

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Understanding Austin



Austin Community
FOUNDATION

/ About Austin Community Foundation

Austin Community Foundation is the catalyst for generosity in Austin. We bring together philanthropists, dollars and ideas to shape Austin's future. A trusted local partner, we have a 40-year track record of investing in Austin and an unmatched, in-depth understanding of our region's needs and opportunities. We provide expert financial management and easy administration for our fundholders, while allowing their money to stay local. Our data-driven approach means we seek to understand and invest in the areas of greatest need to narrow the opportunity gap in Central Texas.

/ About The RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service

This report was developed in collaboration with the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. The RGK Center is leading the Austin Area Sustainability Indicators (A²SI), a community data initiative that tracks 128 regional indicators of community sustainability. The data that is reported in this report is either part of the A²SI Community Survey data that is collected by the RGK Center or publicly available data through the American Community Survey, governmental databases, and other trusted research institutes.

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Austin Community Foundation is the catalyst for generosity in Austin—and has been for the past forty years. We bring together philanthropists, dollars and ideas to create the Austin where we all want to live.

Our approach is to:

- / **Inform.** We apply data to understand the greatest needs to close the opportunity gap in Central Texas.
- / **Invite.** We bring funders, leaders and organizations to the table.
- / **Invest.** We make a collective impact by informing and engaging donors and fundholders and together making philanthropic investments that shape Austin's future, today.



As you go through this report, I hope you'll take away three key ideas:

- 1** Data about our changing community has the power to focus our efforts and resources. When we know better, we do better.
- 2** Austin Community Foundation has unique philanthropic tools and expertise to address community needs through partnerships with individuals, families, companies, nonprofits and local government.
- 3** While the Foundation has always worked to find the best ways to support our community, we are now aligning our work to narrow the opportunity gap in Central Texas.

Austin Community Foundation provides the gathering place for a shared vision for Austin for today and for the future. Thank you for being part of our community of givers.

Sincerely,



Mike Nellis
CEO
Austin Community Foundation

/ Austin in 1977

/ On the Verge of Change

Forty years ago, about 300,000 people called Austin home. You could hear Willie Nelson play “redneck rock” at Armadillo World Headquarters, buy a home for \$16,500, and with your radio tuned to KLBJ drive across town in just a couple of songs. Austin Aquafest was the biggest annual party in town, held at Festival Beach in the swelter of August.

Austin was just emerging as a center for new technologies, thanks to University of Texas research programs and the recent arrival of IBM and Texas Instruments. Three young engineers were at work in their garage building the microcomputer company that became National Instruments.

/ A Divided City

In 1977 the quality of life in Austin was largely determined by where you lived. The 1928 city plan that divided the city had been illegal for just a dozen years. The recent demolition of pedestrian-friendly East Avenue to make way for IH-35 created a physical divide that limited opportunities of all kinds – educational, economic and even health and life expectancy. In this environment, people of color organized and had just won city council seats for the first time.



/ The Opportunity

In this rich mix of cultures, creativity and ideas, Austin Community Foundation was founded. In creating the community foundation, Austin followed the example of hundreds of cities across the country with the goal to meet community needs by inspiring local philanthropists to create endowments to generate earnings and distribute grants. In 2000, the Austin Community Endowment was created. Since then, our assets have grown to \$215 million and we've granted more than \$300 million in Central Texas and beyond.



First Board of Governors (left to right): R.L. "Bob" Phinney, Robert Tinstman, Robert Ragsdale, William Milstead, Lowell Lebermann, Colonel Thomas C. Green, Dick Donoghue, Leo Danze, Jack Taylor, Velma Cochran, Carolyn Curtis, Judge Joe Green (presiding), Bess Harris Jones, Dr. Clift Price and Arthuree Quander.



(Left to Right) Libby Malone, Board President; Marion More, Grants Chair; Richard Slaughter, Executive Director; MariBen Ramsey, Legal Counsel and Grants Director; and Amy Allen, Donor Relations Director, 1997.



