



## NEWS



Donna Benson-Chan  
Executive Director

Dear Members & Friends,

More than 10,000 women across the country are involved with women's collective giving organizations like Impact Austin.

Over the past 20 years, the women's collective giving movement has grown to include 45 organizations in 23 states. These organizations, including Impact Austin, have poured nearly \$70 million into their respective communities.

Most organizations award grants in multiple giving categories each year, including health, education, human services, youth, women and girls, arts, and the environment as does Impact Austin.

The one common denominator: Women can change the world by pooling their intellectual and financial capital for the common good. As Impact Austin continues to build our membership and invest in our Central Texas community, we are also accelerating the momentum of the women's philanthropy movement nationally.

Here's a short list of what you did as a member this year:

- Collectively, we surpassed \$5,000,000 in grants given to over 50 nonprofit organizations in Central Texas, since our inception in 2003.
- 450 women joined their \$1,250 donations to fund the Impact Austin organization and six high-impact grants.
- Five nonprofits received \$80,000 to make their proposed programs expand or come to life.
- One nonprofit won the first ever \$50,000 Catalyst Grant to provide support to the infrastructure that will make their efforts go further more effectively.
- Over 100 women gathered in grant review committees and gave of their time and talent to choose nonprofit grantees we can all be proud to support.
- Our members were treated to IMPACT-edu offerings to further their philanthropic education and goals.

A heartfelt thanks to each and every member who invested in our work this past year. Our community is better because of you!

Best wishes,  
Donna Benson-Chan

## Strengthen the Impact-Join Impact Austin Today!

Membership Opportunities Drawing to a Close for Our 2016 Grant Year

As one of the largest collective giving organizations in the country, Impact Austin has made an extraordinary impact on the greater Austin community, giving more than \$5 million to local nonprofits since our inception. Join the women of Impact Austin today and see how your annual donation of \$1,250 can help.

And don't forget, your annual donation is just one way in which you can be involved. Impact Austin members can:

- ~ Receive the training necessary to be directly involved in evaluating grant applications via our [Grant Review Committees](#)
- ~ Socialize and learn from other female community leaders via a variety of [special events](#)
- ~ Volunteer your time and talents on one of several Impact Austin committees including grants, membership, fund development, marketing, philanthropy education, technology, volunteer management, and finance and administration.
- ~ Join online today by clicking the "Join Today" button below



JOIN TODAY



COUNT ME IN

## Impact Austin Updates Giving Policy

Strategic Changes Will Allow New Level of Support for Nonprofit Partners

Impact Austin recently announced important changes to its grant programs. Grants may now be used to support existing programs as well as to fund new programs, and twenty percent of a grant will be earmarked for general operating expenses. In the past, only new or expanding programs were funded.

Also changing for 2016 is the number of grants that will be awarded. While there will still be five focus areas, four areas will be selected on an annual revolving basis to receive a grant of approximately \$100K. A Catalyst Grant of \$50,000 also will be awarded to fund infrastructure development.

These changes are designed to help sustain and support organizations that are making a difference in the community, according to Executive Director Donna Benson-Chan.

[Read more.](#)

## Planning Ahead...Mark Your Calendar

Membership Events, Orientations, Grant Committee Sign Ups

Our organization continues the momentum toward an amazing 2016. Our next membership event will be [Wednesday, December 2nd from 6:00-7:30 PM at the Austin Custom Winery on Brodie Lane](#). Grab a friend and mix and mingle with other Impact Austin members and prospective members.



Members enjoy meeting and catching up.

Too far south? Then come to our north membership event at [Design with Consignment on December 3rd from 6:00 - 7:30 PM](#).

Already know you want to be part of the action but new to the game? New member orientations are planned for the evenings of [December 1st in the Westlake area](#) and [January 5th in northwest Austin](#). Come learn more about Impact Austin!

Plus, [Grant Review Committee sign-ups](#) are underway. If you are a veteran of the grant review process, you know that this is a rich and rewarding experience. If you are a new participant, you will have an opportunity to learn the incredible, rigorous process through which grant applications are reviewed and finalists are selected. The icing on the cake is learning about the nonprofit organizations that are helping people of our community in incredible ways.

## Get to Know Community Partner Youth River Watch

Austin Youth River Watch combines environmental education with drop-out prevention, providing a safe place for teenagers to grow and gain confidence, while learning to be active stewards of our planet. In the current program, approximately 120 at-risk students from nine Austin Independent School District high schools learn to collect, analyze, and publish water-quality data from 25 freshwater sites along Austin-area streams and the Colorado River.



The new program funded by Impact Austin will engage these students in hands-on stream restoration projects, such as bank stabilization, vegetation management, and trail building. [Read more](#) about the Impact Austin funded program and see the video!

## Member Spotlight

Get to Know Impact Austin Member Anne Isham

Anne Isham is a fierce competitor. It is hard to catch up with her between cycling, hiking, traveling with her husband Paul, and training for competitions. You see, Anne is a pole-vaulter...and not just any pole-vaulter, but one who is good enough to compete in the National Senior Games.

[Read more](#) about Anne, her work with Impact Austin and other pursuits.



Anne Isham

## Like Us on Facebook...and more

Whether you are a social media maven or only post an occasional update on Facebook, you can be a tremendous force for Impact Austin in your everyday interactions online.

[Learn more](#) with this easy-to-follow guide and start sharing the Impact Austin experience with your friends!



## Girls Giving Grants Update

g3 Has Largest Class Ever!

Impact Austin's youth initiative, Girls Giving Grants (g3), has its largest class to date with 70 girls participating in the grant making process. Demand was so high for participation that applications were closed early! Members are currently busy reviewing 37 grant applications from local youth-serving nonprofits, meeting at the [The Girls' School of Austin](#) that has graciously provided space for their activities. Grant finalists will be selected in February.



2015-2016 g3 members and advisors

Read more about g3 [HERE](#).

[Click here to view our most recent blog posts!](#)

