On Social Entrepreneurship and Civic Innovation

David Renz
“Sparking Social Entrepreneurship” Panel
Federal Reserve’s 2014 Shift Innovation Conference
September 22, 2014
Our Perspective on the Field

- Social entrepreneurship is a process involving the innovative use and combination of resources to pursue opportunities to catalyze social change and/or address social needs.

- Mair and Marti (2005:37)
For-Profit Business Sector

Nonprofit Sector

Entrepreneurial & Innovative Leadership

Government Sector

David Renz: The Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership at UMKC
A Continuum: From Purely Philanthropic to Purely Commercial (adapted from work of Alter)

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Where Social Entrepreneurship Tends to Reside

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We Draw on Two Basic Schools of Thought

- Social Enterprise School
- Social Innovation School

Dees & Anderson
Social Entrepreneurship vs Social Enterprise

Entrepreneurship
- Focus is “innovative new entry”
- Innovative, risk-taking, and proactive
- Adaptable to any market environment
- Works with traditional nonprofit capacities

Enterprise
- Focus is revenue
- Any behavior that achieves financial ends
- Most effective in commercial environments
- Different capacities are needed for success

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Dees’ Blend: Enterprising Social Innovation

- Carry out innovation
  - Inventors versus innovators
- Blending methods from business and philanthropy (from Dees’ social enterprise spectrum)
- Create social value
- Is sustainable and has potential for large-scale impact.

David Renz: The Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership at UMKC
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