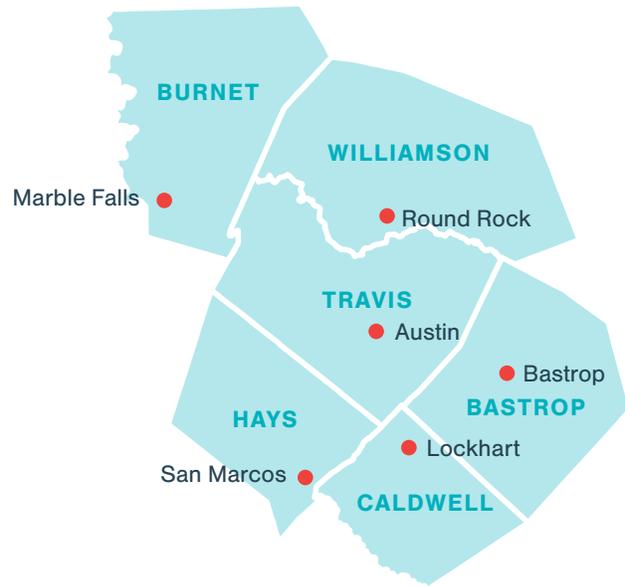
(Left to right): George K. Meriwether, Founder; Richard Slaughter, Executive Director; unidentified woman; Joe Jerkins, Past President and George More, President, 1984.

/ Austin Today

Austin's history as a place that values education, creativity, and technology, coupled with Central Texas's beautiful geographic setting, launched the city into its current spot as the best place to live in the country.

How did we get here? How is growth reweaving the fabric of our city? How do we embrace change while preserving what we love about our city?

This report draws on the Foundation's unique collaboration with the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the University of Texas at Austin. The RGK Center produces the Austin Area Sustainability Indicators, measuring sustainability and quality of life in the six-county greater Austin region.



/ Profound Growth

Austin has doubled in size every 20 years since the 1970s. That means 159 new residents every day. One of the things that attracts people is the highest-performing economy in the country.



Between now and 2030, Central Texas is projected to grow **42%** with the highest rates of growth in Hays and Williamson Counties.



38% of Central Texan households have children, significantly outpacing projections.

LEARN MORE > www.austinindicators.org/project/demographics

/ Profound Diversification

Austin's strong economy, world-class university, and natural beauty attract a largely well-educated and ethnically diverse population. In the six-county region, that diversity converges into two rapidly-growing populations: Hispanic children and White older adults.



In the greater Austin area, the age group with the fastest rate of growth is people age **65 years or older**, followed by those ages 45-64. The majority of these age groups are White.



The number of Hispanic youth (18 and under) grew by **73%** between 2000 and 2010, projected to slow and increase by only 19% by 2020.



Hispanics will be the majority of the youth population by 2020.



Individuals with Hispanic backgrounds are forecast to become the majority population by 2040.

/ Profound Separation

Where you live still matters.

Austin was named the most economically segregated city in the country and ranks second in educational segregation. That means most of us tend to live and work near people like ourselves. That segregation, even if unintentional or a legacy of our history, creates zones of wealth and zones of poverty. The gap between these two realities has grown markedly.



Poverty is shifting to the suburbs.

Lack of affordable housing is driving families out of the city center. Suburban neighborhoods are seeing an increase in families living in poverty.



While the poverty rate in Austin has remained about **20%** over the past decade (1 out of 5 families), Pflugerville and Georgetown saw significant increases in poverty.



African Americans and Hispanics have a poverty rate **more than twice** that of Whites.



Since 2000, a gap has opened between income and what it costs to live. The cost of household expenses (rent, utilities, groceries, transportation) has increased **38%**, exceeding median family income.

