

# Out

Speaking Boldly and  
Working Collaboratively

# Loud

Social Innovation Forum accelerates positive social change by connecting small- to medium-sized community-led nonprofits with the resources, networks, and knowledge they need to achieve greater social impact. SIF bridges the gap between innovative community-driven solutions and funders seeking to form meaningful and lasting partnerships.

By providing capacity-building support, facilitating introductions, and increasing visibility, we equip nonprofits to fulfill their critical missions. Together with our funders, partners, volunteers, and other supporters, we are building a more just, inclusive, and equitable future.

**"Silence becomes  
cowardice when  
occasion demands  
speaking out the  
whole truth and  
acting accordingly."**

**MAHATMA GANDHI**



**Julia**  
**Satti Cosentino**



**Wyona**  
**Lynch-McWhite**

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Over the course of this past year, we have witnessed the nonprofit sector undergoing dramatic foundational change. Due to federal funding and policy shifts, the needs across nonprofit organizations and the communities they support are increasingly dire. Both nonprofits and their investors and supporters must work together with urgency to protect and advance positive social impact.

The heart of our mission-driven work as we know it today was developed alongside what we currently refer to as philanthropy. In the early 20th Century, organizations were formed to meet societal needs, and their efforts were largely supported by individuals who had the ability to contribute their resources and often their time to the work. These efforts were bolstered by government supports at all levels and, in some cases, direct funding flowed to the organizations that were working within communities. A new workforce sprang up to power this social ecosystem with 1 in 10 adults now working in a nonprofit today.

Social Innovation Forum (SIF) was founded on the belief that bringing together community-led organizations and the resources and networks to help them achieve their missions is essential for social change. Nonprofits are vital and our model is built on abundance and shared impact. We are all stronger when we work together.

This year, we have seen the parts of our sector's ecosystem dismantled with a speed that has left institutional voids and foundational uncertainty. In the face of lost jobs, unfunded programs, and organizations that have been shuttered, it is imperative to speak up—and speak out—for the important work that nonprofits continue to do.

Our 2025 annual report is a time to communicate our progress across this past year and share a bit about our goals for the future. This year, in this time, it's also important to acknowledge the work ahead and the collective strength we must summon. Our theme **OUT LOUD: SPEAKING BOLDLY AND WORKING COLLABORATIVELY** charges us to bring our voices and our resources forward in collective action and resolve to ensure that mission-based organizations and the communities they serve can thrive.

Thank you for being with us as we move forward together,

**JULIA SATTI COSENTINO**  
Chair, Board of Directors

**WYONA LYNCH-MCWHITE**  
Executive Director



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**Cosentino, Chair**  
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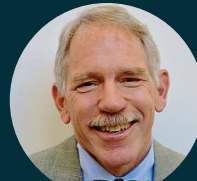
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# Strategic Planning Moves Forward

This year, SIF began the vital work of preparing for a new strategic plan—our second since becoming an independent organization. Recognizing the evolving landscape of the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors, we spent the past year asking fundamental questions about our model, our programs, and our role as a connector between funders and nonprofits.

Pre-planning began in fall 2024. Staff worked with key partners: Julia Gittleman, who helped us think through and update our theory of change, and Strategy Matters, who facilitated a convening of staff and board members to identify the critical questions we will address and that informed the development of

our request for proposals. After thoroughly reviewing 66 proposals and interviewing finalists, we selected the Center for Applied Research (CFAR) to be our planning partner.

CFAR brings deep experience with both nonprofits and philanthropy, and an understanding of the unique role intermediaries like SIF play in the sector. The planning process officially launched in summer 2025 and is expected to culminate in a new strategic plan by June 2026. As we move forward, equity remains a central lens for this work, ensuring our values guide every step of our future direction. ■



## A New Home for SIF

In July 2024, SIF moved into a new home—an important milestone that reflects both organizational stability and continued commitment to serving the nonprofit sector. The relocation allowed us to design a space that supports our work, tailored to our programs and values, including the addition of all-gender restrooms.

We also affirmed our commitment to the coworking program, a resource for small-to-medium-sized nonprofits seeking both physical workspace and connection to SIF's broader network. Along with high-quality office space, SIF provides capacity-building workshops, peer-to-peer networking, and opportunities to engage with Boston's philanthropic ecosystem. In a sector where space and stability can be elusive, our new home represents both—a foundation for the next phase of our work. ■



# THE ACCELERATOR

In 2025, the Accelerator highlighted the power of bold voices, strong partnerships, and intentional community-building.

