

SOCIAL
INNOVATION
FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 ACCESS AMPLIFIED



We're
cultivating
connections +
inspiring
conversations
that **AMPLIFY**
social change.



Friends,

As the Social Innovation Forum approaches its 20th year, we remain committed to mobilizing resources and connections that allow meaningful social change to flourish. We're inspired by the vision and resilience of our nonprofit partners leading change in their communities, and we're increasingly determined to expand resource access (financial and social) for communities historically underserved by philanthropy.

Equity—particularly, racial equity—is a driver of everything we do. This year, we've listened closely to our community as we've sought to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent full access to and participation in our network. We've also worked as a team to uphold our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our internal structures. In this year's report, you'll find examples of the numerous shifts we've made as a result—including the first steps of a revision to our Accelerator application and selection process, an expanding commitment to participatory philanthropy, and renewed emphasis on prioritizing the wellbeing of the individuals leading social change.

This year, we also expanded our reach, convening a *national* network of place-based organizations—from Seattle to Miami—to exchange best practices and elevate social change as a collective.

As always, we have far more to share than can fit in one report. If you're motivated by what you see, we hope you'll stay connected and join us in the coming year as we celebrate two decades of amplifying social change.

Susan Musinsky
Executive Director

Weston (Tony) Howland III
Chair, Board of Directors

5,180
INDIVIDUALS
ENGAGED IN 2022

\$369 K
CHANNELED VIA
IN-KIND SERVICES

\$52 M
DIRECTED
OVER 19 YEARS



The Social Innovation Forum catalyzes Greater Boston's social change community by convening conversations, building collective capacity, and connecting the region's most innovative nonprofits with supporters who help drive impact.

Amplifying Change as a Network

The Social Innovation Forum advances equity in the social change sector.

We cultivate relationships among nonprofits, individuals, and organizations that contribute resources to amplify their impact. Through our capacity-building programs and network convenings, we strengthen connections and support continuous learning to elevate the work of leaders closest to the frontlines of change.

Focus on BIPOC* Organizations

SIF addresses historical inequities in the change sector by prioritizing support to nonprofits that are led by, responsive to, and reflected in the voices of those most affected by the issues being addressed. We're increasingly shifting our focus to BIPOC-led organizations.

*BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color



Network Members

- FAMILY PHILANTHROPIES
- FOUNDATIONS
- NONPROFITS
- CORPORATIONS
- CONSULTANTS
- IN-KIND PARTNERS
- FRIENDS

Ultimate Goal: Racial Equity*

*Equity is about changing unjust circumstances so people can access the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.



Our Social Change Community

8 Social Innovators

Selected nonprofits participate in our 24-month flagship program.

14 Capacity Campers

Additional nonprofits participate in customized training lasting up to 12 months.

211 Nonprofits

Program alums, coworkers, and Accelerator finalists access ongoing support via workshops, cohort-based learning, and pro-bono services.

413 Funders

Philanthropic supporters explore social issues, connect with nonprofits, and work toward more equitable grantmaking practices.

152 Skilled Volunteers

Individuals from Greater Boston's business community volunteer time and expertise to advance the work of our network nonprofits.

7 Coworking Organizations

Small nonprofits access office amenities and support through collaborative colocation with SIF.

8 National Partners

16 leaders from 8 place-based networks exchange best practices and amplify change nationally.



NONPROFITS

Elevating Community-Led Capacity

Social Innovation Forum (SIF)'s core mission is to elevate the work of community-led nonprofits.

We do so by investing in nonprofits' capacity, stewarding connections to philanthropy, and building a network of mutual support through our 24-month Social Innovator Accelerator, shorter-term capacity camps, and ongoing network support.

In 2022, our nonprofit partners continued to meet virtually as we balanced the safety of participants with a desire for connection. This spring, we hosted our first in-person Showcase since 2019. The vibrant event featured pitches by nonprofit leaders with compelling organizational missions.

Coming Soon: This December, we celebrate a major milestone as we host our Warm Winter Welcome bringing in our 20th cohort of Social Innovators!

SOCIAL INNOVATOR ACCELERATOR

Outreach to **464** nonprofits

8 selected, **24** months of support

All receive:

- ✓ Cohort-based learning
- ✓ Focused consulting
- ✓ Executive coaching
- ✓ In-kind services
- ✓ Evaluation support
- ✓ Preparation of pitch and prospectus
- ✓ Multiple opportunities to present to stakeholders

CAPACITY CAMPS

14 nonprofits

Customized, **6-18** month training programs

All receive:

- ✓ Cohort-based learning
- ✓ Executive coaching
- ✓ In-kind services





2021 New Bedford Capacity Camp Participants

- Coastal Foodshed
- Discovery Language Academy
- Entrepreneurship for All
- GalleryX
- Groundwork Southcoast
- Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Amplifying Impact in New Bedford

Six nonprofits, 17 funders, and a five-hour tour of social change in New Bedford.

