

SLINGSHOT FUND

the slingshot fund was created to support the Jewish future by building next-generation leadership and philanthropy

Slingshot FAQs

Q: What is Grand Street? What is Slingshot's relationship to Grand Street?

A: Grand Street (www.grandstreetnetwork.net) is a network for next generation Jews who are involved in their family's philanthropy or will be one day. Each year, twelve individuals between the ages of 18 and 28 are invited to participate in a weekend-long gathering to explore questions of family philanthropy, Jewish identity and the intersection of the two. After the initial cohort gathering, participants are invited to become members of the Grand Street network and participate in a host of member-driven activities including international site visits to Jewish communities around the world, domestic volunteer initiatives and the Slingshot Fund application review committees. Grand Street recently welcomed its sixth cohort.

The idea for *Slingshot: A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation* (www.slingshotfund.org) came from a Grand Street member who wanted a Zagat-style guide to innovative organizations in the Jewish community. A year later, after seeing the quality of the guide –vetted by 25 funding professionals—another Grand Street member recommended starting the Slingshot Fund to support a number of the undercapitalized groups in the guide. Participation in the Slingshot Fund is open broadly; you do not have to be eligible for Grand Street to participate in the Slingshot Fund. Email info@slingshotfund.org to become involved.

Q: How is *Slingshot: A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation* separate from the Slingshot Fund?

A: The development and production of *Slingshot: A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation* is administered by 21/64 (www.2164.net) a non-profit consulting division of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies (www.acbp.net). 21/64 professionals coordinate nominations to the guide, the twenty-five funding colleagues who evaluate the nominees each year, and then conduct due diligence and ultimately write the book highlighting the final 50 each year. The 25 evaluators make decisions based on four criteria (innovation, impact, leadership and organizational effectiveness) to determine which organizations will be featured in each year's guide. The guide is now in its fourth edition.

The Slingshot Fund is led by a group of 20- and 30- something funders whose active participation steers the Fund. Each year,

Adler Family
Bendit Foundation
Andrea and Charles
Bronfman Philanthropies
Stanford & Joan Alexander
Foundation
Howard & Carol Anderson
Family Fund
Matan Ben Aviv
Eric Brown Foundation
Melissa Brown Eisenberg
and Jason Eisenberg
Anna Carlsen
David S. Colton
Cynthia F. and Joseph M.
Gensheimer Fund
Marvin Israelow and Dorian
Goldman
Richard and Rhoda
Goldman Fund
Shelley and Sheldon
Goldseker
Hurst Family Foundation
Fern Karesh Hurst
Foundation
Queensgate Fund
Mamie Kanfer
Kaplan Family Foundation
Samuel ABA and Sisel
Klurman Foundation
Leo & Libby Nevas Family
Foundation
Jeff Rapaport
Rebecca Richards
Roizen Family
Denise and Gary Rosenberg
The Alvin and Fanny
Thalheimer Foundation
Jos Thalheimer
Louis B. Thalheimer and
Juliet A. Eurich
Benjamin and Joy Warren
Naomi and Martin Warren
Family Foundation
Jessica and Julia Warren
Maxine & Jack Zarrow
Family Foundation



Fund members send a Request for Proposal to the 50 finalists in the book to solicit applications for funding. Only those 50 organizations featured in the previous year's *Slingshot* guide are eligible to apply. Fund members then read the proposals submitted, conduct site visits and make decisions to allocate the pool of funds they've raised in a given year. 21/64 professionals staff the Fund and all funds are held at the FJC (www.fjc.org), but grantmaking and organizational decisions are made by funder members.

Q: How are decisions made for the Slingshot guide?

A: Twenty-five funding professionals are invited to serve as evaluators for the *Slingshot* guide each year. Visit www.slingshotfund.org and click on "guide" and "evaluators" to see a list as well as bios and photos of the evaluators in a given year. These professionals, with expertise in funding Jewish life, are asked to vet nominations. Each nominee is reviewed by four evaluators. Where possible, we ask evaluators with geographic proximity or a particular programmatic expertise to evaluate nominees in those areas. We also find it helpful to have some evaluators assigned to nominees they do not know. Both the insiders' and first-timers' views on a nominee give us a well-rounded perspective.

The evaluators review each nominee against the four criteria: innovation, impact, strong leadership and organizational effectiveness. Within the criteria, certain questions are inherent:

Innovation: How creative, inventive, pioneering or groundbreaking is the organization in responding to the changing needs of the Jewish community and the world around it?

Impact: Does the organization reach a critical mass of people? Is it affecting the attitudes and behaviors of its constituents and the Jewish community?

Strong Leadership: Is there someone or some team at the helm who brings character, vision and guidance? Is this person or team paving a new path in the Jewish community? Is this person or team seen as a strong leader(s) by the organization and by the field?

Organizational Effectiveness: Is the organization sound? Is it strategic in the way it does business? Is it efficient and responsible about how it raises and spends money?

In the third phase, with evaluation scores and comments, 21/64 staff conducts additional due diligence on the semi-finalists. By reviewing nominations, organizational documents, publications, budgets, strategic plans, films and music, and by consulting nominees' references, we arrive at the final 50. While we are grateful to our colleagues for their input in the development of this book, 21/64 takes full responsibility for its contents.

Q: How are decisions made for the Slingshot Fund?

A: The Slingshot Fund accepts contributions from investors of all ages. A subset of these funders in their 20s and 30s then actively participate on Application Review Committees to allocate the funds raised annually. At the beginning of each calendar year, the Application Review Committees invites the 50 finalists in the most recent *Slingshot* guide to respond to a Request for Proposal. Only those 50 organizations featured in the previous year's *Slingshot* guide are eligible to apply. Application Review Committee members then read the proposals submitted, conduct site visits and make decisions to allocate the pool of funds raised in a given year. 21/64 professionals staff the Fund and help to administer the grantmaking process, grant agreements, payments, grant payments, reporting, etc. Through their pooled wisdom and next generation lenses, all grantmaking and organizational decisions are made collectively by the Application Review Committee Slingshot Fund members. To date, fourteen organizations have received a grant from the Slingshot Fund.

Q: Where are contributions to the Fund held?

A: All funds are held at the FJC (www.fjc.org) in a Collective Giving Account. FJC provides confirmation of the Fund's tax-exempt status. Contributions are accepted via check or online. Checks can be made payable to FJC (with Slingshot Fund in the memo line) and sent to Slingshot Fund, 110 E. 59th Street, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10022. Contributions can be made online via www.slingshotfund.org by clicking on "get involved" and "make a contribution." Note: online contributions will be subject to a 3% handling fee by the Just Give engine that administers online giving.