For the incoming 2025 cohort, SIF selected seven dynamic Innovators. Three leaders are addressing holistic wellbeing, partnering with the James B. Boskey Memorial Foundation. Other Innovators are advancing climate resiliency with the support of partner Liberty Mutual Insurance, financial resilience with partner Mass Mutual Foundation, access to the arts with the Charlotte Foundation, and educational pathways for youth with partners Cummings Foundation, Move the World Foundation, and the SIF community. From day one, the focus was on connection: setting community agreements, bonding over pizza-making at **Future Chefs** (a 2011 Social Innovator), and sharing handwritten notes of encouragement before the Showcase.

Support included branded prospectuses designed by Opus, an Ariel Group presentation workshop, and presentation panels to refine their messaging. This year's Showcase reflected feedback collected from prior Innovator cohorts by starting the event earlier, holding a full dress rehearsal, and providing more time at the end for networking. Post-Showcase, Innovators began relationship mapping and fundraising strategy sessions, meeting In-kind partners, and celebrating their first six months in the program at the **Lynn Museum and Arts Center**, a 2025 Social Innovator.

Responding to Innovator feedback, SIF held its first graduation for the 2023 cohort.

For the continuing 2024 cohort, the year centered on deepening skills and connections. Innovators continued their work with executive coaches which culminated in an intimate celebration; they were offered a development workshop, and presented at the second annual Lunch & Learn event at Nutter. Coaches, who work one-on-one with Innovators to help them develop and pursue professional and organizational goals, also deepened their cultural competency in "Coaching Across Difference" workshops with Kemarah Sika of Sika Consulting.

Across all cohorts, the Accelerator amplified leaders' ability to share their visions and drive social change out loud with clarity, confidence, and purpose. ■

On average,  
SIF Innovators more than  
doubled their revenue **(2.3X)**  
within four years of joining SIF

SIF Innovators' revenue growth is  
**13.2X** the Massachusetts average for  
similar nonprofits.





## Showcasing Bold Voices

On May 15, more than 200 guests gathered for the annual Showcase at the Artists for Humanity Epi-Center in Boston to hear from seven bold nonprofit leaders who took the stage to share their visions for change.

From expanding access to the arts, to confronting health disparities and championing affordable higher education for all, these leaders are tackling urgent and pressing challenges with clarity and courage. The Showcase provided a platform to demonstrate their organizations' innovative approaches to social issues and invite others into their missions.



"These are not just nonprofit leaders," said Sarah Gladstone, SIF's Senior Program Manager. "They are changemakers, stepping up and speaking out when it matters most."

Wyona Lynch-McWhite, SIF's Executive Director and Delphine Mooney, Board Vice Chair, opened the evening with powerful reminders that community and connection are the roots of transformation. And throughout the night, those connections deepened, as funders, supporters, and partners met Innovators ready to grow—with help from a network that believes in them.

"As we move forward," said Wyona, "Let's remember that joy is a form of resistance."



## Social Innovator Fund

2025 is the third year of SIF's Social Innovator Fund, which enables individuals to give critical unrestricted gifts to nonprofits in the SIF network. For nonprofits, this means access to often elusive general operating funds; for donors, this means knowing their unrestricted giving is going to effective, highly vetted changemakers. Ensuring that additional funding is part of our capacity building allows our Innovators to immediately apply these funds to their organization's efforts. We increased the number of Fund donors from 14 in 2023 to 40 in 2025. ■

7

INNOVATORS IN FY25

217

ORGS VETTED/OUTREACHED

75

APPLICANTS

\$265,731

SOCIAL INNOVATOR FUND  
PROGRESS TO DATE

43%

OF FY25 INNOVATORS ARE BIPOC

15

FINALISTS IN FY25



# 2025 INNOVATORS



**BRIGHTER  
BOSTON**

Brighter Boston guides teens and young adults to meaningful work and personal success through life-changing professional internships in the event production industry.



La Vida Scholars equips low-income, high-achieving students with access to resources and opportunities to enter top colleges and graduate with minimal to no debt.



