Nonprofit Lifecycle: Aligning Model to Mission

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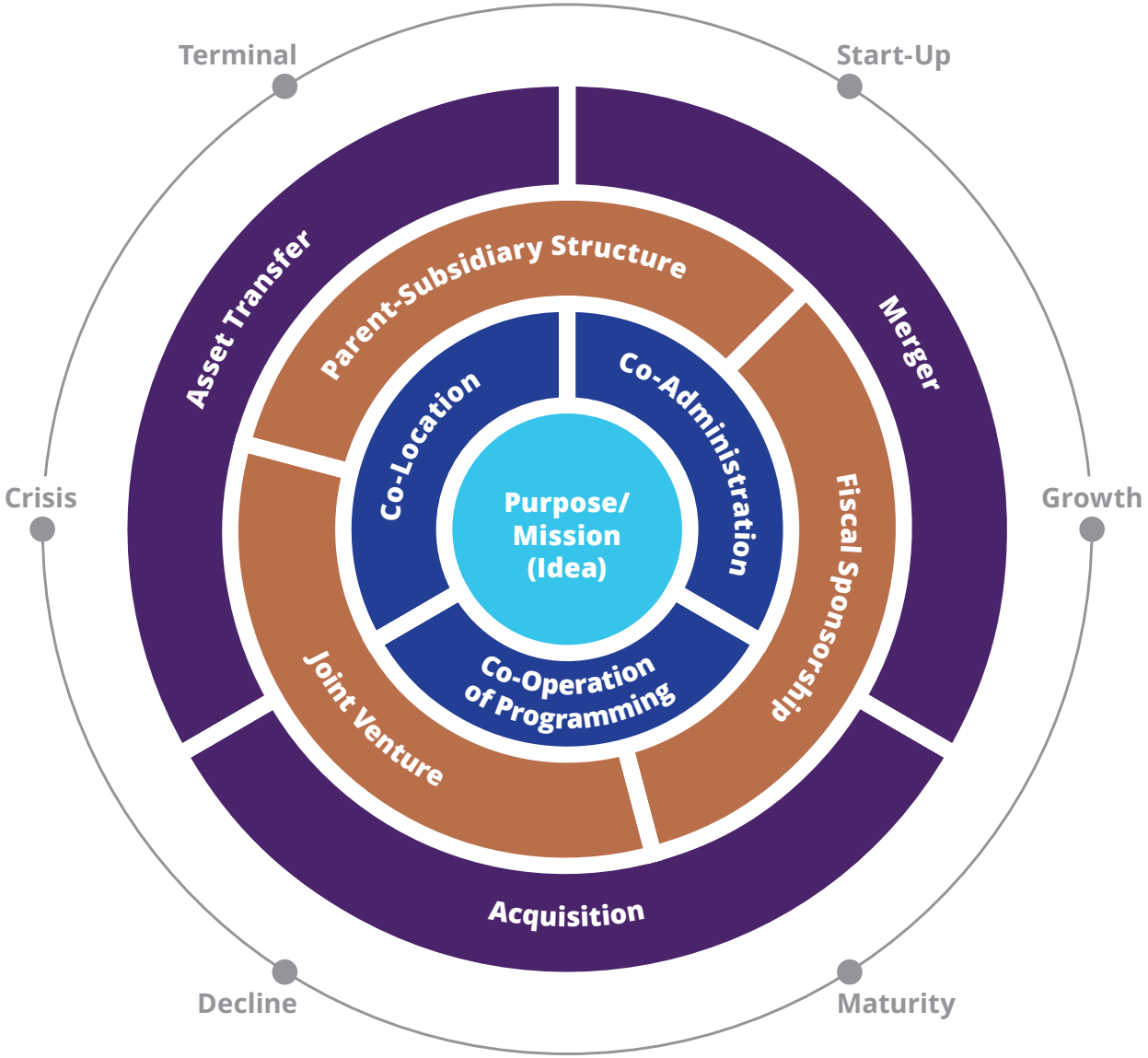
Different strategic options are available to nonprofits throughout their lifecycle. In this diagram, each lifecycle stage shown in the outer ring moves around three concentric layers of possibility. Look toward the center of the diagram for lighter-touch efficiencies, and outward for deeper structural moves.

- **Options for Adapting: Strategic Infrastructures**
- **Options for Restructuring: Strategic Partnerships**
- **Options for Exiting: Strategic Closures**



Use the questions below to prompt creativity, agility, and innovation at every stage — and always with your mission in mind:

Start-Up Stage: Do you need to start a new organization, or are other pathways open — and more suitable — for affecting change?

Growth Stage: As you grow in familiarity with your ecosystem, are there visible opportunities to partner with other formal or informal groups, to share responsibilities and resources, or to get more support?

Maturity Through Decline/Crisis: As you work through moments of big change in your organization — "inflection points" — could adopting a new structural model (either in one area of your work, or for the organization as a whole) help move your mission forward?

Terminal/Closure: Is your mission best served by an organizational exit?

To read the accompanying blog series, scan the QR code or visit **bit.ly/preserving-the-mission**.