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**More listening, less talking:
Is this a simple way to foster a
philanthropic culture?**

Dr Ruth Knight

QUT's Australian Centre for
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies
(ACPNS)



People switch off when I start talking about fundraising & philanthropy

People don't want to know what I do (and don't ask)



People don't send me referrals of potential donors or sponsors

They expect me to work miracles!





Doing / Saying

Thinking

Feeling



A community energised by generosity and shared goals.
Everyone plays a role in supporting *all* donor's feeling heard
and valued, as they know that philanthropy provides
opportunities and improves wellbeing.



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J WILLARD MARRIOTT LIBRARY



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A complex maze made of blue paths and white walls. The maze is divided into three main sections by a vertical line. The left section is a square maze, the middle is a more intricate maze, and the right is another square maze. Below the maze is a solid blue rectangular area. In the center of this blue area, the text "Where do we start?" is written in bold black font on a yellow background. To the right of the text, there is a dark blue shadow of a person walking towards the right.

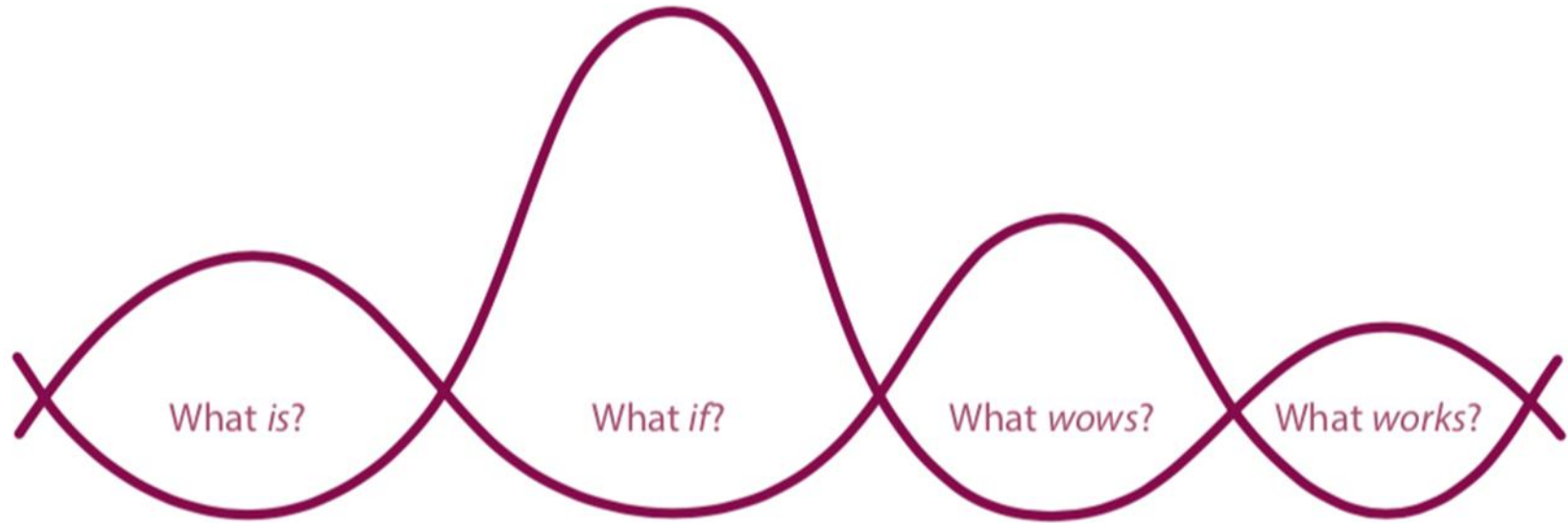
**Where
do we
start?**

Listening can ensure someone
feels heard and understood.



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Says



Does

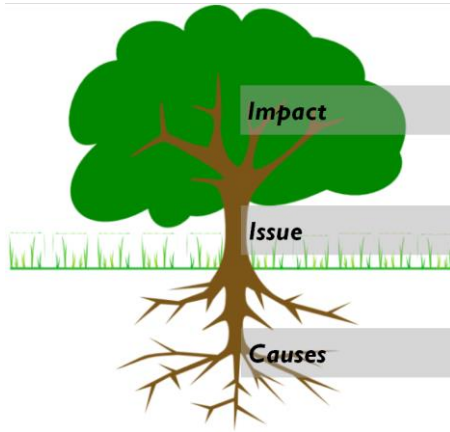


Thinks



Feels

Notes & observations



Stories



Pictures



How could we
listen to what people
think and feel about
philanthropy and
fundraising?



01

Make sense of what is not being said or being hinted at beneath the actions and words.

02

Ask reflective questions and use metaphors and stories so you can dig deeper into people's experiences.

03

Use your listening to understand people's desires and needs.



Enable ongoing programming support for Book Arts education and training

The Marriott Library's Book Arts Program creates enrichment opportunities for university students, k-12 schools and educators, and community members through various programs that utilize bookmaking as an educational tool. Its outreach efforts connect classrooms around the state with university students, faculty, and staff providing early exposure to higher education and art programming that complements academic curricula.

