



community news | january 2019



Happy New Year, *|IF:FNAME|**|FNAME|**|ELSE:|* Friend*|END:IF|*!

This past year was full. Full of change. Full of purpose. Full of new clarity.

In 2018, our team grew from three to eight to meet our community's needs. You made it clear that we need a high impact intermediary that's deeply embedded in the community *and* well-versed in finance so that we can build sensitive solutions.

There's more work to do to create an inclusive economy. Access to opportunity continues to be, well, *lumpy*. Communities of color, military families, refugees, women, and others face hurdles at every turn.

But we're making strides together:

- \$2.4MM assets into community across [seven investments](#)
- Two active high impact funds, with an [Opportunity Fund](#) in development
 - [Advance](#), our flagship creating broad economic opportunity
 - [Homebuilding Investment Fund](#), accelerating affordable homeownership

To ensure we build and communicate what YOU want to see, we're sending a short survey separately. Keep a lookout!



New investment builds access

[Access Youth Academy](#) is a San Diego nonprofit that uses academic mentorship and urban squash to support underserved youth. Access programs provide a new pathway to elite colleges through **untapped athletic scholarships**.

Since 2002, Access students have earned \$6.3MM in scholarships. 100% of Access alumni have graduated from high school and gotten accepted to college.

We coordinated an \$800,000 bridge investment with [Civic San Diego](#) and [Alliance Healthcare Foundation](#) to unlock a \$12MM New Markets Tax Credit project for a new athletic and academic facility. [Learn more about the investment supporting Access.](#)



Business For Good

Our Co-Founder and Director of Community Engagement, Lauren Grattan, is now a board member of [Business for Good San Diego](#), a nonprofit uniting small business owners to drive policy that improves our community. Mission Driven Finance was also awarded the Business Resources Advocate Award in December.

[Read about the inaugural awards](#), and meet other members February 26 at a screening of [eco-documentary Prosperity](#).



Portfolio Update

National City based social enterprise [All Across Africa](#) is deepening their commitment to ethical production.

All Across Africa was already a certified B Corporation and member of the Fair Trade Federation. Now, they are in the final stages of becoming the first company to earn the **Build a Nest Seal** in Rwanda and Uganda.

The Nest seal

establishes standard protective measures and certifies ethical production for the increasing number of artisans working from home or small workshops.



Listen to the inspiring [stories of All of Across Africa's artisans](#).

Meet the Team

Investing in economic opportunity is truly a team effort! Meet the brains and passion behind the scenes.



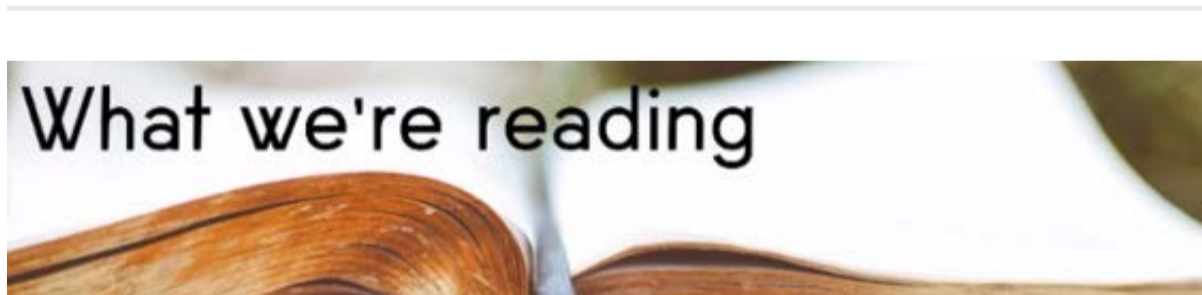
**Heather Marie Burke, MA
Director of Investor Relations**

We are thrilled to have Heather lead our work connecting investors to innovative impact opportunities. She's also the co-founder of [girltank](#), a nonprofit dedicated to women social entrepreneurs, and received her MA at Johns Hopkins SAIS.

We're grateful to have her deep experience in social innovation and public-private partnerships on our team.

As our Director of Investor Relations, Heather has been instrumental in developing our Homebuilding Investment Fund with San Diego Habitat for Humanity. Heather is our resident cat lover and flower enthusiast--even her name stems from the lovely flowers covering the moors of Scotland.

Reach out to her at heather@missiondrivenfinance.com if you or someone you know is interested in impact-based investing.



- [Convergence & collaboration](#) [Calvert Impact Capital]
- [San Diego accelerator to help entrepreneurs of color](#) [KPBS]
- [Blueprint Local - a new platform for place-based investing](#) [Medium]
- [Small business loan fund puts racial equity front and center](#) [NextCity]
- [More start-ups have an unfamiliar message for venture capitalists: Get Lost](#) [New York Times]
- [Rethinking an all-or-nothing view of impact investing](#) [MacArthur Foundation]
- [Podcast: highlights from the SOCAP18 main stage](#) [SOCAP Money+Meaning]



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