

## FEAN Member Survey

As part of the Funder and Evaluator Affinity Network (FEAN) culminating activities, co-conveners, Engage R+D and Equal Measure, fielded a survey in May 2021 to capture experiences from members of the FEAN community and understand the impact of our work together. A total of 49 members responded to the survey. This document summarizes their responses and respondent characteristics.

### Perspectives on FEAN

Exhibit 1. Impact of FEAN Participation (n=49)

To what extent has participation in FEAN...	Not at all	A little bit	Some-what	A lot	A great deal
a. Exposed you to new ideas about the practice of evaluation in philanthropy	4%	22%	<b>33%</b>	29%	12%
b. Supported you in making, sustaining, or deepening relationships with peers and colleagues	10%	20%	20%	20%	<b>29%</b>
c. Increased your motivation to contribute to field-building efforts in the future	4%	6%	<b>33%</b>	31%	27%

Exhibit 2. Applying Insights (n=49)

To what extent has your organization (or network of practice) applied insights from FEAN, including the recent Call to Action Series, to...	Not at all	A little bit	Some-what	A lot	A great deal
a. Strengthen the impact evaluation has on foundation strategy and practice	14%	22%	<b>37%</b>	14%	12%
b. Better support the leadership of evaluators of color within firms and foundations	14%	12%	<b>35%</b>	27%	12%
c. Increase knowledge-sharing for the benefit of others working in the field	12%	14%	<b>39%</b>	18%	16%
d. Strengthen the role evaluators working in global development play when it comes to transforming global systems to tackle Earth's most pressing problems	<b>51%</b>	18%	22%	6%	2%
e. Support stronger partnerships among evaluation consultants for the benefit of all stakeholders	16%	14%	<b>29%</b>	22%	18%

**Exhibit 3. FEAN Accomplishments (n=49)**

In your opinion, to what extent has FEAN...	Not at all	A little bit	Some-what	A lot	A great deal
a. Helped to transform the way evaluators & funders work together to deepen social impact	2%	29%	<b>31%</b>	29%	10%
b. Created space for funders and evaluators to highlight and engage with issues important to our field	-	14%	12%	33%	<b>41%</b>
c. Elevated the importance of equitable evaluation and grantmaking practices	2%	14%	18%	<b>39%</b>	27%

**Exhibit 4. How FEAN has affected you, your organization or network of practice, and/or the broader field. (n=17)**

**Fostered connections and relationships, including between funders and evaluators (8 responses)**

- “FEAN has allowed me to broaden my network and make connections with folks that I may not have. But what I enjoyed most was working closely with like-minded folks - on both the evaluator and funder side.”
- “FEAN has been a great overarching collaboration effort.”
- “FEAN has been a tremendous opportunity to connect with funders and evaluators in the evaluation ecosystem. Relatively new to the field, I have benefited from the networking and relationship-building opportunities.”
- “FEAN has supported deeper relationships and trust with fellow evaluators and funders.”
- “I feel so much more connected to the philanthropic evaluation community and more hopeful about future directions for our field.”
- “I have appreciated FEAN creating a space that allows evaluators and funders to come together at the same table. There are many spaces that it feels like evaluators have to fight to have a place at (like GEO) and FEAN has felt like a space with less of the traditional power dynamics”
- “I’ve developed relationships with other evaluators and learning/eval leaders at foundations that may lead to greater collaboration on work, knowledge-sharing, and calls to shift practice in the field.”
- “Loved the conversations, and it was great to be able to meet new colleagues.”

**Provided a space to share knowledge, resources, and best practices (6 responses)**

- “Built my own capacity in field building and in thinking through, with diverse colleagues (funders and evaluators) the development of field building in evaluation for global transformation”
- “FEAN has created an important set of norms, standards, and best practices for how foundations and evaluation consultants should engage.”
- “For my institution, especially where it was organizationally, FEAN helped to provide a container for thinking/doing I was already engaging in. FEAN also helped me to see relationally where my institution is relative to others, from a point of learning from others about what they’ve tried, as well as to see where we’ve been trying things that can be shared. “
- “It’s helped connect disparate parts of the field to my work and offers resources - both people/networks and guides for best practice - that weren’t in a centralized location before.”
- “Participating in FEAN has also exposed me to new practices/solutions for some very difficult challenges facing evaluators in philanthropy.”

- “Our initiative partners closely with FEAN on thought partnership, dialogue, and product development. The work of this group has had a great influence on our work. There is a lot still to be done and we are grateful to have such a good partner.”

#### **General praise and appreciation (5 responses)**

- “FEAN has been a strong field building exercise.”
- “FEAN has been one of the most important and beneficial programs I’ve participated in since entering this field.”
- “FEAN was a fantastic professional home for me, and a great place as I navigated from a funder to a consultant in my own career”
- “It was an impact-driven space, a place where we showed up with our personal values and beliefs. It has been a really amazing experience, and I will miss it.”
- “This has been the single most significant membership for me in my work. I can’t imagine not having this resource.”

#### **Recommendations and critiques (2 responses)**

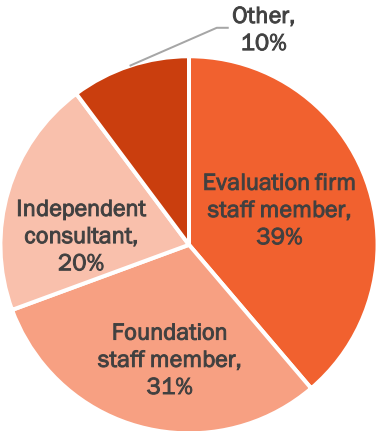
- “FEAN’s workstreams felt quite siloed to me. I would’ve liked to have been involved in more than one area of conversation. I think the workstream in which I was involved could have benefited from greater co-creation.”
- “There has been minimal visibility and usability of this work. It seems to be more a way to highlight and position the organizers rather than contribute to the field.”

#### **Other responses (5 responses)**

- “FEAN conversations have helped me think differently, and also with the collective force/authority of peers across the country.”
- “FEAN has helped to change the narrative about the role of evaluation in philanthropy in such a practical, action focused way. So many of the issues that have been bubbling under the surface for years were brought to the collective awareness of this group in a solutions-oriented, constructive way.”
- “FEAN is part of a momentum that has gathered around evaluation in the service of equity and is as much a part of the energy as it has helped to shape it.”
- “Would be so wonderful to consider how to sustain conversation / exchange of perspectives between funders and evaluators”

**Respondent Characteristics**

**Exhibit 5. Affiliation**



**Exhibit 6. Geography of Practice**

