

GROWING FORWARD



Austin Community
FOUNDATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

Growth—that’s what so many people are talking about these days. We see it in the number of people moving here, in the economic development dominating headlines, and we see growth in ourselves as we acknowledge and address the health and societal issues over the past two years.

We consider ourselves fortunate to be living in a community such as Central Texas. It’s a wonderful place to live and raise a family; it’s why people have been moving here for decades. However, the explosion of growth in recent years is fraying our community and exposing root causes of challenges like never before. We can’t stop growth. It’s inevitable. But how we respond to the opportunities and challenges it presents will significantly impact our community in the coming months, years, and ultimately affect the next generation of Austinites.

Austin Community Foundation has been developing strategies and mobilizing resources to address some of the biggest issues we see in our community – economic insecurity and housing affordability. While talent is spread evenly across the region, opportunity isn’t. We work every day to close that gap. At the same time, we remain flexible and nimble so that when the community calls on us in a crisis, we can respond quickly.

Partnership is what makes our work possible. Your support allows us to create those strategies and leverage additional resources to positively impact the region. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, Austin Community Foundation distributed a record amount of grants in 2021, proving that the desire to help others and make a difference continues today, 45 years after the foundation was created.

We’re pleased to share highlights from our collective impact over the past year on the following pages. We look forward to maintaining this momentum in 2022 and working with you in our quest to build a place where all Central Texans can thrive.

Gratefully,



Mike Nellis
CEO



Carla Piñeyro Sublett
Board Chair

Supporting Community through Crisis

When disaster strikes, Austin Community Foundation is uniquely positioned to step up and respond to emergency needs. After living through the pandemic for more than a year, Central Texans faced more crises and hardships in early 2021. The following two initiatives are the latest examples of how, with your support, Austin Community Foundation responded to the urgent and immediate needs of our community.



Winter Storm Uri Relief

In February 2021, Central Texas experienced the worst winter weather in recent memory. What began as a rare opportunity to enjoy snow accumulation turned catastrophic as people in Central Texas and beyond lost power and water for days on end. As temperatures plunged well below freezing, power and water outages led to a lack of heat and clean water, a rash of broken water pipes, and closures of schools and public buildings across the region.

During Winter Storm Uri, several local and national nonprofits responded with immediate relief for basic needs. Shortly after the snow melted, the mid- to long-term needs of the community emerged: housing, home repairs, and the economic impact of weeks’ worth of lost wages. Recognizing this, Austin Community Foundation created an emergency fund to help our neighbors during a critical time of need.

Thanks to ACF fundholders, Silicon Labs, Bill Wood Foundation, and the Wood Foundation, we were able to quickly meet the emerging needs of our community on the journey to recovery.

COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Collaboration

Once the COVID-19 vaccine became available for most adults, Austin Community Foundation partnered with St. David’s Foundation and United Way for Greater Austin to improve vaccine confidence and equitable access among Black, Latino, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) and other groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

The collaboration included funding 19 organizations with deep connections and trusted relationships in the community to improve vaccine access to underserved, unserved, disconnected, and rural populations in Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. The funding supported community-based organizations conducting outreach, holding vaccination clinics, and conducting door-to-door vaccinations.

To date, these efforts have resulted in 30,000 people receiving vaccinations and booster shots, including more than 3,000 children. Grant partners included VaxTogetherAustin, Eikon Church, Latino HealthCare Forum, Del Valle Community Coalition, Central Texas Allied Health Institute, and many more.

This work continues in 2022 because equitable deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine is the best path to improving the health and wellbeing of our community.





Hispanic Impact Fund

AUSTIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Investors in the Hispanic Impact Fund, a collective giving network and program of Austin Community Foundation, spent the better part of 2021 reviewing previous work, analyzing data, and listening to community voices to revise and update the fund’s grantmaking strategy. The **outcome** included revised impact statements and a new focus area.

Impact Areas



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



JOB SKILLS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Hispanic Impact Fund released a new report in October 2021 that highlights the contributions of Latinos in Central Texas and the inequities that directly affect their progress. *Advancing Latino Futures* examines the landscape of economic security for Latino families through four critical areas: early childhood education, health and wellness, job skills and entrepreneurship, and leadership development.

Read the report at austincf.org/advancinglatinofutures.



