

# Tyler Fisher

Philanthropy | Advocacy | Strategy | Research

## Consulting Services

### Philanthropic Advising

I have experience working with philanthropists, family offices, foundations, and pooled funds.

### Consulting Competencies

**Strategy** — I help define grant-making strategies;

**Diligence** — I assess grantees and make funding recommendations;

**Evaluation** — I evaluate the impact grantees' programs;

**Operations** — I advise philanthropies on how to operationalize their giving with systems and structure;

**Collaboration** — I identify ways for philanthropists to Work together, including in leveraging pooled funds.

### Relevant Experience

- Diligencing and evaluating hundreds of grant proposals;
- Granting \$150M+ to a large ecosystem of democracy reformers;
- Serving as a Program Officer for more than 100 grantees;
- Standing up a Planning, Measurement, Evaluation, and Learning (PMEL) function and framework
- Training colleagues on grant-making philanthropists;
- Advising principals and foundations on new strategies;
- Summarizing the impact of grant portfolios;
- Creating strategies to guide investment decisions;
- Serving on two nonprofit boards, including as Board Chair;
- Supporting 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and PAC organizations;
- Retaining outside expertise to evaluate impact;
- Coordinating and convening grantees;

### Operational Excellence

I have experience working with founders, CEOs, Senior Teams, Fundraisers, and Program Leaders

### Consulting Competencies

**Strategy** — I help executives with the big picture;

**Partnerships** — I help organizations forge new synergies;

**Fundraising** — I support development professionals;

**Facilitation** — I convene and facilitate important conversations;

**Operations** — I advise organizations on how they operate.

### Relevant Experience

- Scaling a 2-person, \$500k/yr org to a 35 person \$60M+ enterprise;
- Leading and participating in multiple strategic planning processes;
- Coaching and advising hundreds of CEOs and Program Leaders;
- Crafting donor collateral including pitch decks, grant proposals & memos;
- Standing up and running countless advocacy and nonprofit programs;
- Convening coalition tables to drive alignment and boost trust;
- Briefing elected officials, donors, partners, media, and civic leaders
- Recruiting, hiring, and managing 20+ staff members and vendors;
- Acting as Board Secretary working closely with an Executive Director
- Serving on two nonprofit boards, including as Board Chair of one and Development Chair of the other

# My Consulting Practice

Some cliff notes on how I aspire to help philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and advocates:

- **Consulting Competencies** | I am a track of all trades that have seen the good, the bad, and the ugly in how nonprofits and philanthropists operate. I am finding I can have a major impact when I am helping a CEO or senior program leader on a strategy problem – often related to how the organization is raising money. **I can conduct strategic planning, facilitate important conversations, do program evaluation, source grantees, and more** (see next page).
- **Issue Advocacy** | I have worked on countless **legislative and ballot measure campaigns** at the state-level – primarily as a funder of, and advisor to, local activists and campaign managers. I am also familiar with litigation strategies and charter review processes. I have advised clients on **federal advocacy strategy** under the Trump administration and am also working at the **local level** in my small town and large county. I have interest in international work, though I have never done it professionally; I did study **international development** and British/EU relations at Oxford University.
- **Clients** | I have experience advising and working for foundations, family offices, philanthropists, pooled funds, nonprofits, ballot measure committees, and early stage startups.
- **Issue Areas:** I am most well versed in the **U.S. democracy reform landscape**. I have lived experience with **mental health** that has motivated me to learn and work on the issue. I am also passionate about, and have a track record of supporting organizations working on: **housing, immigration, and economic opportunity**.
- **Work Style** | I can advise and coach clients on a recurring and one-off basis. I relish asynchronous work and enjoy putting together a pithy memo or simple deck. I believe in offering concurrent recommendations to solve short-term problems my clients face while thinking about the big picture.
- **Research** | I have managed a five person research team and **commissioned research** from think tanks and university scholars. I have also **authored a considerable amount of applied research** that blends rigorous methods, literature reviews, case studies, and persuasive advocacy. I have written white papers, blogs, op-eds, and explainers. For example:
  - White Papers: “[The Case for Political Philanthropy](#)” and “[The Primary Problem](#)” were widely cited and catalyzed action by philanthropists and activists in the US Election Reform community. The latter attracted considerable media attention (e.g., *Atlantic* [essay](#); *Washington Post* [coverage](#)) and became the foundation for [a book](#).
  - Explainers: “[Democracy and Mental Health are Linked](#)” and “[The Department of Education Isn’t Just Bureaucracy – It’s a Lifeline](#)”
  - Op-Eds: “[Stay at Home. Vote at Home](#)” and “[Coloradans deserve access to quality mental health care](#)”
- **Example Work Product** | Tyler has developed a landscape of the democracy reform movement in the United States to help guide philanthropists in crafting strategy and sourcing grantees. A copy is available for prospective clients as an example of the type of work Tyler can do.
  - “[Democracy Philanthropy Guide](#)” (password: Trailmark)