

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL SPEAKING | AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MN
Check availability by [setting a free consultation](#) or directly emailing karen@karengrahamconsulting.com.



Karen Graham | Nonprofit Speaker

SPEAKER BIO

Karen Graham is a speaker, trainer, writer, and consultant with expertise in technology leadership and innovation, nonprofit software, and digital strategy. Her consulting work includes strategic technology roadmaps, development of knowledge resources, and leadership coaching.

Karen was the Executive Director of the national nonprofit Idealware, and has held leadership roles in capacity building, arts, and human service organizations as well as a software startup. She holds an MBA in Nonprofit Management from the University of St. Thomas.

HEADSHOTS AND PHOTOS FOR EVENT MARKETING

Download my headshot, brand images, and extended bio [here](#).

TOPICS (MOST REQUESTED)

- The Magic of Technology Leadership
- Secrets to Nonprofit Resiliency - How Technology Ensures Strong, Nimble Organizations
- Why Nonprofits Lack Strategic Technology Plans – and What We Can Do About It
- Technology for Remote and Hybrid Workplaces
- Digital Transformation Toolkit
- Tech Tools and Techniques to Boost Efficiency

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- How to Design Technology Training that Actually Works
- Tech Fundamentals for Small Nonprofits

I can also design custom presentations around your learning objectives and event goals.

TESTIMONIALS FROM EVENT ORGANIZERS

"She did a phenomenal job creating her presentation specifically for the audience demographic data we shared with our speakers beforehand. It can be hard to keep a virtual group engaged, but her workshop was very well-received, with **a lot of audience participation** and excellent feedback afterward."

"Karen's knowledge runs deep, and she has **a gift for taking a large amount of information and delivering it in well-conceived, accessible bites**. We contract with many trainers, and Karen is always easy to work with, receptive to feedback, and generous with her time and experience when she's engaging with our learning community. Her years as a nonprofit tech and education leader come through." ~Courtney Gerber, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

"There are leaders and there are techies, and Karen Graham is both! I worked with Karen for over a decade and know her to be a subject matter expert, popular presenter, and strategic thinker. Karen excels at making technology education interesting and accessible. Her leadership skills and management expertise set her apart from other industry professionals. As a **trailblazer in the tech sphere**, she brings invaluable insights that resonate with audiences at all levels. Karen's passion for technology and commitment to delivering value make her an exceptional consultant and partner. She is **incredibly easy to work with**—reliable, responsive, and always willing to collaborate to ensure everything runs smoothly. Her professionalism, experience, and passion for work make her an outstanding resource for any event or organization. Highly recommended!" ~Shannon McCarville, event organizer

FEATURED APPEARANCES

- NPR's Marketplace Tech
- Sektor 3.0 Keynote Address
- NTEN's Nonprofit Technology Conference
- TAG (Technology Association of Grantmakers) Annual Conference
- Nonprofit Radio

CONTACT INFO

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Presentations for Nonprofits

THE MAGIC OF TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP

Keynote with Technology Spellbook Take-Away

Standard length: 45 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A (1 hr), available in other formats

Embark on an enchanting journey through realms of cyber wonders and global challenges, where technology leadership is the magical key to a thriving, resilient, productive nonprofits. This adventure isn't merely about managing risks and optimizing efficiency – it's a quest for unlocking innovation, enhancing service quality, and expanding reach.

Your guide for this odyssey is the sorceress of nonprofit tech, Karen Graham. Karen will reveal the essential components of tech-savvy leadership, unveiling the magic it holds, and bestow upon you spells and potions to fortify this skill set.

TECHNOLOGY FOR REMOTE AND HYBRID WORKPLACES

Webinar

Standard length: 60-90 minutes

In this session, you will learn about some ways technology can help colleagues work well together when they are geographically distributed, and when the best solution is a non-technical one. It also touches on considerations for digital security, technical support, equipment provision and maintenance, and other practical topics.