Lynn Museum & Arts Center engages and enriches Lynn's diverse community through exhibitions, innovative youth and adult programs, and affordable studio space.



Mujeres Unidas Avanzando meets the educational needs of low-income Latina girls and women, as well as other immigrants, so they can build fulfilling, self-sufficient lives.



Speak for the Trees works with communities to expand, care for, and advocate for the tree canopy in environmentally marginalized Boston neighborhoods.



Vital Connections cultivates equitable community health ecosystems by convening stakeholders, promoting community ownership, and building community-driven clinical partnerships.



Waltham Partnership for Youth builds a community of belonging and opportunity for Waltham youth, promoting the skills and resources that create paths to success and well-being.

# Finding the Right Moment

## WALTHAM PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH (2025)

When Magali García-Pletsch stepped into the role of Executive Director at **Waltham Partnership for Youth (WPY)**, she faced the dual challenge of learning to lead a growing organization—and learning to speak for it. WPY was evolving from a citywide coalition into an independent nonprofit running its own programs, and García-Pletsch, as a first-time ED, needed clarity, strategy, and a way to make the organization's vision for youth resonate.

The Accelerator program came at the perfect moment.

"I knew I'd benefit from the structure, resources, and network the Accelerator provides," she says. "Without it, I think this year would have looked very different for both me and WPY."

The Accelerator provided not just a seat at the table, but the space to step back from daily logistics and think about growth, fundraising, and how to distill WPY's mission into powerful messaging accessible to new audiences. "Before, I would get stuck saying, 'There are so many reasons to care—do you have a half hour to talk about them?'" Now I can capture people's attention quickly and follow up with deeper conversations later," García-Pletsch says.

The peer learning aspect of the Accelerator has been equally transformative. As the newest ED in her cohort, García-Pletsch anticipated learning from more seasoned peers—and she did, gaining new approaches to board engagement and fundraising. But she also found that her own voice was valued and heard: "I've shared insights about storytelling and employee well-being with my fellow EDs."

Today, García-Pletsch leads WPY with even greater focus and conviction. She's not just building programs—she's building an organization that speaks out loud about what young people need, and why it matters. ■

## Innovator Fund Donors

Many thanks to the following donors who generously gave to the Social Innovator Fund:

Anonymous	Liberty Mutual Insurance
Anonymous*	Thomas Loewald
Bill Asher	Sarah Mamlet
Mari Barrera	Julie Johnson McVeigh
Veronica Barron	Monique Morimoto
George and Barbara Beal*	Karen Pfefferle
Brittany Butler	Megan Briggs Reilly
The Clowes Fund**	Connor Schoen*
Collective Change Fund	Steven and Ellen Segal*
Julia Satti Cosentino	Nageeb and Fatema Sumar
Zane Diamond	Upland Gardens Fund
Amy Driscoll	Viney Wallach Foundation*
Cheryl Duckworth	Wellington Management Foundation
Melissa Duggan and Rajeev Martyn	Fredia and Clifford Woolf
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Lexi Kantor	
Travis Kilpatrick*	
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Leslie and Nathan Levenson	

\* Donor of two or more consecutive years

\*\* Companies that have provided matching gifts in support of SIF donor contributions





# Bigger than One Person

## SPEAK FOR THE TREES (2025)

Founded in 2018 by a former science teacher David Meshoulam, **Speak for the Trees** works to build environmental, social, and economic resilience in Boston's neighborhoods through urban forestry. "I come into the work as an educator who cares deeply about people and how they interact with the world," Meshoulam says. "Trees connect civic values with environmental concerns."

The organization's mission extends far beyond planting greenery. By working alongside residents, Speak for the Trees fosters equity, improves public health, and strengthens community bonds.

Its programs range from engaging youth in tree stewardship to training neighborhood leaders to advocate for canopy expansion.

In 2025, Speak for the Trees joined the Accelerator program, seeking new networks, fundraising skills, and greater visibility. Meshoulam found all that and more: "The sense of community and camaraderie with other leaders was invaluable. We're all facing challenges, but hearing different approaches and ideas was inspiring. It sharpened our vision and put us on the map." The Accelerator also connected the organization to pro bono legal and design services, helping to launch new projects, refresh branding, and activate ideas that had long been on the back burner.