LEARN MORE > www.austinindicators.org/project/social-equity
www.austinindicators.org/project/economy

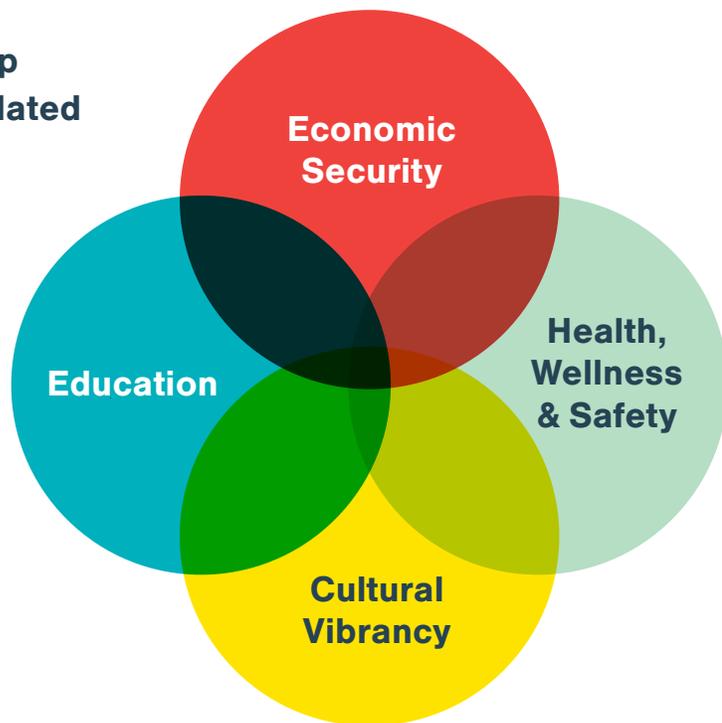


/ A Profound Opportunity

What is the opportunity gap?

Data in this report highlights one simple point: not all Central Texans have the same access to opportunity. This opportunity gap is apparent across a wide spectrum of daily life, including educational attainment, access to living wage jobs, the affordability of safe and central housing, and health outcomes. Austin Community Foundation is committed to understanding—and therefore narrowing—the opportunity gap in our region.

Narrowing the opportunity gap requires focus on four interrelated strategies:



/ Economic Security

The affordability of housing, childcare and other basics and access to fair financial products, capital and jobs add up to secure families and communities.

When individuals and families across Central Texas can afford to provide for their own basic needs, our entire region benefits.



One-third of single mothers and their children live in poverty.

By comparison just 1 in 10 Central Texans experience poverty.



Childcare cost exceeds family budgets.

The cost of childcare in Central Texas exceeds by at least \$2,000/year what an average family can afford.



There is great disparity in income among different ethnicities.

While the region's per capita annual income is \$32,000, Whites make over \$40,000 compared with African Americans (\$22,000) and Latinos (\$17,000).



Renting an apartment or purchasing a home is not affordable for about half of working families.

The Austin area has traditionally been comprised of a mix of people with a range of income levels who live in a variety of housing options at affordable rates. In 2006, the median home price for the region surpassed the median family income and has since skyrocketed. For renters, options are no better. To afford an average apartment, an individual must earn \$20/hour, well above the minimum wage of \$7.25/hour.



More than 50% of people surveyed believe the community has a responsibility to make sure housing is more affordable for median income workers.

LEARN MORE > www.austinindicators.org/project/social-equity



The Women's Fund at the Foundation has partnered with the Dallas Women's Foundation to illuminate the unique economic needs of women in Central Texas, focusing on housing, childcare, education, and health insurance as critical building blocks. **Supporting the economic security of women in Austin is key to alleviating poverty across the community.**

Since 1999, Austin Community Foundation has helped the *Austin American-Statesman* share the spirit of giving. The Foundation has received thousands of charitable donations from Statesman readers and distributed more than **\$10 million** in grants to charities helping families meet their basic needs.

We know that grants paired with program-related investments have the power to move people out of poverty. We've invested **\$130,000** in grants to **PeopleFund**, which provides small business loans, assistance, and education to people who couldn't otherwise access such resources. In addition, we've invested **\$200,000** from our **Impact Investment Fund**, investing in local people and ideas while recycling philanthropic dollars.



/ Health, Wellness & Safety

Access to quality affordable healthcare, nutritious food, open spaces to move and safe homes and neighborhoods translate into the opportunity to thrive in all parts of life.

All people should have access to excellent medical care they can afford as well as opportunities to actively pursue and experience a state of safety and well-being.

/ Health & Wellness



Most Central Texans have health insurance. Yet the uninsured are most likely to be working Hispanic adults under age 65 who earn less than \$25,000 per year.



