENGAGED:

johan@cooperativefund.org

FUNDING THE FUTURE
COOPERATIVE FUND
OF THE NORTHEAST