Continued, intentional growth in the next five years include plans for staff additions, securing a permanent headquarters that doubles as a tree nursery, and expanding resources like watering trucks to serve more neighborhoods. ■



**"This work is much bigger than any one person – it's about creating something that will last for generations."**

**DAVID MESHOULAM**  
Speak for the Trees



# Finding its Voice

## MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN OF COLOR NETWORK (2024)

Founded in 2010, the **Massachusetts Women of Color Network (MAWOCN)** spent its first decade as a social group before transitioning into a 501(c)(3) in 2022, under Kishana Smith-Osei, Executive Director. The organization supports women of color working in the anti-violence field, building their skills, leadership, resources, and networks so they can effectively serve survivors and strengthen the movement to end violence.

By the time they entered the Accelerator program in 2024, MAWOCN was refining its identity and seeking stronger connections within the nonprofit sector. Kishana calls the experience “a gift.” Working closely with her SIF consultant, Smith-Osei turned the explanation of complex issues and intricate programming into a clear and confident presentation. “After that, my confidence skyrocketed...I still know my pitch by heart today,” she says. That confidence now fuels networking and fundraising efforts, helping MAWOCN secure major new support—including a large gift initiated from a conversation at an Accelerator event.

The program’s branding tools and storytelling training also left a lasting mark. MAWOCN adopted its



prospectus template for all organizational materials, strengthening its visibility and reinforcing its brand as a capacity-building organization known for its two signature 40-hour community trainings: Keeping Black Survivors Alive and Big Advocacy Energy.

In their time in the Accelerator, MAWOCN has expanded its fundraising capacity, deepened relationships with funders, and grown its budget—turning early-stage uncertainty into stability. “It’s not often that you see an organization pouring so much into nonprofits—and the way SIF does that is so intentional,” says Smith-Osei. “That care stays with you and gives you the confidence to use your voice boldly in every room you enter.” ■

## Historical Innovators

### 2024

Beat The Odds (BTO)  
Boston Food Forest Coalition  
Family Independence, Inc.  
Just a Start Financial  
Empowerment Collaborative  
Kids in Tech  
Latinx Community Center  
for Empowerment (LCCE)  
Massachusetts Women  
of Color Network (MAWOCN)  
Top Notch Scholars

### 2023

Chica Project  
GenUnity  
Justice 4 Housing  
The Latino Health  
Insurance Program (LHIP)  
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust  
MissionSAFE  
RIA, Inc.  
United Interfaith Action of  
Southeastern Massachusetts (UIA)

### 2022

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

## 2021

Breaktime  
Everyday Boston  
Immigrant Family  
Services Institute (IFSI)  
The Loop Lab  
Neighbor to Neighbor  
Project Place's Comprehensive  
Reentry Program

## 2020

The 1647, Inc.  
Adaptive Sports New England  
Boston HERC (Higher Education  
Resource Center)  
Elevated Thought  
Origination Cultural Arts Center  
PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction  
& Recovery Initiative)  
Vital Village Networks  
WHALE (Waterfront  
Historic Area League)

## 2019

Beat the Streets New England  
(formerly Boston Youth Wrestling)  
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  
Partners for Youth  
with Disabilities (PYD)  
Political Asylum/Immigration  
Representation (PAIR) Project  
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 (ACE)  
Cambodian Mutual  
Assistance Association  
Dorchester Community Food Co-op  
Hale Education  
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute  
MassCOSH  
SMART Team at JRI  
Women's Money Matters  
(formerly Budget Buddies)

## 2015

Catie's Closet  
Company One Theatre  
Courageous Parents Network  
Massachusetts Public Health Alliance  
(formerly Massachusetts Public  
Health Association)  
Mystic River Watershed Association  
Transformative Culture Project  
(formerly Press Pass TV)  
Waypoint Adventure

## 2014

Coaching4Change  
Doc Wayne  
Mill City Grows  
Silver Lining Mentoring (formerly  
Adoption & Foster Care Mentoring)  
Veterans Legal Services

## 2013

AgeWell West Roxbury  
GRLZ Radio  
Groundwork Lawrence  
Safe City Academy  
Shelter Music Boston

## 2012

Cooking Matters Massachusetts, a  
former program of Share Our Strength  
InnerCity Weightlifting  
LGBTQIA+ Aging Project  
Science Club for Girls  
Tempo Young Adult Resource Center  
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