Somos Austin & The Latino Monologues

During Somos Austin, the annual fundraising campaign for the Hispanic Impact Fund, we produced *The Latino Monologues*—a four-part video series featuring local Latinos sharing their stories about life in Central Texas. The *Latino Monologues* included stories from tech executive Carla Piñeyro Sublett, community activist Paul Saldaña, entrepreneur Adrian Paredes, and musician Stephanie Bergara.

Thanks to the generosity of donors during Somos Austin, the Hispanic Impact Fund raised its one-millionth dollar since the fund’s founding in 2017. This milestone reflects the community’s trust in our work to bridge the racial wealth divide and invest in the future of Latinos. The Hispanic Impact Fund has accomplished a lot, but there is more work to do. In 2022, the Hispanic Impact Fund plans to award 28 unrestricted, general operating grants totaling \$365,000.

“Instead of fighting for one seat at the table, we should be working to build our own table.”

– Stephanie Bergara, musician and Hispanic Impact Fund supporter





Austin Community Foundation believes that maintaining the economic security of women and children is essential to closing the opportunity gap in Central Texas, and we know we cannot do this without addressing the racial wealth and health divide faced by women of color. In 2021, the Women's Fund, a collective giving network and program of Austin Community Foundation, completed its first grant cycle centered in racial equity. We hope and intend that implementing process changes leads to more equitable outcomes. And while this is the first year the Women's Fund collected this kind of data, anecdotally, we have observed progress in our ability to engage a more diverse group of grant reviewers in funding organizations led by women of color.

“It is easy for us to agree what is happening in our world is not fair and just, but it is another thing to actually have our actions reflect what we know to be true. Kudos to the [Women's Fund members] who were brave enough to do what needed to be done to initiate change.”

– Isabel Huerta, *Sammy's House*,
2021 Grant Partner

Thanks to the collective impact of its membership, in 2021, the Women's Fund distributed \$400,000 to 20 local nonprofits working to advance women's economic security. Unlike in years past, the Women's Fund awarded general operating grants to all semifinalists in each of our impact areas. The winning finalist in each impact area received a \$40,000 two-year grant.

See a full list of our grant recipients at austincf.org/wfgrantpartners.



HOUSING



SAINT LOUISE HOUSE

CHILDCARE



EDUCATION



WOMEN'S HEALTH



UNINTENDED PREGNANCY PREVENTION

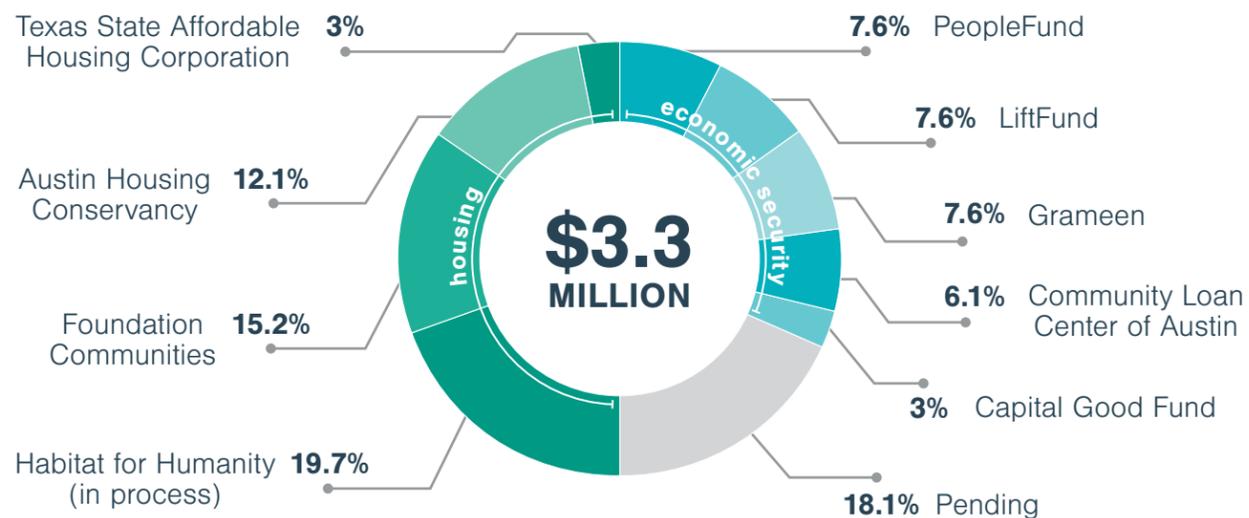


Jane's Due Process



FundATX—Austin Community Foundation’s impact investment program—supports high-impact projects intended to create a positive social outcome along with a financial return. In simple terms, FundATX creates jobs, helps small businesses owners, provides access to affordable housing units, and increases opportunities for historically under-capitalized populations in Central Texas. The Foundation continued to grow the capacity and impact of FundATX in 2021 while remaining focused on the fund’s mission to improve economic security and access to affordable housing Central Texas.

