

PETER SMITH

PRO BONO CONSULTANT



CITY: LOS ANGELES
FIELD: STRATEGY
PROJECTS: FIVE

“As a project develops, I aim to answer the three Cs:
1) Are all the nonprofit staff fully **committed** to the project?
2) Do they have the **capabilities**, or skill sets, to implement a solution?
3) Do they have the time, or **capacity**, to support the solution in the long term?”

Peter has been a dedicated member of the Taproot pro bono consultant team since our founding of the Los Angeles office in 2009. Currently working on his fifth service grant project, Peter has made a significant difference in the nonprofit community and within his pro bono consultant teams. Eager to jump in on a project, he has lent his leadership to support many nonprofits, even in the face of tough challenges. He says some accomplishments include the use of his management training expertise to integrate a performance management system and help a nonprofit identify skills the organization needed to support its strategic plan.

PETER’S PROJECTS:
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT,
STRATEGIC PLANNING PREP,
STRATEGIC STAFF DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE
L.A. CONSERVATION CORPS
LAMP INC.
PACIFIC LODGE YOUTH SERVICES
UNION RESCUE MISSION

Peter says two things motivate him to continue this work: the nonprofits and the pro bono consultant teams with whom he works. He has come to realize that most nonprofits do not have the capability or capacity to do all that they wish. What he appreciates about the Taproot model is that, unlike most foundations that just provide financial support, Taproot service grants equip nonprofits with the skills and time that enables them to overcome operational barriers and make necessary improvements. Also, he likes being a part of a team that includes younger professionals, as it energizes him and occasionally offers mentoring opportunities. Peter continues to impact the lives of those around him by providing advice and support.

PETER’S PRO BONO POINTERS

ADVICE FROM THE FIELD

When staffing a pro bono consultant team, try and include people who have not yet worked on a project and give them the chance to learn and serve their communities.

Fully understand the nonprofit’s *true* needs, their capabilities and capacity challenges, and tailor your recommendations to ensure that the nonprofit can actually implement your proposal.

Did You Know?

Peter worked on one of the first service grant projects in Los Angeles and has worked on a different project every grant round since he became a pro bono consultant.

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Thank you
for making
it matter,
Peter!

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