ExperienceCorps, a program of  
Literations (formerly  
Generations Incorporated)  
Home & Healthy for Good, a program of  
MA Housing & Shelter Alliance  
My Life My Choice  
SPOKE (formerly Medicine  
Wheel Productions)  
Playworks New England  
Project Hope: Workforce Development  
& Employer Partnerships

## 2009

Bessie Tartt Wilson  
Initiative for Children  
Hearth, Inc.  
Maritime Apprentice Program,  
a former program of the Hull Life  
Saving Museum  
More Than Words  
RAW Art Works  
uAspire (formerly ACCESS)

## 2008

CitySprouts  
Cradles to Crayons  
Girls' LEAP  
ReVision Urban Farm  
True Colors: OUT Theater, a program of  
The Theater Offensive  
UTEC

## 2007

Building Impact  
Incarcerated Youth at Play, an initiative  
of the Actors' Shakespeare Project  
Strong Women, Strong Girls  
The TRUST Project (formerly Boston  
Urban Youth Foundation)

## 2006

Boston Black Women's Health Institute  
Tacos Unidos,  
a former program of Roca  
Treehouse Foundation  
WordPowered (formerly WriteBoston)  
ZUMIX

## 2004

Boston Children's Chorus  
Boston Health Care and Research  
Training Institute  
Close to Home  
Common Impact

Rediscovery House  
VietAID

## 2003

ACT Roxbury, a former program of Madison Park Development Corporation

Boston Learning Center  
Eagle Eye Institute  
Haley House  
Social Capital Inc.  
Year Up

# Accelerator Graduation

For the first time, SIF held an event to celebrate the graduating cohort of 2023 Innovators.

Innovators have wanted a capstone event for their Accelerator experience, a chance to reflect on their accomplishments, acknowledge new connections with colleagues and friends, look to the future, and express gratitude.

Held in January at the NonProfit Center in Boston, the event was an intimate and joyful celebration where SIF staff, close partners and funders, and the Innovators mixed and made merry, while saluting Innovator accomplishments:

- **GenUnity** hired a new COO
- **Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust** tripled the acres of land it conserved
- **Justice4Housing** opened four new reentry houses
- **RIA** hired new staff and appointed new board members
- **MissionSAFE** increased its budget from \$860,000 to \$1.5M
- **Latino Health Insurance Program** opened a new Worcester office
- **Chica Project** doubled its staff
- **United Interfaith Action** helped pass the Affordable Homes Act

At the end of the program, Musau Dibinga, Executive Director of **OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center** (2020 Social Innovator), congratulated the graduates, welcomed them to the SIF alumni community, and assured them that "SIF will continue to be in your corner for years to come." ■



**"It was really meaningful to gather with my cohort to celebrate all that we had collectively accomplished throughout our two years in the Accelerator program. Seeing how each organization leveraged SIF to enhance their impact given all the tools, coaching, and pro bono support opportunities is the kind of inspiration that really lifts you and gives you the momentum to keep pushing forward."**



**JANE CALVIN**

Executive Director  
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust





# CONNECTING THROUGH CHANGE

In a year of continued uncertainty, Social Innovation Forum served as a steady partner to nonprofit leaders and funders by offering opportunities for reflection, relationship-building, and collective learning.

A few major events defined the year. At **Rooted in Trust**, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders explored how to build trust across traditional power divides. Panelists shared candidly how they've built trusting partnerships. For example, funders can create more diverse and informal touchpoints with nonprofit leaders, getting to know them as people, and fostering open communication. As trust builds, nonprofit leaders can advance equity and sustainability through transparency about the full costs of running an organization, any harmful practices they see in the funding process, and providing positive feedback as well.

In April, SIF convened funders, nonprofit leaders, and consultants for **Strengthening Our Sector: A Community Brainstorm**, a dynamic, forward-looking conversation among partners about the nonprofit sector's assets and opportunities.

Guest speakers Rory Neuner of the Barr Foundation and Dr. Jaykyri Simpson of **Young Man with a Plan** (2022 Social Innovator) emphasized the urgent need for cross-sector collaboration at this moment, such as joint nonprofit programming and collaborative grant applications. Participants brainstormed "15% Solutions"—immediate, actionable steps to produce momentum for change—such as maintaining an abundance mindset; committing to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging; and getting input and advice from the community.

