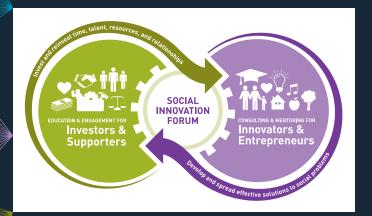


## WE MAKE CONNECTIONS SO YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

The Social Innovation Forum connects the givers, the innovators, the experts, and the visionaries in greater Boston. We bring together nonprofit practitioners who are poised to accelerate their impact and supporters (funders, investors, and skilled volunteers) who are ready to apply their resources to advance social change.







### Dear Friends,

The Social Innovation Forum (SIF) has a distinctive mission: We help nonprofits and supporters make a bigger difference by finding the connections they need to drive social change.

We're like a matchmaker for change makers, and we take pride in the relationships and resource exchanges we've helped create. For nonprofits, engaging with SIF can be truly transformative: We give them a forum to meet people who can help them realize their vision and the skills and guidance to get there. Meanwhile, donors and volunteers deepen their understanding of the most urgent needs and promising solutions in greater Boston, and apply their resources to innovators positioned to make the greatest impact.

In this year's report, we highlight the range of connections that our social change marketplace makes possible, including a timely collaboration among funders that fueled capacity-building support for eight organizations serving immigrants and refugees in our community.

We believe that all of us can work smarter when we work together, and we're grateful for the donors and friends who make this work possible. Let's make it our mission to connect more often and more deeply in the year ahead. Keep reading for suggestions on how you can connect for impact in 2019.

Sincerely,

Susan Musinsky Executive Director

**Ryan Dings** Chair, SIF Board of Directors



**2018:** A GROWING NETWORK FOR THE GREATER GOOD

155 NONPROFITS VETTED IN 2018

NONPROFITS SELECTED IN 2018

90 NONPROFITS IN THE FULL PORTFOLIO

3923

\$35 M OVER \$35 MILLION IN CASH AND IN-KIND SERVICES

## **CONNECTING NONPROFITS TO RESOURCES & EXPERTISE**

The Social Innovation Forum (SIF) identifies high-potential nonprofits ready for growth. Through our 24-month Accelerator, nonprofit leaders are given comprehensive technical and strategic support to prepare an impact strategy and convincing pitch. At our showcase events, selected innovators share their plans before an audience of investors. That's where powerful collaborations are born.

### The Social Innovator Accelerator: How it works

**RIGOROUS SELECTION** 80+ experts from the business, government, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors spent six months reviewing and interviewing a pool of 155 applicants.

4

8 Social Innovators were selected.

INTENSIVE CAPACITY BUILDING Over six months, SIF consultants help participants articulate a two-year growth plan (with marketing materials), build relationships with supporters, and set performance goals.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT Senior-level executive coaches help participants develop, implement, and achieve their individualized leadership goals.

Social Innovators share their work with 500+ funders, philanthropists, business leaders, and community members at three showcase events.

6



### STRATEGIC SUPPORT In year two the Innovators work with SIF

to advance one strategic priority and to produce a *Performance Measurement Report* to share with the community.

### THE ALUMNI PORTFOLIO

Program graduates join a "forever portfolio" of high-impact organizations that SIF promotes to funders and supporters through ongoing workshops, events, and in-kind partner services.

## 2018 Social Innovators (Year One)

ACT Lawrence **Community Boating Center** Fathers' UpLift GreenRoots PAIR (Political Asylum/ Immigration Representation Project) Partners for Youth with Disabilities The Renew Collaborative Strategies for Youth

### 2017 Social Innovators (Year Two)

**Boston CASA Citizens for Juvenile Justice Community Economic Development Center** Institute for Nonprofit Practice Julie's Family Learning Program **Project Citizenship** Room to Grow

## **RISING TO THE CHALLENGE:** FATHERS' UPLIFT

One of our newest Innovators generated a lot of buzz at the May Social Innovator Showcase. Founded by social worker Charles Daniels, Fathers' UpLift addresses the root causes of paternal absenteeism by providing mental health services that help men become engaged fathers. It's a powerful model that addresses a major challenge in under-resourced communities.

When he was selected for the Accelerator. Daniels knew the program would be a game-changer. Fathers' UpLift relied on insurance reimbursements initially, which put a cap on growth. Several partners pushed Daniels to apply to SIF, believing it would open new avenues of support.

