



Christina Gorcynski
Executive Director of
Impact Austin

Letter from our Executive Director

I'm still floating from the collective energy we experienced at the Town Hall Meeting last week - and feeling so much love from the warm welcome I've received since moving to Austin and joining the Impact Austin sisterhood. I am committed to welcoming new women to Austin with the same kindness I've experienced.

During my short time here, I've observed a unique, welcoming spirit. Austin is not a place where you are defined by where you come from or who you are on paper. In Austin, your character is measured by how you choose to contribute to our vibrant community. This is the collaborative, generous spirit that I see beautifully reflected in our members. We've all come to Impact Austin from different points in our philanthropic journeys. In Impact Austin, we find peers and philanthropic role models and we must resist the urge to wait for new talent to come to us.

Our Impact Austin spirit urges us to meet prospective members wherever they are on their own philanthropic journeys and walk each step with them, shoulder to shoulder. At a new member orientation, I met Donna and her guest Julie. Donna spent her time on a long international flight, telling her seat mate Julie about Impact Austin. When they were settled back at home, Donna followed up with Julie and invited her to join us. That is philanthropy in action! I ask each of you to continue to think creatively about all the many ways we practice and model our own unique philanthropic commitment beyond writing an annual check.

One quick plug for a program that I wish existed when I was growing up: Girls Giving Grants. g3 is seeking two special advisors who will play a supportive role for these young philanthropists on their early journey. Simply showing up and being a caring adult for our girls is a way to invest in a generous future generation. And, as a volunteer, you're guaranteed to learn as much from them as they'll learn from you. Be in touch with g3@impactaustin.org if you're ready to volunteer.

In generous sisterhood,
Christina

Town Hall Inspires Imperfect Courage and Bold Directions

The 2018 Town Hall Meeting was held September 17 at AFS Cinema. More than 225 guests registered for the event that featured Keynote Speaker Jessica Honegger. She is the Co-CEO and Founder of Noonday Collection, a "not-just-for-profit" business that designs and sells accessories made by artisans around the world. Honegger is also a podcaster and author, whose first book *Imperfect Courage* provided the theme of the Town Hall Event. Admission included a copy of the book, available for autograph by Jessica Honegger, plus the opportunity to shop at a Noonday Collection pop-up. Impact Austin received 25% of Noonday Collection sales, thanks to fundraising partner Heather Bauer.



Following a one-hour reception, the program launched with announcements by Impact Austin board members Lauren Paver and Sarah Harris. Sarah offered detail of Impact Austin's strategic plan. Member Pam Friedman explained her decision to support Impact Austin as our first-ever Empowerment Partner, supporting all events and programming for FY 2019. New E.D. Christina Gorczynski also offered remarks to the guests, most of us meeting her for the first time. Jessica Honegger closed the program by complimenting Impact Austin: "You are the women who are getting stuff done."



Kudos to event chair Heather McElhaney and huge thanks to all our event sponsors, acknowledged in an earlier e-blast. See our [Facebook album](#) (link) for event photos, with thanks to member photographer Robin Krumme.



Here We Grow Again
Recruitment Coffees to Launch

Impact Austin 'coffees' are informal gatherings for women to learn about our organization and community impact. Held in members' homes (and serving more wine than coffee), these events offer our Impact Austin story, a Community Partner's story, and a casual Q&A session. Find out more about Impact Austin coffees [here](#). See our [website](#) for a list of dates and general locations for coffees offered from now to December.



Who might you know that would enjoy an Impact Austin coffee? Women new to Central Texas may find that joining Impact Austin helps them plug into the community. Those who have been here for a while will see that Impact Austin can connect them with other women making a difference in the community.

Scheduling our coffees is a herculean task. Thank you to the coffee hostesses and volunteers, and especially co-chairs Phylis Donelson and Rebecca Powers.

2019 Grants Announced

Four Grants of \$100,000*

GRC Registration Opens October 22



On September 17, Impact Austin announced that we will award four high-impact grants of \$100,000 each to nonprofits in these categories: Community; Education; Health and Well-Being; and Catalyst. In response to community needs, Impact Austin will invite a broader range of nonprofits to apply for capacity-building initiatives with our Catalyst grant.