This year, SIF hosted eight workshops for nonprofit leaders and convened two learning cohorts. Staff from nonprofits in our network built skills in fundraising, leadership, and more in this free-to-access programming. SIF also responded quickly to the emotional and organizational strain many leaders are experiencing by offering mindfulness tools and executive director roundtables to support nonprofit resilience.

On the funder side, SIF hosted sessions on values-aligned philanthropy and equity. One highlight was **Connect in Community**, a summer event co-hosted with local partners that brought together emerging funders and nonprofit leaders by issue area for rich, cross-sector conversations about how individual funders can support nonprofits during this challenging time.

Throughout, the guidance from SIF's Alumni Council and Funder Learning Advisory Council was extremely helpful in ensuring programming stayed responsive and rooted in community voice.

## Alumni Council

The Alumni Council, made up of past participants from SIF's programs, played an even more critical role in shaping SIF's programming during this year of uncertainty and change. They shared feedback and ideas from the nonprofit community, advised on programming relevant to the moment, and contributed to a blog post advising funders on how to best demonstrate their support.

**Abdi Ali**, **WordPowered** (2006) | **Chris Cotrone**, **Breaktime** (2021) | **Musau Dibinga**, **OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center** (2020) | **Kayla Dorst**, **LEAP for Education** (2019) | **Ali Jacobs**, **Mill City Grows** (2014) | **Carolina De Jesus**, **Boston Higher Education Resource Center (HERC)** (2020) | **Erika Hernandez**, **ACT Lawrence** (2018) | **Shavel'le Olivier**, **Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition** (2022) | **Sarah Roxburgh**, **Veterans Legal Services** (2014) | **Sonja Solberg-Potter**, **My Life My Choice** (2010) | **Heather Wightman**, **RIA** (2023) ■

## Funder Learning Advisory Council

**Elizabeth Bouchard**,  
Fidelity Charitable

**Christine Dixon**,  
Someone Else's Child

**Kate Grundy**,  
Devonshire Foundation

**Sheri Gurock**,  
The Beker Foundation

**Karen Pfefferle**,  
Wellington Management  
Foundation

**Lawrence "Larry" Wallach**,  
Viney Wallach Foundation

**Yamanda Wright**,  
The Boston Foundation

### ☀ Network Engagement

**241**

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS  
PARTICIPATING

**237**

NONPROFITS IN  
THE NETWORK

**79**


NONPROFITS  
ATTENDING  
EVENTS

**27**

NETWORK  
ENGAGEMENT  
EVENTS

# OUR VOICES CARRY

Over the past year, the nonprofit sector has faced a shifting and often uncertain federal landscape: freezes on federal grants, new restrictions on DEI initiatives, threats to tax-exempt status, and budget proposals that could reduce charitable giving incentives while cutting programs many communities rely on. This landscape is the backdrop to increased community need, as services that nonprofits provide are more critical than ever.



**"Nonprofits need all of us to stand beside them to advocate for their protection, and more broadly for the entire nonprofit sector."**

**WYONA LYNCH-MCWHITE**  
Executive Director

**To that end, SIF has created spaces for nonprofit and philanthropic leaders to reflect, strategize, and support each other, including:**

☀ **Mindfulness for Overwhelm Workshop**

Building habits for the long haul

☀ **Strengthening Our Sector: A Community Brainstorm**

Surfacing strengths, challenges, and actions for resilience

☀ **Team Leadership in Uncertain Times**

An executive director lunch for sharing strategies that work under pressure

☀ **Connect in Community**

A June gathering of emerging philanthropists and nonprofits to discuss effective collaboration and maximal impact





"This is a time like no other. Where the federal government is concerned, fairness, equity, justice—even science itself—have essentially gone out the window," said Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director of the **Massachusetts Public Health Alliance**, a 2015 Social Innovator. "In addition to many thousands of people in Massachusetts losing access to health care itself, impacts are ripping through housing, food access, schools, immigrant communities, LGBTQ communities, protection of clean air and water... basically every structural condition that supports well-being. Right now, the best funders are showing trust—reducing burdens, not adding them — and believing that small organizations know what their communities need."