FundATX Portfolio as of December 2021



2021 Performance Highlights

2% RETURN RATE | **2%** TARGET RATE | **0%** LOSS RATE

1. Individual fund investment returns may vary depending on the timing of fund transactions.
2. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the investment portfolio will perform in the future.
3. Investments carry the risk of loss of principal.

“The lack of affordable housing in the Austin area threatens the social and economic vitality of our region, and philanthropy is well-positioned to play a significant role in addressing these issues.”

- Mike Nellis, CEO

Addressing Housing Affordability

For the past five years, Austin Community Foundation has homed in on learning and listening to the needs of our community. We continue to let data be the driving force behind how we set our priorities, and we remain focused on working to close the opportunity gap to ensure economic security and affordable housing for all who call this great place home.

Last year, Austin Community Foundation commissioned a report, in partnership with JP Morgan Chase & Co., NI, and St. David’s Foundation, to galvanize conversations and spark ideas to support affordable housing in the region. *Housing Affordability in Central Texas* calls attention to the need for philanthropic investment to address the region’s housing crisis and outlines potential funding strategies to produce, protect and preserve affordable housing in Central Texas.

According to the report, Central Texas is the 7th least affordable metropolitan region in the country. Steady population growth coupled with increased demand for housing and stagnant hourly wages is creating desperate affordability issues for low- and median-income residents. The insufficient supply of affordable housing contributes to chronic instability, pulling vulnerable community members deeper into poverty and possibly homelessness.

The purpose of the report is to provide context, increase understanding of housing-related issues, and present ideas for consideration by individual philanthropists, corporate funders, and private foundations in the region, particularly those with little history of funding affordable housing.

The Impact of Housing

Before becoming a homeowner, Paola worked nearly 80 hours a week as a security guard to cover living expenses for her and her teenage son. Paola was among the 60% of single mother households in Central Texas that are housing cost burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing.

Paola’s dream of owning a home in Austin finally came true when she was able to purchase a home through Austin Habitat for Humanity’s Affordable Homeownership Program. Since moving into the home in Mueller with her son, her quality of life has greatly improved, and she now spends less time working and more time with her son exploring Austin’s parks and trails.

Stories like Paola’s highlight the importance of funding affordable housing in the midst of Austin’s growing housing costs. By increasing philanthropic giving to local housing organizations, we can stimulate the production and preservation of homes where our neighbors won’t be cost burdened, can live fuller lives, and build stability.