Grants Co-Chair Becky Austen added the following comments. "Our members really value the experience of participating in Grant Review Committees (GRCs), but some have told us they're challenged by the time commitment. Based on your feedback, in 2019 we will have fewer in-person GRC meetings, deliver training online so you can access it at your convenience, and reduce the number of applications each member will review, while maintaining the rigor and fidelity of our grant processes. Whether you were on a committee before or are new to GRCs, this is a great time to dive in! GRC registration will run from 10/22 through year-end."

*More news will come in the months ahead about a new Social Innovation Grant, now in the earliest planning stages. Stay tuned!

G-Whiz! g3 Begins a Banner Year!

The g3 class of 2018-19 boasts its largest membership yet with 88 members, including the addition of 40 girls who are new to the program. Girls Giving Grants will award an \$8,800 grant in the spring, their largest grant to date.

Fourteen g3 leaders met recently for their annual Leadership Retreat and they are preparing for an active grant season. They also are looking forward to not only increasing their teamwork skills, but also to expanding opportunities for all members to know each other better, bonding beyond grant making, and building friendships. New g3 Co-Chairs Sue Breland and Jennifer Long have stepped into their roles with great excitement, building on the exceptional foundation laid by Ami Kane and Elizabeth Doyel. Sue's background in government and corporate grant funding and Jennifer's deep experience in nonprofit management are a perfect match for supporting these girls in their philanthropic adventures. Other adult advisors are critical to the program, and we are grateful for returning Advisors Rachel Butler, Claire Powers, Mischca Scales and Becky Austen (as a much-appreciated substitute as needed). We also welcome new Advisor and Impact Austin member Sarah Williamson.

Attention: g3 is seeking two more volunteer Advisors. Sue and Jennifer would love to welcome YOU to the team! If you want to change the face of giving, please contact them at g3@impactaustin.org.



Volunteer with Impact Austin

We're Member-Driven

Our website includes a [page](#) that was developed in the spring to encourage participation with committees and events needing volunteer help. At the Town Hall Meeting, a form was distributed that fleshed out some of those offerings, summarized below. What might interest you or fit your talents?



Contact volunteer@impactaustin.org to sign up for a committee or ask general questions. Specific questions might go to committee chairs like [Stacey Vicari](#) for Member Journey or [Judi McCarthy](#) for Branding/Marketing.

MEMBER JOURNEY - Recruitment, Engaging first year members, Member engagement, Zones

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION - Girls Giving Grants advising, GRC committees

IMPACT INCUBATOR - Social Innovation Grants Chair, Team member

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION - Chair, Team member

DEVELOPMENT - Endowment growth strategy

BRANDING/MARKETING - strategy, writing/editing, graphic design, video production, newsletter lead

TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS - Website development (architecture, design, testing)

On the Calendar

Zone Social Events

Impact Austin Zones are busy this fall! In October, you'll find happy hours, wine-tasting, and a tour of with a 2018 Community Partner. Two Zones have a cooking class in November, while the others enjoy in-home happy hours. In December, most Zones will gather for the Mueller Tower Lighting. Have you signed up for your Zone? Look for specific emails from your Zone captain with all the details, or check out the [Zones Social web page](#).

GRC Registration - October 22

Online registration for Grant Review Committees will open October 22 and continue to be accepted through year-end. Please direct questions to grants@impactaustin.org

Dates to Save

- January 12 - Discovery Day
- June 3 - Annual Meeting

Follow and Promote us on Social Media

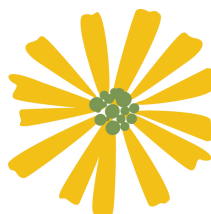
When you "like" and "tag" and repost our social media posts, you help to promote Impact Austin to a wider audience and potential members. Please get involved with us on your social media platforms!



The graphic features the Impact Austin logo at the top, which consists of a stylized sunburst icon and the text 'impact AUSTIN'. Below the logo is a dark blue horizontal band with the text 'SHARE OUR POSTS, SHARE OUR IMPACT' in white, bold, uppercase letters. Underneath this band is a white section with the text 'Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn' in orange. At the bottom of this section are four social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Below each icon is its corresponding handle: @ImpactATX, @Impact_ATX, @impact_austin, and Impact Austin.

We're Listening

We'd love to hear from you....what do you want to learn more about? What type of information is useful for you? Contact us at contact@impactaustin.org.



JOIN TODAY

