



LETTER FROM THE ED

This year was yet another one of unknowns and pivots, but also tempered with cautious hope and optimism. We are entering an oddly familiar place; a new school year and Fall during COVID. Many of the immediate health dangers have passed and living through the

last 20 months provides a template for moving forward. Our experience tells us yes, it is ok to wear fuzzy socks when working from home (and no one is looking) and gather with loved ones, carefully. We also learned that while remote isn't perfect, it does have its utility. Now we find ourselves moving forward blending old and new habits together to create a future state and path forward.

Springboard continues to learn, evolve, change, and respond to our environment and to do it well, it seems we only have to look to our network for guidance. What we learned from our soon-to-be graduating grantees about their experiences with students, was the most important thing is just be there—without judgement—to provide connections, resources, and convenings. Here's what that means as we move forward:

Afterschool programs: Building (program) back better, slowly

Being a busy student's afterschool option of choice was a relationship that was forged from the hard work of constantly showing up. In this semi-post-pandemic world, grantees are still building those relationships back. That means they are still trying to re-connect with individual students and their school partners that served as feeders for programs. Internal contacts like teachers, social workers, and principals that were one-time supporters might no longer be because schools have experienced a lot of turnover and priorities may have shifted. Since growth looks different this year, documenting progress is important as grantees continue to make head way with students and partners.

Members and Grantee Champions: Patience and listening

As grantees navigate these new realities comparing them to 2019 or even last year isn't accurate. Get them to think about what new goals might look like as they forge ahead. Improvement might be subtle over the next few months. Engage in deeper listening so you can paint a true picture on behalf of the grantee when it comes to funding decision time in the Spring. The success of smaller organizations relies heavily on our intrepid leaders. Also ask them about their self-care plans. Share any "enterprise" solutions or ideas around rest and staff engagement that might be part of regular conversations at for profit organizations but not at nonprofits.

Springboard: Facilitating sharing resources

Our recent hybrid Grantee Roundtable was a wonderful reminder of the value of coming together to share resources and solve problems. This year we are going to get a little more specific around understanding grantee goals and supporting them.

This also looks like Springboard connecting on behalf of the network to see where there might be additional opportunities for partnership or funding. This summer that meant several meetings with the Mayor's office to learn more about what if any federal funding was available for afterschool programs, connecting with Community in the Schools to better understand the process of how they facilitate afterschool partnerships with schools, and learning about the work of AMPT: Amplifying Nonprofits, a new organization dedicated to boosting the capacity of nonprofits on the South and West sides.

While it has been part of Springboard's practice to do some versions of this, these actions take on additional importance as we think about the future. Like the saying goes, "many hands make light work." I can't do this alone. It's all hands on deck season at Springboard and I hope I can count on you.

I'm looking forward to forging a path forward, together.

Sincerely,
Sejal Shah-Myers
Executive Director



2021 Year in Review



Doug Armstrong

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was the summer of 2000 when I descended the stairs to our basement in Roscoe Village. My foot caught the edge of a box and as I stumbled, I cursed the box I tripped on as well as all the boxes that cluttered our already disaster of a basement. They were boxes for Girls on the Run Chicago (GOTRC), an inspiring nonprofit

for 8- to 13-year old girls that promotes girl empowerment by teaching life skills through lessons and running. My wife Betsy was the Director for the Chicago chapter and she was working hard to get the organization off the ground and struggling to gain momentum. That is when I saw first-hand how Springboard was able to help GOTRC accelerate its reach. The following year, Betsy introduced me to several Springboard leaders, who explained the purpose and vision of Springboard Foundation over lunch at Poag Mahones. After seeing the growth and success of GOTRC, I wanted to be a part of this unique organization that helps smaller grassroots nonprofits serving underrepresented students and children in Chicago's most impoverished neighborhoods.

I've now been involved with Springboard for over 15 years. I'm so grateful to be a part of this organization that is celebrating 24 years of grantmaking and seeing the impact we've had on our grantees. It's been rewarding to see the many connections that have developed over the years across members, grantees, and friends.

In 2020 all of our lives were upended and challenged like never before. Our grantees were significantly impacted as we heard so poignantly during this year's Annual Dinner celebration. I was in awe of the stories, resiliency, and perseverance that our grantees demonstrated and so eloquently spoke of during the panel discussion. Not to mention the incredible talents of the Chicago Poetry Center and their poetry slam entertainment! Thank you to past, current, and future grantees. You are making a BIG difference in our community and city. As members we are so proud to be a small part of your continued success.

Thank you to our Springboard Executive Team for collaborating and working through our challenging times these past years - coming out stronger and ready to increase our impact moving forward. Sejal, I can't say enough about what you mean to each and every one of us. You are so talented, poised, and embody everything good that Springboard stands for.

Welcome to John Palmer who will be an excellent President this coming year. I look forward to being a Grantee Champion for one of our new promising grantees, The Alliance 98. It has been an honor to be a part of the Springboard Leadership Team and I'm so excited to be part of this wonderful organization for many years to come.