Learning goals:

- Name some of the key ways technology needs differ between fully on-premise teams and hybrid or remote teams.
- Gain a basic familiarity with how productivity tools support asynchronous and remote collaboration.
- Consider ways to adjust and update technology policies and practices for a distributed team.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TOOLKIT

Webinar, in person workshop, or conference break-out, with planning worksheet take-away

Standard length: 90 minutes, can extend to 2-3 hours with learning activities

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If you need to give technology a big strategic boost, this workshop is for you! Learn the fundamentals of technology planning and making the case for technology investments. We will equip you with worksheets, self-assessments, and templates to:

- Assess your current level of technology maturity and determine what to focus on
- Write a strategic technology plan
- Identify learning needs and build staff technology skills
- Pitch technology improvements to your boss, board, and funders
- Evaluate return on investment for current and potential technologies

Technology can unlock possibilities you never had before, and lead to big changes in the way you work and the impact you make. Join us to find out how!

This is a great fit for executive directors and other leaders who believe in the potential of digital transformation but aren't sure where to start.

TECH TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES TO BOOST EFFICIENCY

Webinar or in person workshop

Standard length: 60-90 minutes, can extend to 2-3 hours with learning activities

You've heard the advice, "work smarter, not harder." But HOW? In this workshop you will learn some concrete ways to take advantage of technology to complete routine tasks, get more work done, and make sure nothing falls through the cracks. We start by looking at one of the biggest opportunities for efficiency gains: your inbox. Then we will explore other tools and techniques, including workflow automation, artificial intelligence, process improvement, and productivity habits.

HOW TO DESIGN [TECHNOLOGY] TRAINING THAT ACTUALLY WORKS

Webinar, in person workshop, or conference break-out

Standard length: 60-90 minutes

I have delivered a general version of this workshop that applies to any kind of training topic, and a version on technology training that includes how to provide successful software instruction and how that fits into a broader user adoption plan.

Lots of nonprofit organizations provide training for staff, volunteers, and external constituents, but few have expertise in curriculum development or training evaluation. A few simple techniques can make the difference between achieving learning objectives and falling short. This session will be a crash course in designing training that builds skill, knowledge, and confidence, and is also accessible and inclusive. I will provide an introduction to learning design concepts, offer some how-to guidelines, and provide a hands-on practice opportunity.

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TECH FUNDAMENTALS FOR SMALL NONPROFITS

Webinar or in person workshop

Standard length: 60-90 minutes, can extend to 2-3 hours with learning activities

Is your nonprofit stable, secure, and poised for growth when it comes to technology? In this workshop for small and emerging nonprofit organizations, you will learn to move from an ad-hoc approach to a more deliberate one that supports productivity, collaboration, and risk reduction. We will share lots of practical tips, alert you to common mistakes to avoid, and share resources for further assistance.

Presentations for Grant Makers

SECRETS TO GRANTEE RESILIENCY: HOW TECHNOLOGY ENSURES STRONG, NIMBLE ORGANIZATIONS

Keynote with Action List Take-Away

Standard length: 45 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A (1 hr), available in other formats

When disaster strikes, will your grantees be prepared? Nonprofit leaders are reporting that technology maturity was pivotal to their resilience during the Covid pandemic. Learn from real-world examples of organizations navigating crises with agility, and discover tips for grantmakers to fortify grantee support systems. This talk underscores the transformative power of technology, urging grantmakers to be forces for positive change and suggesting specific, practical action steps. Don't miss this essential conversation shaping the future of capacity building.

WHY NONPROFITS LACK STRATEGIC TECH PLANS - AND WHAT FUNDERS CAN DO ABOUT IT

Webinar or conference break-out

Standard length: 60-90 minutes

Organizations with a technology plan make smarter, more cost-effective decisions about technology. When technology is aligned with mission and guided by strategic priorities, organizational effectiveness soars. Knowing this, why do so few nonprofits have a strategic technology plan? In this talk, we will examine the four barriers to tech planning. Be empowered with actionable insights as we delve into the five ways grantmakers can encourage and enable

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planning. Together, let's pave the way for nonprofits to make the best use of resources and
apply technology to make a greater impact.