The June 2022 site visit was the capstone of SIF's first-ever place-based capacity camp and a chance for participating nonprofits to connect with funders on their own turf.

The idea for the program arose from our applicant pool: SIF had received strong applications from numerous New Bedford nonprofits. With the Schrafft Charitable Trust and the Island Foundation, we conceived a capacity camp to strengthen connections and capacity among multiple nonprofit leaders in this dynamic Gateway City.

We began with the priorities of the leaders themselves, who requested support in building personal and professional skills and elevating their visibility among funders. Leaders participated in seven virtual learning sessions on topics ranging from donor development to effective delegating. Each leader then had an opportunity to work with one of the skilled facilitators to develop a workshop for their staff. Leaders also participated in 10 months of individualized executive coaching.

A powerful outcome of this camp was community: In addition to forming new (and, in some cases, refreshed) connections with funders, the six leaders used the experience to learn about each other's organizations, share expertise and resources, and form what we hope will be a lasting relationship.



“The one-on-one coaching came at an important time when I was dealing with a lot of self-doubts. The coach let me work through my grief, personal frustrations, and professional needs without judgment and provided me with a wealth of tools—how to actively listen, meditate, refresh, and look at a situation from a new angle. I learned a lot about myself and the importance of identifying what I can control and what I cannot.”

BERNADETTE SOUZA,
YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES
UNLIMITED, 2021-22 CAPACITY
CAMP MEMBER



PHILANTHROPY

Advancing Resource Equity

In our mission to amplify nonprofits, Social Innovation Forum (SIF) plays an important role in helping funders become more effective and trusted supporters of community-led change.

Funder education is embedded across all of our programs, and increasingly, those conversations focus on building stronger, more equitable relationships and allocating resources with more intention and attention toward BIPOC-led organizations and other organizations historically excluded by philanthropy.

This year, SIF hosted four funder education events and two peer dialogues exploring these themes. We also began year two of our participatory philanthropy pilot, an initiative that puts community voices and the nonprofit experience at the center of our Accelerator selection process.

4

TOPICAL EVENTS

2

PEER-TO-PEER DIALOGUES

255

EVENT ATTENDEES



“Philanthropy is at a turning point. This represents a huge opportunity for our sector to disrupt the status quo. By framing this partnership as iterative and relational, we’ve taken steps to leave our respective comfort zones and meaningfully shift traditional power dynamics.”

LILY SARGEANT,
PROGRAM OFFICER US PARTNERSHIPS,
WAGNER FOUNDATION

Philanthropy that Centers Communities

“Those closest to the problem are closest to the solution.” It’s a principle we believe in deeply at SIF and are enacting through a new initiative that places community leaders at the center of funding decisions.

In 2021, we redesigned one of our Accelerator tracks, putting six nonprofit leaders (SIF alums with lived experience and learned expertise in the area of racial justice) in charge of all decisions. Four funders ceded their usual decision-making power and participated as learners. It was a steep learning curve for all, including SIF, and we used feedback to refine the process along the way. The six consultants ultimately selected the Transformational Prison Project—an innovative organization led by returning citizens that truly embodies community-led change.

This year, we expanded the pilot to *two* funding tracks, one focused on education and the other on health and wellbeing. Nonprofit consultants are again playing a central role: They shaped the track descriptions to better align with community priorities and will ultimately select the Innovators. This time, though, we’ve refined our facilitation model to encourage funders to play a more active role in asking questions. We’ve also prioritized time for building relationships. The two funders—Wellington Management Foundation and the Wagner Foundation—are eager to learn from the process and integrate participatory practices into their broader grantmaking.

We’re learning at SIF too. Based on insights from the nonprofit consultants, we’ve taken the first steps on a revision of the Accelerator selection process to make it more accessible to smaller, community-based nonprofits. We anticipate more shifts ahead as we aim to incorporate participatory practices into all of our funding tracks and programs.

“Facilitating deep relationships is the bedrock of our work. We’re hopeful that this pilot will continue to inform the evolution of our network, strengthening relationships at every level,” says SIF Funder Education Manager, Aditi Dholakia.



“Funders and others have been talking, thinking, and reading about equity, but this is what equity looks like in action. I’m excited to be part of a re-imagining of funding practices and partnership that centers the dignity of organizations and communities.”