There is a persistent gap in health insurance coverage for the working poor. Some people earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, yet earn too little to qualify for subsidies in the health insurance exchange.



One-quarter (25%) of Central Texans lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. This is higher than Texas (17.6%) and the U.S. (15.8%).

/ Safety



Rural counties have the highest rates of reported child abuse. Bastrop, Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties have nearly the same rate of confirmed child abuse cases as a decade ago. But Burnet and Caldwell Counties have 15 or more victims per 1,000 children, compared with Travis County with fewer than 10.



Family violence crimes have dropped in some places, but greatly increased in others. Bastrop County has the highest increase of family violence incidents with a 42% rate increase followed by Burnet County (24%) and Hays County (7%). Williamson County has the greatest reduction (-22%), followed by Travis County (-11%) and Caldwell County (-4%).

LEARN MORE > www.austinindicators.org/project/health
www.austinindicators.org/project/publicsafety



We've invested over **\$500,000** in the Dell Seton Medical Center and the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, which together provide crucial care to families with low incomes while rethinking how we train doctors and foster wellness.

Live music brings over \$2 billion into the local economy each year, but 80% of musicians earn too little to afford health insurance. The Foundation helped launch **Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM)**, which helps keep Austin musicians well.



Our grants have provided **\$1.2 million** to preserve and improve park spaces where Austinites meet and move, including the Boardwalk at the Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail, Waller Creek, and Republic Square.

Over the past three decades, the Foundation has invested more than **\$500,000** in **People's Community Clinic**, a homegrown solution to health care needs in Central Texas. People's Community Clinic offers quality care with dignity and respect to 20,000 people each year.



Sarah, a nurse, and Matthew, a UPS worker, have three children. When their newborn son had a medical emergency, Sarah quit her job to care for him.

“The growth in Austin is great. I just hope it doesn’t keep my family out. Right now we couldn’t afford to buy a house or even save up to buy a house. It’s our dream to own a home; our kids want a backyard so bad. It’s just so hard not being able to provide that for them.”

/ Education

From kindergarten-readiness to high school graduation, job training and college, what you know connects you to the opportunity to succeed.

We invest in systems and programs that put all children on track to compete in a global economy, participate in civic life, and pursue their dreams.



Some 65% of Central Texas kids are unprepared to enter kindergarten.

However, the percentage of children attending public pre-K has increased since 2004 across Central Texas and, most dramatically, in Travis County from 25% to 35%.



Graduation rates vary widely depending on school district and bilingualism.

High school graduation rates have converged for different ethnicities, economically disadvantaged students and immigrants, but bilingual students still have a lower graduation rate than other students, a 20% gap. In addition, where you live matters. Hays County has an average high school graduation rate of 91%, but in Travis County 73% of students graduate, a 17% gap.



Wide gaps in college graduation rates threaten our future workforce readiness.

There is a 22% gap between the highest graduation rates (Asian and White students) and the lowest (African American). Hispanic students also lag behind White students.



Nearly half of Hispanics and African Americans feel limited by their current skills or education.

About 20% of all workers feel somewhat limited by their skill level or education when it comes to jobs—but 48% of Hispanics and 43% of African Americans feel this way.

LEARN MORE > www.austinindicators.org/project/education



During the past decade, the Austin Community Foundation has invested **\$2.3 million** in schools and other educational programs through our **Community Grants.**



Thousands of Central Texas students have succeeded in college thanks to over **\$4.5 million** in scholarships awarded by the Foundation during just the last 10 years.

We've helped invest nearly **\$3 million** in technology education as a pathway to economic success for individuals and our region. As part of the **Central Texas Summer STEM Investment Hub** since its founding in 2011, the Foundation has helped provide high-quality STEM summer learning for economically disadvantaged students, building a tech worker pipeline in Central Texas.

/ Cultural Vibrancy

We celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes Austin a special place to live and work. Preserving our community's culture—in all of its expressions—is a priority for maintaining our unique quality of life.

The sustainability of Austin's economic success and its continued creative vibrancy depends on preserving and celebrating our community's culture—in all of its expressions.

