

# Leverage Your Impact

Consider a Collaborative Funding Opportunity with the Social Innovation Forum

## ABOUT THE SOCIAL INNOVATION FORUM

The Social Innovation Forum creates positive social change in greater Boston by engaging leaders, strengthening organizations, and building networks. To accomplish this, SIF combines capacity building and network development to advance promising solutions to the community's most pressing social issues. SIF's Social Innovator Accelerator actively connects supporters (funders, investors, and volunteers) and practitioners (nonprofit leaders) to build productive relationships focused on growing social impact.

## SOCIAL ISSUE TRACKS

Each year, the Social Innovation Forum partners with leading local funders to create "social issue tracks" focused on the most pressing issues in greater Boston. Through an extensive application and due diligence process, SIF selects outstanding nonprofits working on these issues and provides these Social Innovators with consulting, coaching, and other support over a 24-month period. Through this process, SIF also raises awareness for each social issue, initiating discussion on how to generate enduring solutions. Past tracks have focused on a wide range of social issues including food security, sustainability, mental health, empowering youth through the arts, healthy aging, college access, and literacy.

## COLLABORATIVE TRACK OPPORTUNITY FOR 2019-2020

The Social Innovation Forum (SIF) will engage donors in a collaborative track process that will allow for engagement, learning, and leveraged impact. The funding partners, with support from the Social Innovation Forum team, will explore key issues in the greater Boston community and determine the social issue area where their topic will be focused. Together as a collective, the funding partners will learn about the nonprofit landscape, review applications, meet social impact leaders, and engage in the full Social Innovator Accelerator selection process resulting in the selection of one "Social Innovator" who will then participate in SIF's 24-month capacity-building accelerator. Engaging in the collective process will allow funding partners to leverage their investment by directing resources towards organizations that are addressing critical issues in an effective and innovative way, and that can achieve even greater impact with the support of the Social Innovation Forum.

**Next Gen and Individual Donors** In an effort to respond to the interests of next gen donors and those bringing a fresh perspective to philanthropy, the Social Innovation Forum is convening a group of next gen and individual donors to form a collaborative track for the 2019-2020 Social Innovator Accelerator. This opportunity is ideal for those interested in learning from the SIF process with a group of engaged donors from a variety of backgrounds.

**Prospective partners are invited to consider a collaborative track focused on directing resources to promote healthy children and families;** an intentionally broad topic that will allow the partners to consider issues related to positive social and emotional environments, nutritious food, and access to safe outdoor spaces.

## COLLABORATIVE TRACKS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING & LEVERAGED IMPACT

The Social Innovation Forum has a history of working collectively with funding partners. The collaborative track process has offered donors a unique opportunity to leverage their philanthropic investment and their community impact while learning from one another and the SIF team in the process. Collaborative funding partners have included individual philanthropists, family foundations, community foundations, corporate foundations, as well as public charities (e.g. United Way).

- In 2018, SIF's Inspire Boston Funding Collaborative, made up of both next gen donors and emerging philanthropists, came together to select an organization focused on closing the opportunity gap for young people through out-of-classroom engagement. [Boston Youth Wrestling](#) was selected by the funding partners to join the 2018-2019 cohort and we are looking forward to supporting their growth in the next 24 months of the Accelerator program, after which Boston Youth Wrestling will become a member of SIF's alumni program which supports over 100 local nonprofits who have completed the Social Innovator Accelerator.
- In 2017, a group of eight funding entities came together to select an organization focused on supporting [Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#). The Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative focused their time and resources to learn about the most critical needs in the sector and leverage their individual impact at a time when engagement from the philanthropic community seems especially critical. They not only selected [PAIR](#) to join the 2018 cohort, but also chose seven additional nonprofits to participate in SIF's eight-week Capacity Camp.
- SIF worked for five years with a collective funding group (all individual philanthropists) called Boston Open Impact. Their interest has been in selecting an organization that does not fit on any of SIF's other tracks but has tremendous potential to grow and scale with the support of SIF. Boston Open Impact's support has helped to scale [Silver Lining Mentoring](#) (foster care), [Catie's Closet](#) (education), [Courageous Parents Network](#) (supporting families), [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute](#) (youth violence prevention) and [Project Citizenship](#) (immigration).
- In 2015, SIF formed the [Women and Girls Funding Collaborative](#) to accelerate learning in the sector and address issues facing women and girls in greater Boston. The Women and Girls Collaborative selected and accelerated [Budget Buddies](#), focused on promoting economic self-sufficiency for women.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AS A COLLABORATIVE TRACK PARTNER

- The collaborative social issue tracks will be supported by 6-10 funding partners who are committed to calling attention to and promoting solutions for critical issues facing our local community. Those participating in the funding collaborative will have the opportunity to further define key objectives and participation goals. The SIF team will facilitate a discussion amongst the track partners to specify the particular issues the track will address.
- Working with the SIF team, the funding partners will review applications and select one nonprofit organization to join the 2020 Social Innovator cohort. Funding partners will also have the opportunity to participate in interviews and site visits. Applicants will receive feedback throughout the process, and finalist organizations will be publicly recognized and eligible for support from some of SIF's in-kind partners. The organization selected to the 2020 cohort will be an innovative, effective local organization that is doing exceptional work in the interest area selected by the funding partners.

- Through the Social Innovator Accelerator, the Social Innovation Forum will assist the Innovator organization in growth and development and help accelerate its ability to implement effective solutions to current challenges. The organization will receive 24 months of services including consulting, executive coaching, network-building, and performance measurement support. After the 24 month engagement, the Social Innovator organization will graduate into SIF's alumni portfolio where it will continue to receive support and access to resources forever.
- Funding partners will have the opportunity to be involved in all stages of the Social Innovation Forum's evaluation process, from selecting the track topic, reviewing first and second stage applications, to interviewing finalists and participating in the due diligence process.

#### BENEFITS OF JOINING THE FUNDER COLLABORATIVE

- **Have an impact** on the trajectory of an innovative, local nonprofit organization—and the people it serves—in an issue area that is important to you.
- **Participate in a collaborative funding experience** that will increase the return on your investment. We are able to guarantee that the selected organization will have access to more than \$150,000 in cash and in-kind services focused on building its capacity for greater social impact.
- **Gain recognition** as a strategic and collaborative funder uniquely committed to spreading social innovation and advancing solutions to social problems. (If interested, track partnership includes listing in print and online publications related to the Social Innovation Forum, including press releases, event materials, email communications, social media, and the SIF website.)
- **Raise awareness** of a critical social issue - to be highlighted through SIF materials, press releases, and events during the two years of the Accelerator engagement.
- **Get involved in and learn from** the Social Innovation Forum's evaluation process, from reviewing first- and second-stage applications to interviewing finalists and participating in our due diligence process.
- **Network** with a range of business leaders, foundation representatives, government officials, and philanthropists at Social Innovation Forum events, including the Winter Reception, Social Issue Speaker series, and the annual Innovator Showcase.

#### PARTNERSHIP LEVELS

*Note: Financial commitment levels are preliminary, as exact amounts depend on the number of funders who participate. The cost to SIF to run a track is \$100,000. A breakdown of costs is available to anyone considering track partnership:*

- Lead Partners: \$30,000
- Contributing Partners: \$20,000
- Supporting Partners: \$10,000

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