Financial Highlights

2021 by the Numbers

Assets by Fund Type

\$437 Million



**TOTAL FUNDS
1,329**



**NEW FUNDS
99**



**GRANTS MADE
6,011**



**GRANTS IN
CENTRAL TEXAS
68%**

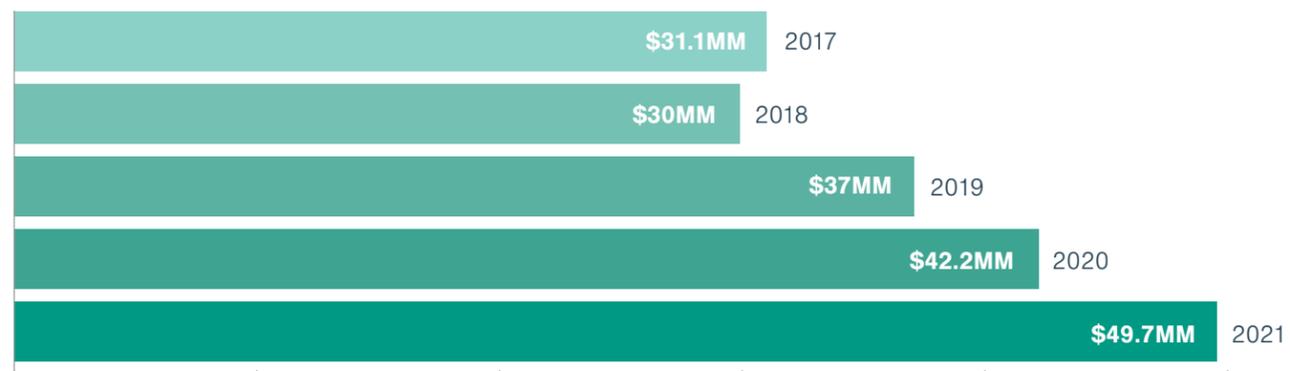


**SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED
\$600,000**

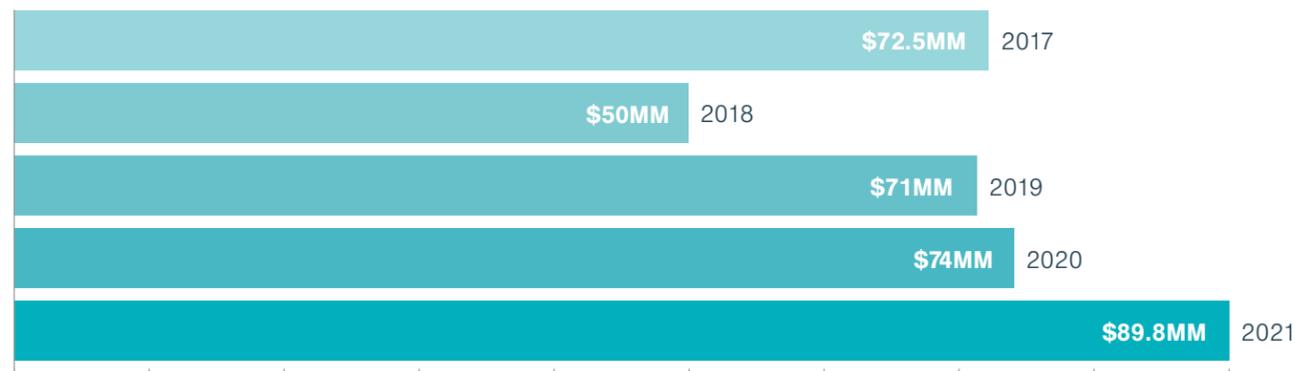
**TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1977
\$463 Million**

THAT'S ALMOST
HALF A BILLION

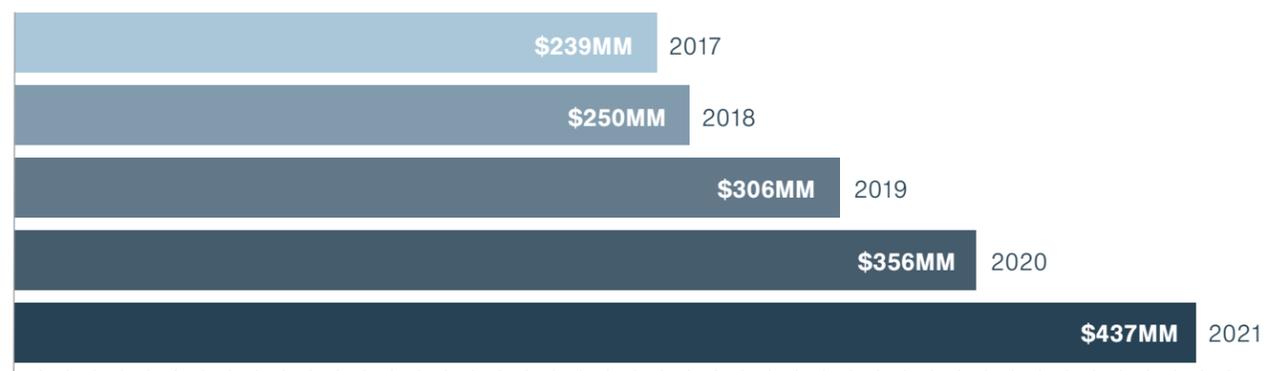
GRANTS



GIFTS



ASSETS



“We have a diverse and multifaceted giving strategy. We give locally and we give internationally. We love the flexibility ACF offers and the deep knowledge of the community you won’t find at a commercial donor advised fund.”

– Sarah Goodfriend, ACF Fundholder



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Photo Credits

3: Winter Storm Uri photo by David Kitto via Wikimedia Commons, Vaccination photo by United Way for Greater Austin

5: Screenshots from videos by Joe Llamas

9: Image of Paola and son by Austin Habitat for Humanity

10-11: Photos of Austin by Mario Villeda