RONDA ALEXANDER,
DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS,
VITAL VILLAGE NETWORK, 2020 SOCIAL INNOVATOR



SIF’s Pillars of Funder Education

- 1 Accountability
- 2 Humility
- 3 Transparency
- 4 Honesty

NETWORK

Expanding Our Impact



13

NONPROFIT NETWORK
EVENTS

141

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS
(FROM 72 ORGANIZATIONS)

In Greater Boston...

SIF supports a growing network of nonprofits with topical workshops, cohort learning, and pro-bono services.

The network is open to our program alums, coworkers, and Accelerator finalists and guided by our Alumni Council. Events are participatory by design, with ample time for participants to share expertise and build cross-organizational connections.

This year, we hosted 13 virtual events on topics ranging from storytelling for impact to crafting a values-based development plan. One cohort spent six weeks exploring how mindfulness practices can help mitigate stress and prevent burnout—crucial for leaders on the front lines of change. This was the first in what we hope will be an ongoing focus on supporting individuals as well as organizations.

“[The mindfulness workshop] was a great opportunity to slow down and take time to do something for myself that would also translate to being my best self in the workplace.”

TYLER CAVANAGH,
MANAGER OF
DEVELOPMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS,
ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH
PROGRAMS



EXPLORING the ROLE of INTERMEDIARIES + ACCELERATORS



...and Nationally...

SIF received a grant from the Fidelity Charitable Trustees' Initiative to convene a national cohort of place-based social change intermediaries like ours.

The goal is to share practices and build connections that strengthen our regional efforts and elevate grassroots change nationally.

In FY22, we hosted three virtual learning sessions of CORE (Community Organizations Reimagining Ecosystems), bringing together peers from eight regions to discuss strategies related to network building, funder education, liberatory workplace practices, and more. SIF participated as a co-facilitator and learner. We will convene additional peer-led sessions in the coming year as we continue to build a community of practice and document lessons that we can share with other national place-based organizations interested in collaboration and learning.



Artist **Chandra Larsen** of Visualizing Change joined convenings of the CORE network, capturing the group's energy and ideas through lively illustrations.

"As a professional new to philanthropy, it was a challenge to find like-minded organizations to learn from. My feelings of isolation ended when I became a part of CORE. I'm constantly drawing inspiration from the cohort as they help us evolve our own organization!"

MICHELLE DOMINGUEZ,
SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTNERS LOS ANGELES



Amplifying Our Commitments

Over two decades, the Social Innovation Forum (SIF) has amplified hundreds of Greater Boston nonprofits through intentional connections and capacity-building supports.

Looking ahead, equity will remain a driver of our work as we commit to making changes internally and network-wide that prioritize the voices and experiences of those closest to each issue and that result in a more equitable distribution of resources.

This year, we've made several investments that prepare us for the next phase.

➤ **STRIVING TOWARD DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**
SIF staff participated in a three-part facilitation training to help all team members become more inclusive and trusting of one another's leadership. We're also working to be more proactive in taking time to rest, reflect, and plan for the busiest periods of our work.

➤ **EXPANDING INTERNAL LEADERSHIP**
Executive Director Susan Musinsky took a three-month sabbatical in 2022, and the team and the board welcomed the opportunity to grow and evolve in new ways. The team adopted a shared leadership approach with a range of team members who came forward to take on new roles and support SIF in its continued evolution.

➤ **BUILDING TEAM CAPACITIES**
The SIF team is growing! We've recently added three new positions as we scale up internally to manage an expanding network. New positions include added capacity for funder education and nonprofit network programs, two areas of rapid growth. Please join us in welcoming:

Aditi Dholakia
Funder Education Program Manager

Jameelah Julien
Program Coordinator

Saejin Yoo
Special Projects Coordinator

Help Amplify Social Change

A collaborative community contributes time, talent, and resources to sustain our network and advance the missions of hundreds of social change organizations in our region. We thank you and we value your continued support. We invite you to continue your commitments as we amplify social change in 2023.

GIVE | Direct gifts to the Social Innovation Forum to help us sustain, connect, elevate, and amplify change in Greater Boston.

LEARN | Attend an upcoming workshop or event to learn about critical social issues and become a more thoughtful and equitable agent of change.

INVEST | Visit our **new website** and access our Social Impact Investment Guide to discover innovative non-profits addressing urgent issues in local communities.

SUPPORT | If you are a business or organization ready to invest time and expertise in social change, we want to hear from you!