Thanks.
Doug Armstrong

THE CRAFT BEER OF PHILANTHROPY. SMALL BATCH GRANTMAKING THOUGHTFULLY CRAFTED.

2020-2021 Officers	Active Members	Doug Mabie*†	Jon Skinner	Graham Cook	Edward Kennedy	Emily Riestler
Doug Armstrong President	Douglas Armstrong	Butch MacVicar	Al Smith	Tom Croghant	Ned Kennedy	James Robinson
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Administrative Office: The Chicago Community Trust, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 2200, Chicago, IL 60601

2021-2022 Springboard Grantees

BandWith Chicago | Box United | Boxing Out Negativity | Chicago Arts and Music Project (CAMP) | Chicago Chess Foundation | Chicago Eco House | Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center | Chicago Metamorphosis Orchestra Project (ChiMOP) | Chicago Mobile Makers | Chicago Poetry Center | Debate it Forward | Downstage Arts | Dream Big Mentoring and Outreach | Focus Fairies Mentoring | Lion Pride Mentoring | Math Circles of Chicago | New Community Outreach | P.R.E.T.T.Y., Inc. | Prismatic Movement | SHE Chicago | Shift:Englewood Youth Orchestra | South Chicago Dance Theatre | Street Soccer USA - Chicago | Student-Led Ed | Students Run Chi | Territory NFP | The Alliance 98 | The Bloc | Voices of Youth Ensemble

29 total grantees **16** are founded by intrepid leaders of color **62%** of grantees are led by women



11 arts



5 sports



5 mentoring



2 math



4 career



1 debate



1 violence prevention

2021 Springboard Award Winner: *Territory, NFP*

This year Springboard is proud to announce founder and executive director Helen Slade of Territory, NFP as the 2021 Springboard Award Winner. Territory teaches students a concept called “human centered design.” It is a process that centers on empathy for the end user that creates innovative results. It is used everywhere including technology firms and is taught in elite institutions like MIT. Territory students use this process to design creative solutions to neighborhood challenges like lack of parks and safe spaces for students to hang out.



A site visit with Territory students in 2018
(picture credit: Helen Slade)

The award is given to a nonprofit in their fifth and final year of Springboard funding. It is designed to honor the journey of a nonprofit’s growth. Growth can be defined in many ways: growth as an individual leader, growth of the program in terms of serving more students, or growth in terms of the depth of programming like moving from two days to five days a week. Sometimes it’s a combination of all of the above, as in the case of Territory.

In 2017 when we first met Helen, Territory was serving 17 students with a budget \$51,000 and we’d never heard of human centered design. Back then Territory’s goal was 2 program sites in the Albany Park neighborhood. Now Territory’s plans include a brick-and-mortar location in the Austin neighborhood on the West side. Since 2017 they have added board members, increased their programs, and are a grantee of the National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency. Springboard is so proud to have been a part of Territory’s growth.

Supporting Springboard Grantees in Challenging Times



Springboard understands the post-COVID recovery for nonprofits will look different and likely take

longer than in the private sector. That is why Springboard’s Board of Advisors has decided to extend the partnership with Forefront for another year.

Forefront will work with Springboard grantees by providing them additional resources to ensure they continue on their journey of becoming strong, sustainable nonprofits, able to serve more students as they grow. Services available include: librarian support in researching grant opportunities, the iCAT organizational assessment tool, and access to research and workshops.

To learn more about Forefront, visit: <https://myforefront.org/>

A Big Supporter of Little Organizations



This year marked the passing of Board Member Richard H. Driehaus at 78 years young. Richard was known in the financial world as “the father of momentum investing” which involves spotting stocks on a prolonged upward trend. Perhaps it was this part of his day job that intrigued him with Springboard. He had an affinity of helping smaller nonprofit organizations because he thought one’s support had a bigger impact and it meant more to the organization. Over the years Richard supported Springboard with financial contributions and his board membership. In 2015 he helped kick off the endowment campaign with a \$500,000 commitment. Richard’s philanthropic legacy is alive all around the city he was born and raised in and it lives on in Springboard too.



Annual Dinner Wrap Up

Reunited—and as the song says—and it feels so good! On September 30, 2021 the Springboard Annual Dinner was back! After a summer spent listening to our members and grantees we asked folks who were vaccinated to join us in person to celebrate the best parts of Springboard—our intrepid nonprofit leaders, their courageous stories, and a strong foundation built by our generous members that makes it all possible.



How to make your annual gift

Mail

Make checks payable to The Chicago Community Foundation, include Springboard Foundation Fund in the memo line and mail to our Administrative Office:

The Chicago Community Trust
225 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2200
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Online

By Credit card
visit our website: <https://springboardfoundation.org/donate>

TO GIFT STOCK OR TRANSFER BY WIRE
see insert for directions and email: giftnotification@cct.org

See insert for directions and email
sejal@springboardfoundation.org with questions.

Let's stay in touch!

Scan this QR code with your mobile phone or type in this URL
<https://bit.ly/31SeokQ>



Fill out the form and we'll send you a cool pen!