In the first phase, Daniels worked with a consultant to develop a pitch and prospectus. He made valuable connections with nonprofit peers as well. Currently, he's paired with an executive coach who has pushed him to become a more accountable leader. These relationships were an unexpected outcome for Daniels, who says, "I didn't know I'd be introduced to so many wonderful individuals."

Funders are eager to connect too. As Daniels moves into Year 2, he's poised to secure the investments he needs to expand to two additional sites in Boston.

We have a feeling that, for Fathers' UpLift, this is just the beginning.

We're a part of the network now. People want to talk to us and give us a chance. The Social Innovation Forum has opened up that door."

CHARLES DANIELS. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FATHERS' UPLIFT

## Fathers' UpLift provides:

- Father and child mental health therapy
- Youth enrichment and therapeutic mentoring
- A homecoming program for incarcerated fathers
- Father-to-father mentoring
- Father figure connections for children in need

Find out more: fathersuplift.org

## **CONNECTING DONORS** TO IDEAS & EACH OTHER

The Social Innovation Forum (SIF) boosts the impact of greater Boston's entire philanthropic community by creating connections among donors and effective nonprofits. Through our educational and networking events and nonprofit showcases, we convene funders of all sizes and types to exchange ideas, explore pressing issues, discover worthy grantees, and leverage their giving to generate the greatest good.

### **Our Newest Funding Model:** The Capacity Camp

Over the past three years, SIF has rolled out a new way for funders to build the capacity of nonprofit innovators. Through multi-week or multi-month Capacity Camps, funders sponsor a cohort of nonprofits for a condensed version of our Accelerator curriculum. Capacity Camps offer a flexible approach to supporting more organizations quickly, and they are becoming an important part of our portfolio.



### Many Types of Supporters











FUNDERS SUPPORTED SIF'S WORK

### LEARN, CONVENE, CONNECT AT AN SIF EVENT! www.socialinnovationforum.org/events

## FEATURE: UPDATE ON THE **IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE FUNDER COLLABORATIVE**

Last year eight funders signed on to co-sponsor a collaborative Social Issue Track focused on supporting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The groupa mix of small trusts, individual donors, and larger foundations-extended their commitment to create an eight-week Capacity Camp that gave seven additional nonprofits-some established, some emergenta chance to position themselves for growth.

The collaborative spent six months in partnership with SIF vetting applications for the Accelerator and the Capacity Camp. For the collaborative members, the process broadened their exposure to smaller, yet enterprising and effective nonprofit organizations, gave them an opportunity to learn from each other, and helped them build connections with a wide range of organizations and individuals working on immigrant issues.

This experience was transformative not just for the nonprofits. The rich, challenging conversations led some funders to shift their grantmaking approaches and helped others feel more comfortable in supporting emerging or previously unknown organizations. All involved parties had their eyes opened to language equity issues as SIF worked to provide full access to participants who were not fluent in English. This process produced powerful new alliances that will pay

dividends for years to come.



### I found it really helpful to get out of our silos and hear people talk about why they support a project that maybe you wouldn't have

SUSAN MONAHAN. TOMFOHRDE FOUNDATION

considered before.

**Camp Participants** 

- Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores
- La Comunidad
- English for New Bostonians
- Justice at Work
- Matahari Women Workers' Center
- Mujeres Unidas Avanzando
- The Welcome Project

### **Funder Collaborators**

- Ansara Family Fund
- Barr Foundation
- The Clowes Fund
- The Hyams Foundation
- Landry Family Foundation
- Macomber Family Fund
- Suhrbier Family Fund
- John H. and H. Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation

## **CONNECTING** OUR COMMUNITY

Through publications, workshops, and networking events, the Social Innovation Forum (SIF) has created a unique space—we call it a marketplace—for social change in greater Boston. Our mission is to build the knowledge and skills of the entire social impact community. We do so by creating forums where great people and great ideas can connect.

### The Social Impact Investment Guide

Our annual prospectus for social impact investors features an in-depth look at our recent Social Innovators and full listing of alumni. The guide is a one-of-a-kind resource that puts a spotlight on vetted nonprofits, helping foundations, business, and individuals make the most of their support.

## Connecting in the Workplace

SIF offers a supportive home to nonprofits seeking an affordable space to learn and grow. In addition to office space, our coworkers have access to our workshops and volunteer mentoring program. In 2018, we hosted 13 organizations, and we're proud to continue the tradition as we move to a new location this year.

