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

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
Ultimate Goal: Racial Equity*

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

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

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
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

2021 New Bedford Capacity Camp Participants

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

“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 well-being. 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.

SIF’s Pillars of Funder Education

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

“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-imagina­tion 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
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
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

...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.
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/mailing-list

Get in touch!

To learn more about SIF or to schedule an online or in-person meeting, contact Amaka Maduegbunam: amaduegbunam@socialinnovationforum.org
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
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
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
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.
2003 | Madison Park Development Corporation | Boston Learning Center | Eagle Eye Institute | Haley House | Social Capital Inc. | Year Up

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(As of June 30, 2022)

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$100,000 AND ABOVE
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**Investors and Supporters**

(As of June 30, 2022)

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NOMINATION COMMITTEE


NOMINATION COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)


EVALUATION COMMITTEE


EVALUATION COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)


Social Innovation Forum Annual Report 2022
Financials

Operating Revenue: $2,852,996

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: $2,488,475

Expenses:
- 69% Program services
- 18% Fundraising
- 13% General & administration
Are you ready to AMPLIFY social change?
Join the movement.
socialinnovationforum.org