Immigration Rights Screening + Discussion

Last November, SIF hosted an advanced live screening of *America's Family*, a film by Anike Tourse that chronicles the stories of five family members on a reunification journey to reunite after an ICE separation. After, 90 guests engaged in a lively discussion with the filmmaker and two SIF alums working in immigration advocacy, a core issue area in our network.



Stay connected!

Receive updates and learn with us by subscribing to our newsletter: socialinnovationforum.org/mailling-list

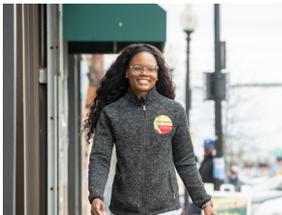
Get in touch!

To learn more about SIF or to schedule an online or in-person meeting, contact Amaka Maduegbunam: amaduegbunam@socialinnovationforum.org

Social Innovators

2022

- Chinatown Community Land Trust
- Lowell Community Health Center Teen BLOCK
- Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
- Sisters Unchained
- The Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth (BAGLY)
- The Center for Hope and Healing
- Transformational Prison Project, a project of Tides Center
- Young Man with a Plan



SOCIAL INNOVATOR ALUMNI

- 2021** | Breaktime | Comprehensive Reentry Program, a model of Project Place | Everyday Boston | Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI) | Neighbor to Neighbor MA Education Fund | The Loop Lab
- 2020** | 1647 | Adaptive Sports New England | Boston Higher Education Resource Center (HERC) | Elevated Thought | OriNation Cultural Arts Center | Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) | Vital Village Network | Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE)
- 2019** | Beat the Streets New England | Disability Policy Consortium | Dream Out Loud Center, Inc. | English for New Bostonians | LEAP for Education | Paige Academy | The Urban Farming Institute | Y2Y Network
- 2018** | ACT Lawrence | Community Boating Center | Fathers' UpLift | GreenRoots | Political Asylum Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project | Partners for Youth with Disabilities | The Renew Collaborative, a program of HomeStart | Strategies for Youth
- 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 | Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association | Dorchester Community Food Co-op | Hale | Louis D. Brown Peace Institute | MassCOSH | SMART Team at Justice Resource Institute | Women's Money Matters
- 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 | Dorchester Youth Collaborative | Shelter Music Boston
- 2012** | Cooking Matters | InnerCity Weightlifting | LGBT Aging Project | Science Club for Girls | Tempo Young Adult Resource Center | WorkExpress
- 2011** | Fiscal Health Vital Signs | Future Chefs | Massachusetts Senior Action Council | MathPOWER | Smart from the Start
- 2010** | Literations | Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance | Medicine Wheel Productions | My Life My Choice | Playworks New England | Project Hope
- 2009** | Bessie Tartt Wilson Initiative for Children | Hearth, Inc. | Maritime Apprentice Program | More Than Words | RAW Art Works | uAspire
- 2008** | CitySprouts | Cradles to Crayons | Girls' LEAP | ReVision Urban Farm | The Theater Offensive | UTEC
- 2007** | Boston Urban Youth Foundation | Building Impact | Actors' Shakespeare Project | Strong Women, Strong Girls
- 2006** | Boston Black Women's Health Institute | Roca | Treehouse Foundation | WriteBoston | Zumix, Inc.
- 2004** | Boston Children's Chorus | Boston Health Care and Research Training Institute | Close to Home | Common Impact | Rediscovery House | VietAID
- 2003** | Madison Park Development Corporation | Boston Learning Center | Eagle Eye Institute | Haley House | Social Capital Inc. | Year Up

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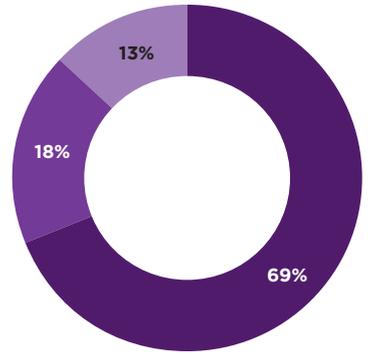
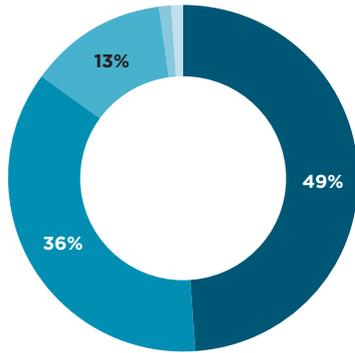
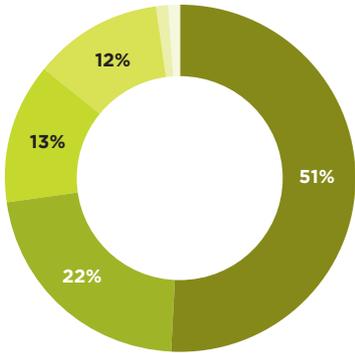
EVALUATION COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