"Immediately, we set up staff trainings on immigration and how to respond if ICE shows up," says Zaida Istambul Olva, Executive Director of **Chica Project**, a 2023 Social Innovator. The organization serves young Latinas, including those from immigrant families, who have been targeted by the current administration. "We have built enough trust in our communities that chicas are still showing up for programs," Zaida says. Because Chica Project receives no federal funding, its budget has not been directly hit, "but there's a trickle down effect. And of course, DEIB is at the heart of what we do, so we are staying alert."



"There is a lot of fear and anxiety among the youth that we serve, especially those who are youth of color and/or trans/non-binary," says Grace Sterling Stowell, Executive Director of the **Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth (BAGLY)**, a 2022 Social Innovator. "In response to these concerns, we are strengthening our safety and security policies and procedures, while also not compromising accessibility and our low barrier approach to providing programs and services. At the same time, young people are experiencing an increased need for behavioral health, housing, food, and other community support, and so now is the time for funders to step up and invest in extremely vulnerable communities like never before."

## In numerous discussions, nonprofit leaders have been clear about how funders and partners can help:

### ☀ Funding

Unrestricted, flexible funding to respond quickly to changes in grants and budgets

### ☀ Values

Clarity of values in the face of DEIB rollbacks

### ☀ Support

Concrete support such as strategic introductions, wellness grants, or reduced reporting

### ☀ Amplification

Through public statements, event attendance, and shared advocacy

These are not just tactical moves — they're visible, vocal acts of solidarity and trust. The coming years will bring even more challenges to the sector, requiring all of us to deploy courage, smart thinking, creativity, and flexibility ■

# FUNDERS

When funders join SIF, they do more than support—they declare, out loud, that equity and community leadership matter. Whether a foundation, company, or individual donor, each partner becomes part of a movement that uplifts the voices of those closest to the issues. They know capacity building is the key to real change, and they show it by offering resources, mentoring Innovators, and standing side by side with nonprofits as they grow and succeed.

This year, SIF proudly launched Change Champions—a new way for funders to support the Accelerator beyond our traditional Track Partner model. With program-specific underwriting that extends across every social issue track, Change Champions answer the call from partners who wanted to make their investment in the Accelerator.

Our inaugural Change Champions stepped up not only with funding, but with curiosity and commitment. As the program evolves, they will join tailored issue briefings designed by Accelerator and Funder Learning staff, engaging directly with the urgent challenges and opportunities facing our communities. We are grateful to celebrate this year's Change Champions: Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Suzanne & Andrew Offit, Schrafft Charitable Trust, and The TJX Foundation. ■

**148**

UNIQUE DONORS

**115**

SKILLED VOLUNTEERS

**\$403,492**

FY25 IN-KIND SERVICES

**\$66.4M**

RESOURCES DIRECTED  
SINCE BEGINNING





## Supporting SIF's Transformative Impact

### GOODWIN — IN-KIND PARTNER

Goodwin is a global law firm that has a longstanding partnership with Social Innovation Forum (SIF). The relationship began in 2005 when SIF's former Executive Director, Susan Musinsky, reached out to Goodwin to share information about its mission. Since then, dozens of SIF nonprofits and alumni have benefited from Goodwin's wide-ranging pro bono practice. The firm has institutionalized pro bono as a core value and enjoys the opportunity to provide legal services to local charitable organizations that might not otherwise have access to legal counsel.

Carolyn Rosenthal, Goodwin's Pro Bono Director, notes that "over the past two decades, Goodwin has had the privilege of supporting SIF's mission and has admired SIF's ability to identify organizations with a proven track record and the potential for growth. We appreciate the opportunity to support its work and the transformative impact it makes across a remarkably broad spectrum of social missions that benefit our community."

Each year, Goodwin representatives speak at SIF's new Accelerator cohort's orientation about the

benefits of pro bono assistance. The firm has helped Innovators with corporate governance issues, mergers, commercial leases, privacy and website terms of use, intellectual property rights, release forms, and contracts. Goodwin matches volunteer attorneys with nonprofits according to expertise, interest, and availability.

The opportunities to work with SIF organizations are so popular that there's sometimes a waiting list of attorneys wanting to help. Rosenthal notes, "Charitable organizations with limited budgets can apply for pro bono assistance so they can direct more of their resources toward their core missions." She further emphasizes that the firm is committed to going above-and-beyond to provide assistance to Social Innovation Forum Innovators.