### 2018 Marketplace Highlights

SIF held **63 EVENTS** that drew **2299 ATTENDEES**, including:

**3** showcase events

- APPROACH & IMPACT LUNCHES
- 4 BOARD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS
- SOCIAL ISSUE TALKS

3923 INDIVIDUALS MAKE UP SIF'S COMMUNITY OF FUNDERS, MENTORS, AND SUPPORTERS

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

This year we continued our organizational learning process to educate our staff and Board about complex issues involving diversity, equity, and inclusion, and build the cultural competency of our team.

Our team participated in Trinity Boston Foundation's Racial Equity Learning Circle (RELC) sessions and our Executive Director went through a yearlong related training for senior leaders.

We set explicit organizational goals around the representation of people of color on the SIF Board and staff.

 SIF committed to language inclusion in our Capacity Camp program, offering English-Spanish translation and interpretation services for the first time.



Following an internal LGBTQIA audit, we updated our family leave policy to be inclusive of all types of families and began using preferred pronouns in email signatures and bios.

We continue to learn and improve on our efforts to create an organization and network that is inclusive of individuals from a range of backgrounds.

## FEATURE: **CONNECTIONS** THAT KEEP GIVING

When Catie's Closet joined the Accelerator in 2015, it was a enterprising start-up with a great idea: place a closet of new and gently used clothing in schools to boost the attendance of children in need. Founder Mickey Cockrell brought more than 30 years of retail experience and contagious enthusiasm. With SIF, she was able to build her skills as a nonprofit leader and expand her vision for growth.

In three years, Catie's Closet has grown from a program serving 22 schools in the Merrimack Valley to one serving 35,000 children in 70 schools, while poised for district-wide expansion in Boston and the launch of a national franchise. Cockrell has leaned heavily on the business plans and relationships forged with SIF.

At one showcase, Cockrell met Stephanie Dodson of Draper Richards Kaplan, which led to a three-year grant and intensive coaching to build her staff, board, and revenue models. A link with the Philanthropy Connection brought funding as well as committed volunteers and allies. One of those advocates introduced Cockrell to the owner of Charles River Apparel, a clothing manufacturer whose in-kind contributions and national network are making scale up possible.

"Every relationship I made as an Innovator is still with me. They saw the pitch I developed with SIF and three and half years later, they're all still in my court," Cockrell says. "I find that phenomenal."

# "

I'm not just looking for a check. I'm looking for thought partners, physical partners, and volunteers who want to see the mission continue. SIF brings all that to the table.

MICKEY COCKRELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATIE'S CLOSET



## **READY TO CONNECT** WITH YOU

The Social Innovation Forum (SIF) has created a unique space for diverse change agents to learn and connect. Many of you have attended our events, discovered important relationships, and extended your support in new ways through our social impact investment community. Thank you.

>

In 2019, we challenge you to take your connection to the next level, deepening your commitment to social change in our community. You can:

Bring a colleague to an event. You know **>** the movers and shakers in your network. Help them become a force for good by connecting them to SIF.

Participate as a skilled volunteer. You have > skills nonprofits can use. Tell us what you know, and we'll help you share those skills with nonprofit innovators.

### Support our portfolio of Social Innovators. Download our Social Impact Investment Guide to discover and support vetted organizations working on causes that matter to you.

Sponsor a track. You don't have to be a large foundation to influence the direction of change. Consider teaming up to sponsor an upcoming Accelerator track or Capacity Camp.

### Give directly to the Social Innovation

Forum. We're a nonprofit too! We're proud of all of the connections we generate and are eager to keep this community growing. Your gift will help us connect for impact in 2019.

### **Questions? Ideas? Want to chat?**

Contact our Donor Engagement Officer Carolyn Shaughnessy at cshaughnessy@socialinnovationforum.org to discuss ways you can connect with SIF's powerful-and growing-social change community.





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\$10,000 - \$19,999

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#### \*Sustaining Partner: Our Sustaining Partners are those who have given or pledged support of \$20,000 per year for at least three years.