/ Community Diversity



By 2020, the Austin area will be a majority-minority region in which no ethnic group will exist as the majority of the region's population.

This cultural diversity is what makes living in Austin special.



Central Texas is diverse, but segregated. Most people surveyed said they hadn't recently attended an event outside of work where they were not the majority race/ethnicity in attendance.

/ Arts & Community



Over the past 20 years, the region has seen a 257% increase in direct earnings from arts, entertainment and recreation.



Nearly half of young adults say the arts play a major role in their lives.

Yet overall, just 26% of Central Texans say the arts play a major role in their lives.



Most residents feel the quality of arts offerings is very good or excellent.

Yet 45% feel there's room for improvement.

LEARN MORE > www.austinindicators.org/project/civic-engagement
www.austinindicators.org/project/demographics
www.austinindicators.org/project/social-equity

When sculptor Charles Umlauf donated to the City his sculptures as well as 2.5 acres of land in 1985, the Foundation played a vital role in turning his vision into the **Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum**. Opening in 1991, the Umlauf is now an urban oasis, education center, and gallery for contemporary sculpture.



In 2017, the Foundation launched a new giving network focused on supporting the economic security and advancement of Hispanic Central Texans. **The Hispanic Impact Fund** leverages the assets, resilience and strength of our Latino community to invest in nonprofit and social enterprise solutions.

In 1998, Austin voters approved plans to convert the old Palmer Auditorium into a civic, cultural and recreation district. Opened in 2008, the **Long Center** is the performance home of Austin Opera, the Austin Symphony Orchestra and Ballet Austin. Along the way, the Foundation and its donor advised funds have granted **\$14.6 million** to the Long Center.



Claudia is the first person in her family to graduate from college, overcoming challenges as a bilingual student. Now she teaches students just like herself.

"It's important for students to see first-generation college graduates who are engineers, teachers and professionals. There's a lot of work to be done still, but I'm hopeful."

How Will You Narrow the Opportunity Gap?



/ Austin Leadership Fund

You are committed to understanding a changing and growing Austin. Your investment in the Austin Leadership Fund empowers us to identify needs, convene conversations, and direct resources to create a greater community for us all.

/ Austin Community Endowment

You love Austin and want to invest in the future of our vibrant community. Your investment creates a lasting legacy and provides for the needs of future generations. By investing your gift, its power will grow over time while also providing for today's needs.



/ Hispanic Impact Fund

You believe that when you support the economic security and advancement of Hispanic Central Texans, everyone benefits. The Hispanic Impact Fund brings data-informed focus, amplified resources and measurable impact in these key indicator areas: early childhood education, health and wellness, and job skills and entrepreneurship.