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AS OF JUNE 30TH, 2025

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\$100,000 AND ABOVE

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## 2025 Social Issue Track Partners

The Charlotte Foundation\*  
Cummings Foundation\*  
James B. Boskey Memorial Foundation\*  
Liberty Mutual Insurance\*  
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## Change Champions

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## Lead Sponsors

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## Alumni Council

### INCLUDING THE YEAR THE GROUP WAS SELECTED AS A SOCIAL INNOVATOR

Abdi Ali, WordPowered (2006) • Chris Cotrone, Breaktime (2021) • Musau Dibinga, OriginNation Cultural Arts Center (2020) • Kayla Dorst, LEAP for Education (2019) • Ali Jacobs, Mill City Grows (2014) • Carolina De Jesus, Boston Higher Education Resource Center (HERC) (2020) • Erika Hernandez, ACT Lawrence (2018) • Shavelle Olivier, Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition (2022) • Sarah Roxburgh, Veterans Legal Services (2014) • Sonja Solberg-Potter, My Life My Choice (2010) • Heather Wightman, RIA (2023)

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Emily Bottie, Director of Advancement • Lori Smith Britton, Development Consultant • Melissa Duggan, Chief Operating Officer • Sarah Gladstone, Senior Program Manager • Tanya Inwald, Director of Programs • Jillian Levine, Executive Assistant & Operations Manager • Wyona Lynch-McWhite, Executive Director • Becca Mamlet, Development Operations Coordinator • Katie Murphy, Executive Assistant & Special Projects Manager • Jenna Nackel, Director of Network Engagement • ChiChi Ofoma, Grant Writer • Malathi Reddy, Senior Program Coordinator • Kassandra Sidney, Communications & Brand Manager • Luis Torres, Communications & Events Co-op • Carina Traub, Funder Learning Manager

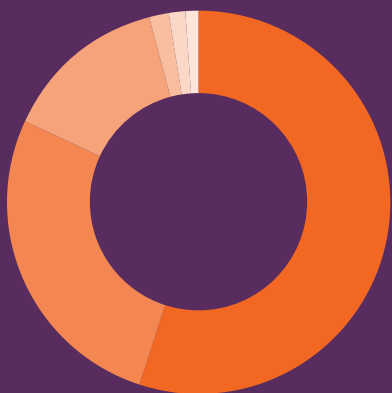
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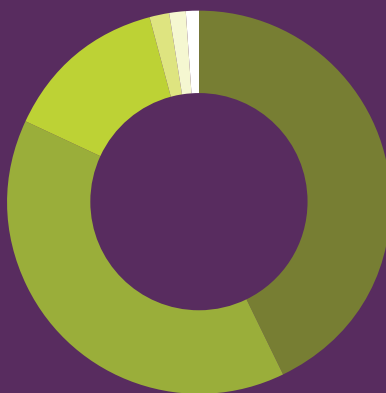




## Operating Revenue: \$2,817,297

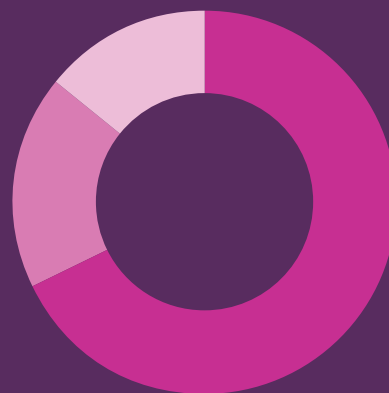
### Revenue by Source

- 55% Corporations & Foundations
- 27% Individuals
- 14% In-kind Support
- 2% Other Income
- 1% Special Events
- 1% Coworking Fees



### Revenue by Use/Purpose

- 43% Net Assets Released from Restrictions
- 39% Contributions & Grants
- 14% Contributed Goods & Services
- 2% Interest & Other Income
- 1% Special Events
- 1% Coworking Fees



## Expenses: \$3,372,110

### Expenses

- 68% Program Services
- 18% Fundraising
- 14% General & Administration

In FY25, SIF saw a deficit of \$554,813, due to revenue shortfalls. While SIF does not have an endowment, we do have cash reserves that were able to cover the deficit.







**Social Innovation Forum**

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Boston, MA 02110

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