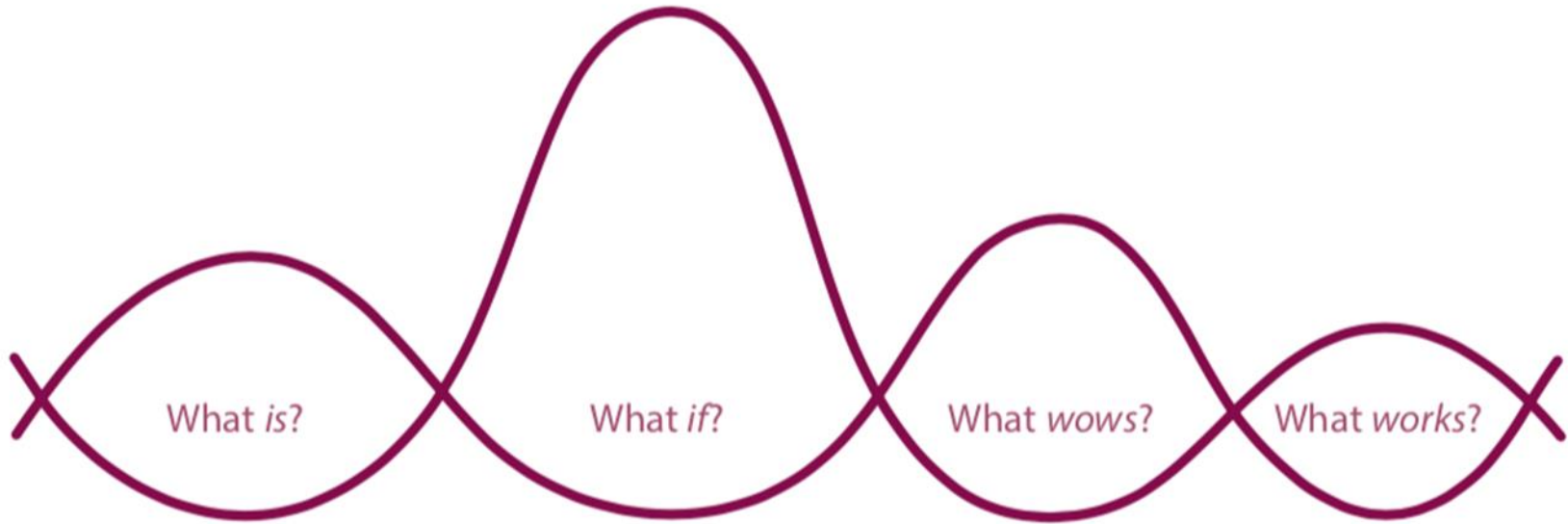
In addition to outreach programming, the program provides a minor and certificate in Book Arts and Master of Fine Art in Creative Writing and Book Arts. These academic designations are supported by classes exploring letterpress printing, bookbinding, artists' books, and typography.

Private support is critical to the program's ability to reach more than 12,000 students each year and allows Book Arts to host workshops and community drop-in sessions in paper-making, bookmaking, and printing.



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What if..... we regularly share stories about both donors *and* beneficiaries to highlight the real impact of philanthropy?



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Donor Spotlight



Dave Morrison

Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, the library is able to provide high quality resources and extremely knowledgeable and caring staff and faculty to help students at every corner. None of what we do would be possible without the many thoughtful and supportive partners of the Marriott Library. Dave Morrison is now a retired librarian, after 32 years of work at the library, he loved the work done here so much, he decided to give back in a tremendous way.