Bior Guigni, Beat the Streets New England | **Eli Gurock**, Magic Beans | **Sheri Gurock**, The Beker Foundation | **Mario Hines**, Future Chefs | **Weston (Tony) Howland III**, Howland Capital Management | **Kassie Infante**, Black MA Coalition | **Daniel Jick**, Boston Open Impact | **Elizabeth Jick**, Boston Open Impact | **Richard Joseph**, Vital CxNs | **Jermoh Kamara**, YWCA | **Abby Kiesa**, Tisch School, Tufts University | **Priya Lane**, Lawyers for Civil Rights | **Hamzah Latif**, CommonWealth Corporation | **Joe Lepper**, MassMutual | **Angela Liu**, HACK Diversity | **Kim Lucas**, Brandeis University | **Ana Luna**, ACT Lawrence | **Tierra Lyons**, City of Boston | **Tricia McGuinness**, Strong Women Strong Girls | **Juana Matias**, US Department of Housing and Urban Development | **Heather McMann**, Groundwork Lawrence | **Kayla Monroe**, MassMutual | **Lila Neel**, Life Science Cares | **Suzanne Offit**, Boston Open Impact | **Bryan Panzano**, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative | **Justin Pasquariello**, East Boston Social Centers | **Franklin Peralta**, English for New Bostonians | **Andrea Perry**, Radcliffe College | **Aliana Pineiro**, Boston Impact Initiative | **Alison Poorvu Jaffe**, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute | **Durrell Queen**, Boston PIC | **Lily Sargeant**, Wagner Foundation | **Linda Saris**, LEAP for Education | **Sarah Saydun**, GreenRoots | **Patricia Schneider**, Fiduciary Trust Company | **Connor Schoen**, Breaktime | **Steven Segal**, Boston Open Impact | **Ellen Segal**, Boston Open Impact | **Karl Seidman**, Boston Main Streets | **Leon Smith**, Citizens for Juvenile Justice | **Eric Soto-Shed**, Harvard University | **Karthik Subramanian**, Company One | **Wendy Swart Grossman**, Boston University | **Beth Tauro**, Combined Jewish Philanthropies | **Kathleen Trachy**, Fortis Management Group | **Natalia Urtubey**, City of Boston | **Hermese Velasquez**, Summer Search | **Marquis Victor**, Elevated Thought | **Kathleen Wallace**, RINET Company, LLC | **Larry Wallach**, Viney Wallach Foundation | **Erin Whitney**, Nutter | **Corinn Williams**, Community Economic Development Center | **Paul Wishart**, Oak Foundation | **Jon Zaff**, BU Wheelock CERES Institute for Children & Youth

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Ronda Alexander, Vital Village Network | **Juan Pablo Blanco**, Center for Youth and Community Leadership in Education | **Emma Burke**, Elevated Thought | **Jim Cavan**, Backpack Health | **Jude Chisom Erundu**, ESG Solutions | **Michael Christian**, Someone Else's Child | **Cherie Craft**, Smart from the Start | **Natanja Craig-Oquendo**, Boston Women's Fund | **Susan Crandall**, Center for Social Policy | **David Crowley**, Social Capital, Inc. | **Elizabeth Delgado**, Colectiva Wellness and Healing | **Bonnie Denis**, James B. Boskey Memorial Foundation | **Jacob Folsom-Fraster**, City of Worcester | **Todd Foy**, Boston Public Health Commission | **Kevin Fudge**, American Student Assistance | **John Gatto**, Justice Resource Institute | **Lisa Goldblatt Grace**, My Life My Choice | **Caitlin Goos** | **Larry Greenberg**, Boston Open Impact | **Beth Greenberg**, Boston Open Impact | **Katherine Gross**, The Charlotte Foundation | **Anna Gross**, JAKET Foundation | **Liz Gross**, JAKET Foundation | **Kelly Gross**, JAKET Foundation

Financials



OPERATING REVENUE \$2,852,996

EXPENSES \$2,488,475

Revenue by Source

- 51% Foundations
- 22% Individuals
- 13% In-kind support
- 12% Corporations
- 1% Co-working fees
- 1% Special events

Revenue by Use/Purpose

- 49% Net assets released from restrictions
- 36% Contributions & grants
- 13% Contributed goods & services
- 1% Coworking fees
- 1% Special events

Expenses

- 69% Program services
- 18% Fundraising
- 13% General & administration





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