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**Charles Lester** 

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- 2017 Boston CASA Citizens for Juvenile Justice Community Economic Development Center Institute for Nonprofit Practice Julie's Family Learning Program Project Citizenship Room to Grow
- 2016 African Community Education Budget Buddies Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association Dorchester Community Food Co-op Hale Louis D. Brown Peace Institute MassCOSH SMART Team, a division of JRI
- 2015
   Catie's Closet

   Company One Theatre
   Courageous Parents Network

   Massachusetts Public Health
   Association

   Mystic River Watershed
   Association

   Transformative Culture Project
   Waypoint Adventure
- 2014 Coaching for Change Doc Wayne Youth Services, Inc. Mill City Grows Silver Lining Mentoring Veterans Legal Services

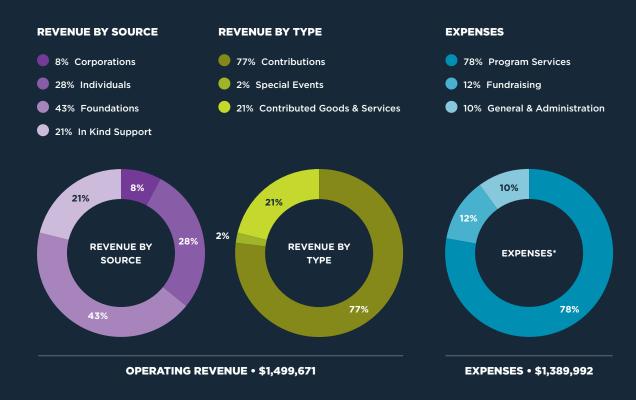
- 2013 AgeWell West Roxbury GRLZradio Groundwork Lawrence Safe City Academy, a program of Dorchester Youth Collaborative Shelter Music Boston
   2012 Cooking Matters, a program
- of Share Our Strength InnerCity Weightlifting LGBT Aging Project, a program of Fenway Health Science Club for Girls Tempo Young Adult Resource Center, a program of Wayside Youth & Family Support Network WorkExpress, a program of Father Bill's & MainSpring
- 2011 Fiscal Health Vital Signs Future Chefs Massachusetts Senior Action Council MathPOWER Smart from the Start
- 2010 Generations Incorporated Home & Healthy for Good, a program of the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance Medicine Wheel Productions My Life My Choice, a program of JRI Playworks MA Workforce Development & Employer Partnerships, a program of Project Hope
- 2009 Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children Hearth, Inc. Maritime Apprentice Program More Than Words RAW Art Works uAspire

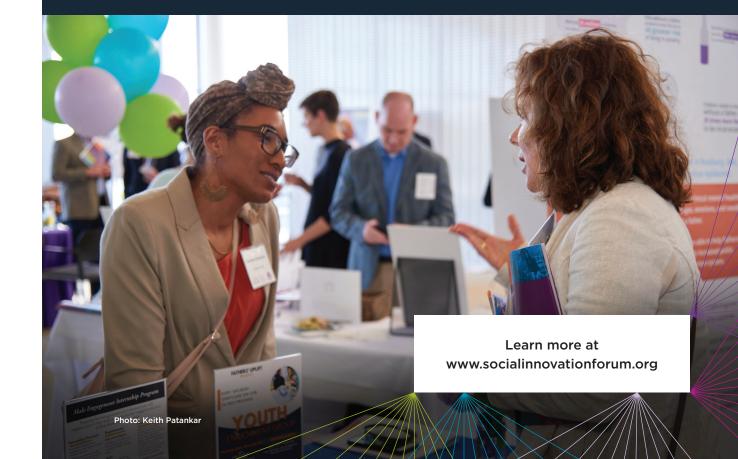
Cradles to Crayons Girls' LEAP ReVision Urban Farm, a program of Victory Programs True Colors: Out Youth Theater, a program of The Theater Offensive UTEC

2008 CitySprouts

- 2007 Boston Urban Youth Foundation Building Impact Incarcerated Youth at Play, a program of the Actors' Shakespeare Project Strong Women, Strong Girls
- 2006 Boston Black Women's Health Institute Tacos Unidos, a project of Roca Treehouse Boston WriteBoston Zumix, Inc.
- 2004 Boston Children's Chorus Boston Health Care and Research Training Institute Close to Home Common Impact Rediscovery House VietAID
- 2003 ACT Roxbury/Madison Park Development Corporation Boston Learning Center Eagle Eye Institute Haley House Social Capital Inc. Year Up

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#### **IMPACT ENTREPRENEURS**

- 2016 ClearGov, EnergySage, KinderLab Robotics, PlenOptika, Sunwealth, WiCare
- 2015 Agora for Good, Cabbige, Custom Camisas, Daily General Counsel, DrivenData, Fresh Food Generation, Jubalí, Memory-Lane TV
- 2014 A Little Easier Recovery, Artisan's Asylum, ChopChopKids, Janji, Life Alive, ReFleece
- 2013 City Feed and Supply, Green City Growers, GRIT (Global Research Innovation & Technology), Project Repat

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