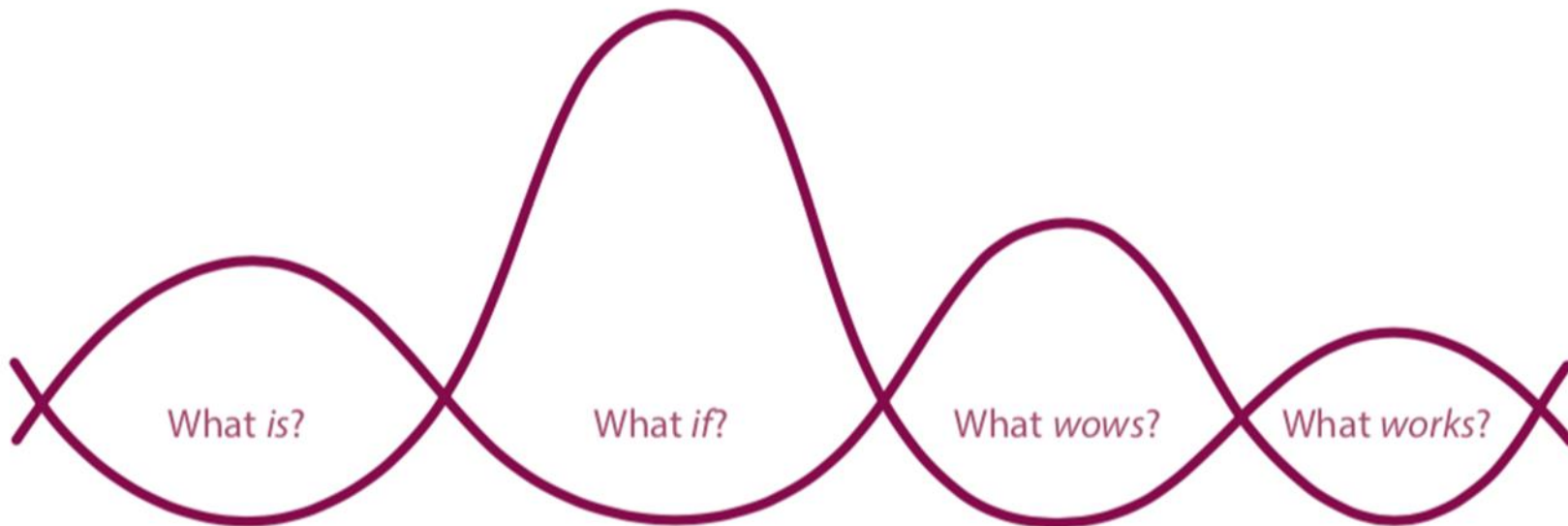


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What stories do you
share and why?



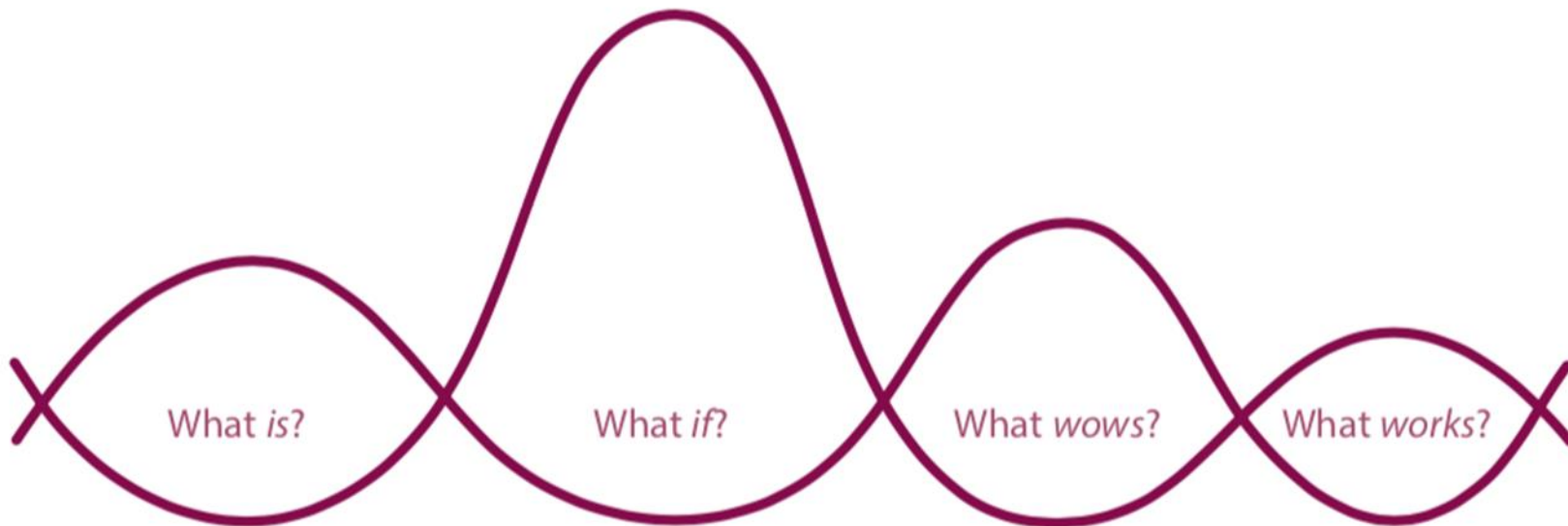


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What would you
do as the
Director of Donor
Experiences?





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Thankyou for your kind
donation, it has helped
us provide music therapy
that enriches the lives
of children and families
in our care

Thankyou!
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01

It has changed how people think and feel about fundraising.

02

The library has received some of the largest gifts in its history (US\$3.5m and US\$2m).

03

We listened with donors to gather their feedback about an idea a staff member had. This led to the donors expanding the original vision and completely funding it.



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What might a culture
of philanthropy look
and feel like in your
organisation?



A culture of philanthropy is not a program or a project



It is an acknowledgement
of and adherence to a set of
**SHARED VALUES
AND GOALS**

The culture is created by consistent
reinforcement, storytelling,
systems and processes, celebration
and learning together to
ACHIEVE STRATEGIC GOALS

These guide the manner
in which people
**THINK, TALK
AND ACT**
within the organisation.

