karma cents

karma Social Visioning Assessment Questions

Information I am Seeking

Values: What are the families core values?

Are these values clearly defined and how do they impact the assets controlled by the family?

Vision: What is the vision for the future of the family? Is the vision reflective of the family's values? Is the vision compelling/inspirational to its stakeholders? How does this vision impact the family's assets?

Time Horizon: What is the possibility of the continuation of the fund as an economic entity over the next five years? 25 years?

Questions for my Practice

portfolio align with their values?
Do I need to put a ESG screen on the investments?
Do I need to source a local fund?

Does my client's investment

Do I need to direct assets or redistribute assets into an impact fund or private equity social purpose business?

Does the current wealth strategy or tax plan fit the longterm vision of my client?

Can we currently achieve this vision given the asset base that is under management?

Do I need to advise on additional products and/or services to achieve this vision?

What is the time horizon for my client?

If short-term, will setting aside cash in an accessible fund meet their objectives? If it is longer-term, should I be looking at directing them towards a DAF or Private Foundation? Will others be contributing to this fund? If yes, who – family, friends, strangers, companies?

Possible Actions

Review the current portfolio holdings and see if a better alignment can be made between investment strategy and philanthropic objectives.

Resources (websites): Local Investing YYC, Active Impact Fund, Social Venture Exchange

Determine the skillsets & expertise required to help the family achieve this vision. Share with your client the different types of products and/or services available to support this vision.

Resources: Donor Logic Model

Provide information on the difference between Community Foundations, Institutional Donor Advised Funds, Private Foundations and Annual Giving. Share information on governance structures for family philanthropy.

Resource: Giving Vehicles Comparison Chart





Information I am Seeking

Growth Perspective: Is the family in "harvest" mode or "growth mode"?

Is everyone in agreement with this?

Shared Urgency: What is the successor's responsibility to create NEW wealth?

Is there a sense of urgency in wealth creation?

Participation: Does the vision for the future create a compelling reason for family participation?

Why should they care?

Questions for my Practice

Does the family philanthropy and investment strategy reflect the wealth lifecycle? Do we need to have a way to sunset the philanthropy program? What type of governance structure and subsequent additional supports will be needed? Who will manage this? Are they onboard?



Family map out where they think they are in their business and personal lifecycles. Is there a disconnect between different generations and understandings of the financial lifecycle? Have conversation about this to articulate expectations about the purpose of the capital.

Resource: Giving Vehicles Comparison Chart

What are the roles and responsibilities around management and planning expectations of the philanthropic plan? Will other family members be adding to the base over time? Is there a specific need that they are trying to address (i.e. building a school in the next year) and timing? Is there a specific tax issue?

Create a disbursement schedule and determine how much capital is required to meet those obligations.

Draft accountability agreements that articulate the roles & responsibilities of staff and family around the philanthropy plan.

Resources: Donor Logic Model

What support can I offer those who are coming up the family chain? When/how does the next generation get involved to advance the overall vision of the founder and reinforce the values of the family? What other supports/services are needed for the family in order to help them engage the next generation?

Have family participate in a series of activities around values, empathy and visioning legacy.

Resource: Giving Vehicles Comparison Chart, Legacy Interview Questions

https://karmaandcents.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Legacy-Interview-Questions-Sample.pdf