TRANSFORMING HOW CHANGE HAPPENS IN AFRICA
Incredible things are happening across the global south, but it’s taken international philanthropists a long time to notice. In Africa, a huge and persistent funding gap has kept local visionaries from scaling ideas while foreign-led organizations remain in the spotlight. Even today, just a fraction of humanitarian funding goes to African-led organizations. But there’s a growing desire to change this.
African leaders have all the bold ideas and big visions they need to transform civil society; what they need is equitable financial backing. Global funders understand that locally-led giving is more ethical, and they’re learning that it’s more effective. What they need is the practical know-how to find and fund visionary local leaders.

That’s where Segal Family Foundation can help.
INVEST
We find, vet, and invest in early-stage social leaders and organizations with huge potential to transform society.

CONNECT
We bring together a rich community of African visionaries and global funders to foster transformative collaboration.

ADVISE
We advance big visions by equipping partners and donors with the resources and advice they need to succeed.
We invest in early-stage, local leaders with big visions.

We know it’s possible to build a stronger, more resilient civil society in Africa, and we know only local leaders can create that change.

Equity is our founding principle, and we’ve spent years developing a more just, localized approach. We believe philanthropy should promote self-determination within African communities, not work against it. Local leaders, with their intimate understanding of local problems and solutions, are central to everything we do.
We cultivate deep relationships that span years.

Our relationships are built on trust, respect, and a shared commitment to long-term collaboration. We begin each by listening. Once we understand what our partners and donors need, we can meet them where they are.

We support each other when things get tough and celebrate together when things go right.
We share our intel to accelerate change.

We’re growing the most influential network of African leaders in Africa, who can share resources and intel to advance positive change in the communities they serve. We gather partners, donors, and service providers to learn from each other and spark new ideas.

Dreamer, funder, leader, or visionary—our network can help you make the greatest impact.
We’re building an extensive network of extraordinary people.

We offer consulting and connections to other like-minded foundations, organizations, and philanthropists, because we know we can achieve greater impact, faster, if we share what we learn.

We make our diligence and insights available to like-minded funders—from curated information about how to give, who to fund, and what to look for, to the nitty-gritty about red tape and paperwork.

We also encourage and facilitate collaboration between our partner organizations, because change happens faster when we’re all in it together.

Read more here.
Our grantmaking team is 100% African. They’re in charge of strategy and funding decisions, and they work with local experts to identify visionaries with the potential for great social impact—even those at the beginning of their journey.
We equip partners with coaching, professional development, mentorship, networking, and anything else they need to succeed. Our grants are 100% unrestricted. Many are multi-year, and all have low-burden reporting.
We equip donors with diligence, insights, connections, and whatever else they need to start backing locally-led organizations with confidence.
IT’S TIME TO BACK THE BOLD IDEAS OF LOCAL LEADERS.
To learn more about our partners, visit www.segalfamilyfoundation.org/our-partners.

Illustrations by Lulu Kitololo

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Page 2: Grantee partner BoxGirls Kenya uses an uncommon approach—boxing—to create women leaders and teach life skills in the informal settlements of Nairobi

Page 14: SFF team retreat, March 2022

Page 16: African Visionary Fellowship learning visit to Malawi

Page 18: Grantee partner Imagine We is a Rwandan publishing company producing books for children to improve education and literacy rates as well as enhance readers’ self-esteem.

Page 20: The Celebration of African Visionaries offered donor friends the opportunity to network with 50 African Visionary Fellows in New York City around UNGA events, September 2022

Page 22: Mercy Kafotokoza accepts the 2022 Rising Star Award for grantee partner Wandikweza, which provides quality health care closer to the people in Malawi

Back cover: Segal Family Foundation 2019 Annual Meeting

Hundreds of visionary African-led organizations are poised to make their countries shine. Join us in backing their bold ideas.

The SFF team can introduce you to leaders, share our diligence, provide advice, and whatever else you need to start backing locally-led organizations with confidence. Reach out to partnerships@segalfamilyfoundation.org.