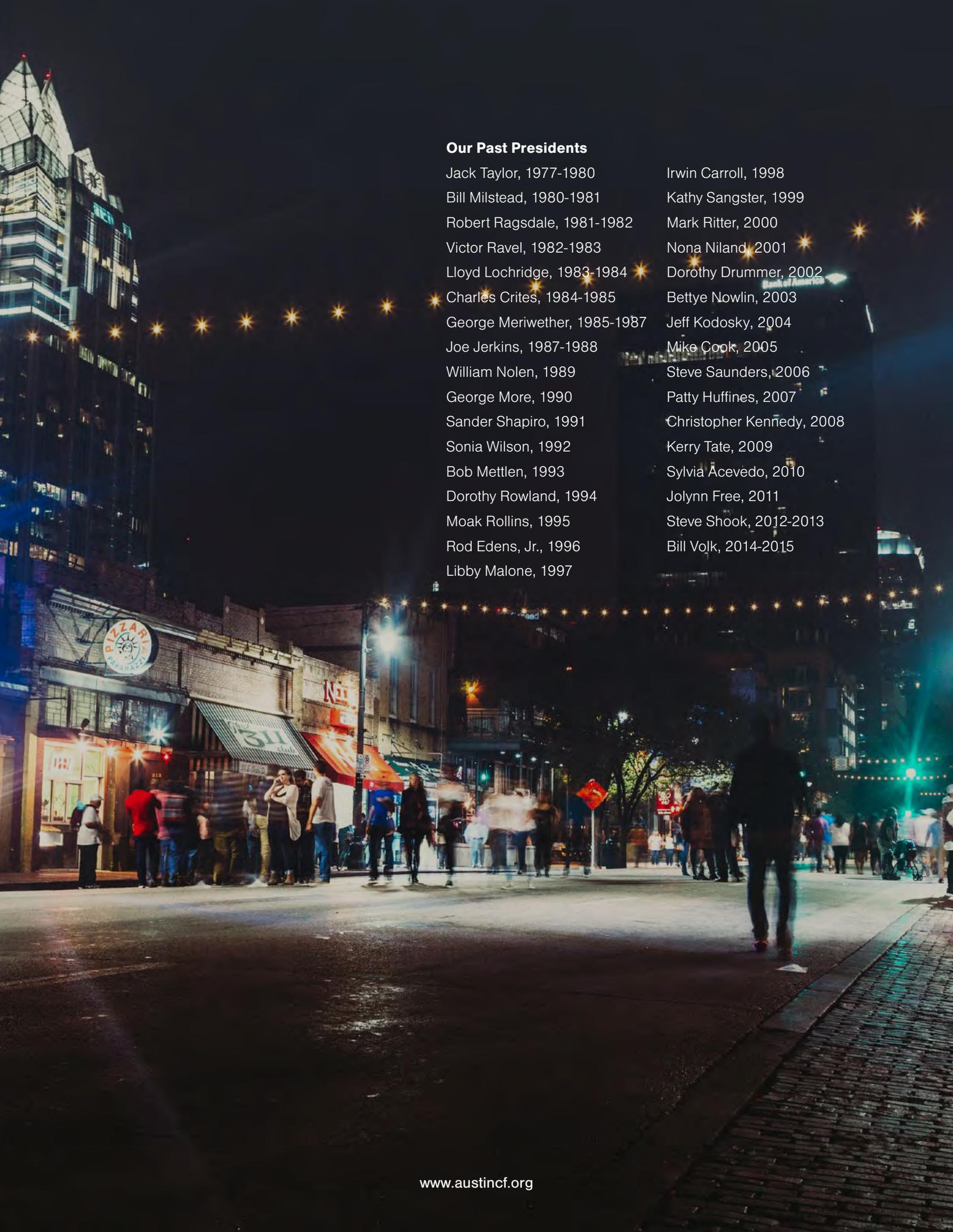


/ Impact Investing

You want to invest in local, efficient, and impactful community solutions that address the opportunity gap in Central Texas. Through a donor advised fund at the Foundation, you can invest charitable dollars and recycle them for future giving.

/ Women’s Fund

You believe that when women are economically secure, safe, and healthy, then families and communities are economically secure, safe, and healthy. The Women’s Fund employs a data-driven approach to grantmaking, educational programming and leadership development. The Women’s Fund focuses on these key indicator areas: basic needs, economic sustainability, education, health, safety, and leadership.



Our Past Presidents

Jack Taylor, 1977-1980

Bill Milstead, 1980-1981

Robert Ragsdale, 1981-1982

Victor Ravel, 1982-1983

Lloyd Lochridge, 1983-1984

Charles Crites, 1984-1985

George Meriwether, 1985-1987

Joe Jerkins, 1987-1988

William Nolen, 1989

George More, 1990

Sander Shapiro, 1991

Sonia Wilson, 1992

Bob Mettlen, 1993

Dorothy Rowland, 1994

Moak Rollins, 1995

Rod Edens, Jr., 1996

Libby Malone, 1997

Irwin Carroll, 1998

Kathy Sangster, 1999

Mark Ritter, 2000

Nona Niland, 2001

Dorothy Drummer, 2002

Bettye Nowlin, 2003

Jeff Kodosky, 2004

Mike Cook, 2005

Steve Saunders, 2006

Patty Huffines, 2007

Christopher Kennedy, 2008

Kerry Tate, 2009

Sylvia Acevedo, 2010

Jolynn Free, 2011

Steve Shook, 2012-2013

Bill Volk, 2014-2015