

7 Strategies for finding the right fit in nonprofit sector

Albert Fung

SFU Career and Volunteer Services



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about me

- Career Educator @ SFU Career and Volunteer Services
- Certified Career Development Practitioner
- 10+ years in nonprofit organizations working with youth and young adults
- “Career Crisis” : from computers to people

learning objectives

- an approach for assessing how well one “fits” to a specific sector
- 7 strategies that can help you to explore possibilities in the nonprofit sector

agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Nonprofit sector in Canada
- Approach to finding a good fit
- 7 strategies for success
- Q&A period

nonprofit sector in Canada

- Over 170,000 organizations
- 2,000,000 Canadians are employed
- Contributes an average 8.1% of the total GDP

Source: <http://sectorsource.ca/research-and-impact/sector-impact>

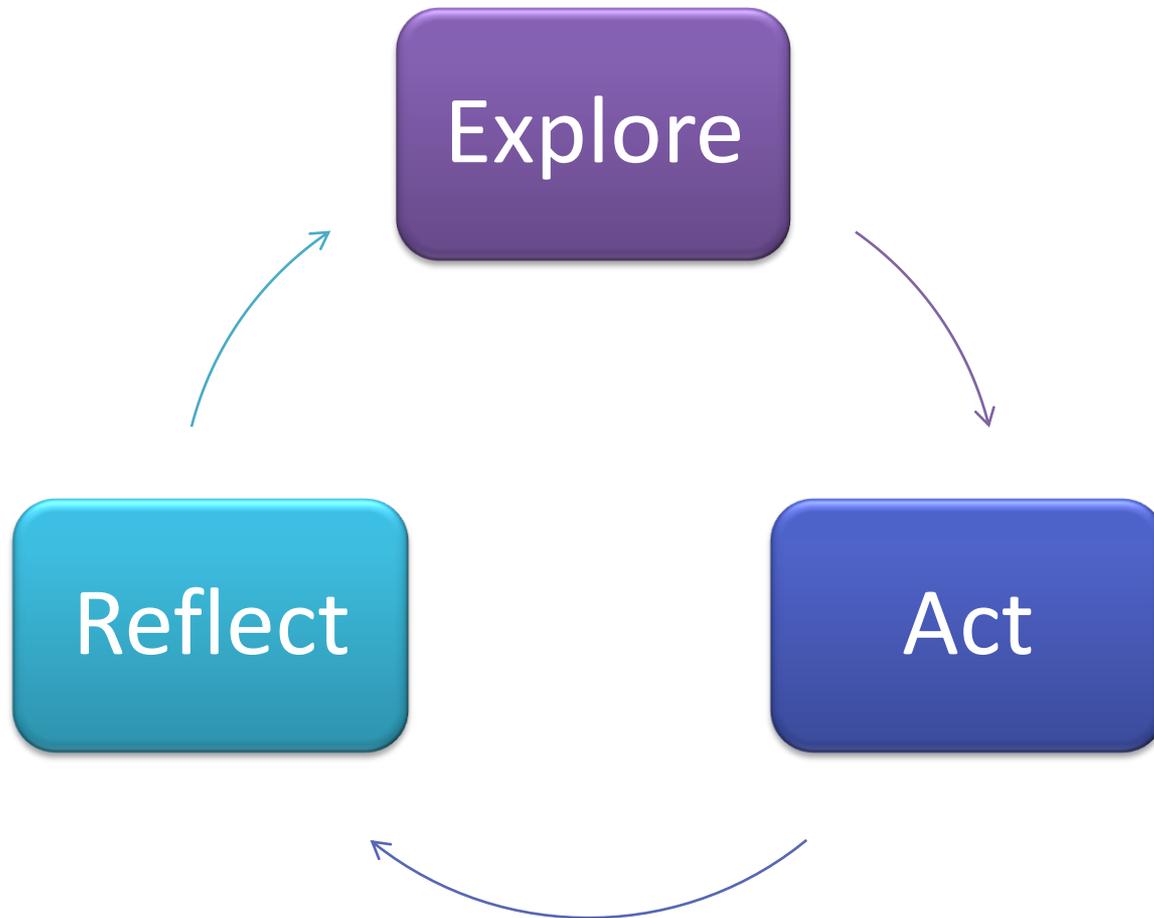
With 2 million possibilities,
where do I fit??

poll question

Which situation best describes your current state with regards to working in the nonprofit sector?

- I can clearly identify one or more possibilities that fit well
- I sense that there are some possibilities but not exactly sure where I would fit
- I am unsure if there are any possibilities but I am curious to explore
- I have yet to consider working in the nonprofit sector

finding your fit



7 strategies

1. Create a checklist of your criteria

2. Window-shop for potential jobs

3. Find out who you want to work for

4. Volunteer to get your foot in the door

5. Gather intel by connecting with insiders

6. Be ready to talk about what you want

7. Expect the Unexpected

7 strategies

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7 strategies

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- Job posting websites such as CharityVillage
- Look for:
 - Job titles
 - Roles
 - Responsibilities
 - Qualifications: certification, skills, etc.
 - Salary

Demo

charityvillage.com



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- Not all nonprofits are created equally:
 - Causes
 - Services
 - Client population
 - Size/structure
 - Funding
- Directory of local social services

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poll question

Think about one of your most memorable volunteer experience, which of these factor(s) have positively impact your experience?

- Give back to the community
- Develop skills
- Gain experience
- Explore career possibilities
- Put passion into action

4. Volunteer to get your foot in the door

- Get first-hand experience with a front-row seat!
 - feel the environment
 - understand the setting
 - see professionals at work
 - interact with clients

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- Questions that only “insiders” can tell you:
 - “How does one start working here?”
 - “What are the “real” requirements?”
 - “What are the different roles?”
 - “Who is hiring?”

5. Gather intel by connecting with insiders

- Finding your “insiders”
 - volunteer
 - conferences/association events
 - friends of friends
 - LinkedIn

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- You never know who may be able to help you
- Opportunity could come any time
- Content: clear and concise
 - interests
 - intention
 - Information seeking

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- Watch for clues: in yourself and in your community
- Reflect and adapt
- Recognize new opportunities

Summary: 7 strategies

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6. Be ready to talk about what you want

7. Expect the Unexpected

REFERENCES

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Thank you

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