FundWell

A Swift Summary of Wellbeing Stuff for Funders

Hello Changemakers,

Let's talk about the new(ish) kid on the block: Artificial Intelligence.

AI is beginning to have an effect on the way our organisations operate and achieve our goals. From data analysis to donor engagement, AI is streamlining processes, reducing costs, and reducing busy work. For example, AI-powered analytics can help organisations better understand their donors and create more targeted and effective fundraising campaigns. AI can also assist with program evaluation and impact assessment, allowing nonprofits to spend fewer resources measuring their success and making data-driven decisions–and, in theory, enabling more resources to be spent on things like workforce wellbeing, R&D, or simply lightening the load.

But, as AI becomes more prevalent in the social-change world, there's also the worry that it could lead to job displacement, loss of human interactions, and significant ethical implications around data privacy and decision making bias–all things we know negatively affect wellbeing and our missions. As AI algorithms rely on existing data to learn and improve, there is a huge risk that already prevalent and highly biassed data sets or decision making frameworks could lead to perpetuating and even amplifying societal biases.

So, what does all of this mean for the wellbeing of our workforce and wellbeing of the social-change sector as a whole? If you're looking for a high level intro to the mixed potential of AI in our sector, read on.

Be well,

Jessamyn & the Funders+Wellbeing team

P.S. It seemed appropriate that for this newsletter we used ChatGPT and NightCafe to generate some of the content. Enjoy the meta poetry at the end!
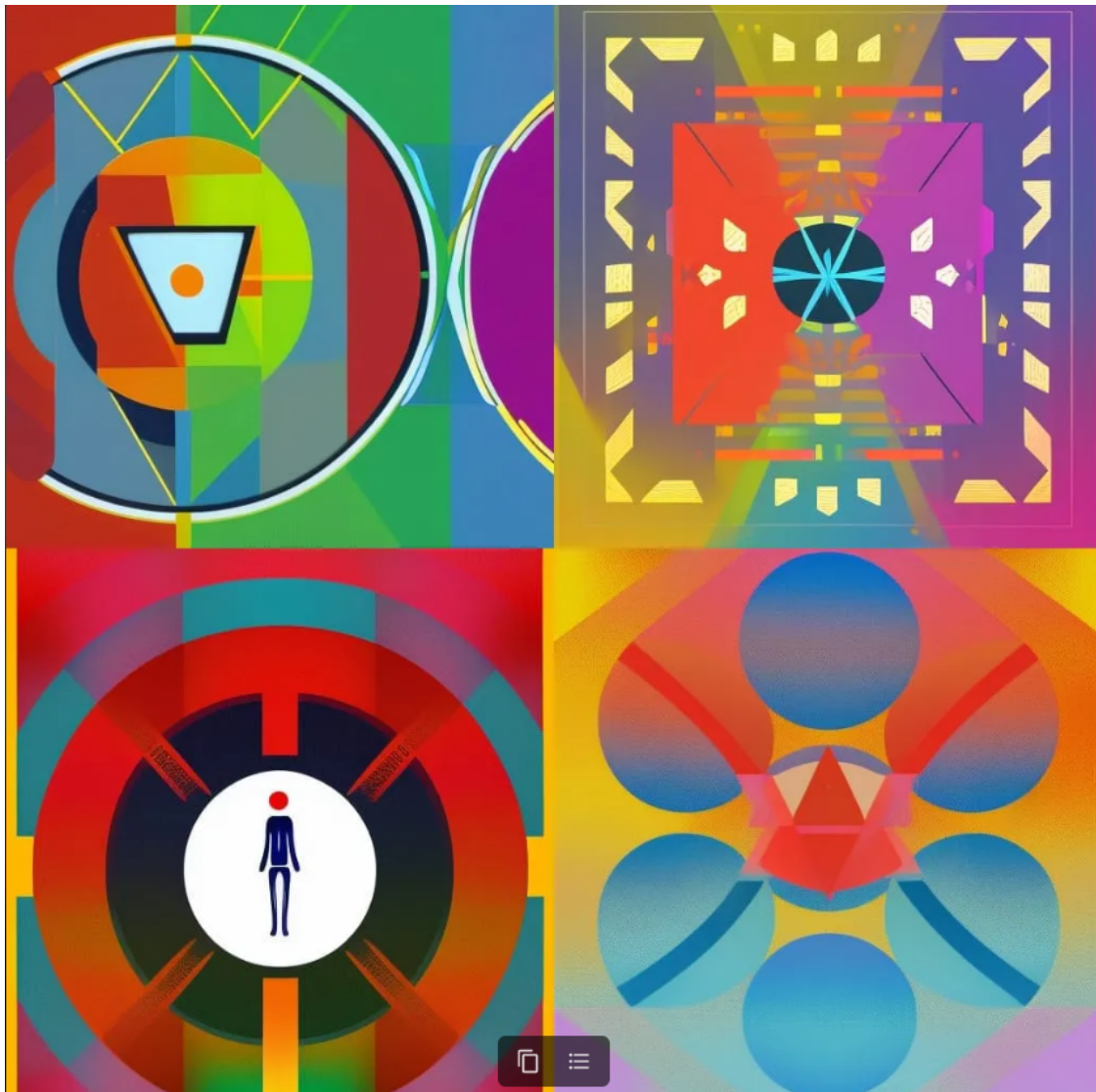

Photo: Image created by NightCafe AI image generator using the prompt, 'How AI could centre equity, compassion, and wellbeing'

FundWell Essentials

- Dr. Lobna Karoui, Data & AI Strategist, [details some of the positive ways](#) AI can be harnessed by changemakers.
- Beth Kanter, tech maven of the nonprofit sector, [highlights the intersection](#) of AI and wellbeing in the nonprofit sector
- Global multisector community, Partnership on AI, [produced a framework](#) for how AI can both negatively and positively impact workers across 6 'pillars of

wellbeing'

Talking Points: pick one and start a conversation!

- Are you familiar with the ways AI can be integrated into your work and the work of those you fund? How might you and your team begin to educate yourselves on both the potential and pitfalls of AI?
- How might funders ensure that the positive benefits of AI are equitably distributed among the organisations of different sizes and missions? How can we ensure smaller or under-resourced nonprofits are not left behind in the adoption of new technologies?
- What data or decision making frameworks would you currently be hesitant/not want to use to inform machine-learning algorithms? What would you need to do to address power asymmetries and biases in data and frameworks before they are integrated into your organisation's use of AI tools?

Words on Wellbeing

Sennay Ghebreab, Professor of Socially-Intelligent AI at the University of Amsterdam, shares his belief that AI must–and can–be developed to optimise for equity, compassion, and wellbeing.

And, as a special bonus, ChatGPT, muses on the potential and pitfalls of… itself!

The rise of AI, oh what a thing!
A future bright, with hope it brings.
The potential grand, the benefits vast,
A world of possibilities unsurpassed.

AI can improve our health and care,
It can diagnose with speed and flair.
It can detect diseases, find a cure,
Helping humanity live longer, that's for sure.

But with every blessing, there's a curse,

AI can make us feel even worse.

It can track our every move and word,

Invading our privacy, like an intruding bird.

AI can make us feel so small,

Like we're just a number on a wall.

It can make us lonely, disconnected,

Lost in the maze of technology, unsuspected.

The potential and pitfalls of AI,

A double-edged sword, to always keep in mind.

We must tread carefully, with caution and care,

To ensure our wellbeing, and the future we share.

How does your funding organisation define wellbeing? Does it support wellbeing for its stakeholders? Reflect and share here, in the Funders + Wellbeing Survey.

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About The Wellbeing Project

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