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## FOUR NEW YORK CITY NONPROFITS SELECTED AS FINALISTS FOR TWO \$100,000 IMPACT 100 NYC INNOVATION GRANTS

*Women's Philanthropic Giving Circle  
to Bestow \$214,00 in Grants at Annual Meeting on May 19*

**NEW YORK, NY – May 4, 2022** – Impact 100 NYC announced four New York City nonprofits are moving on to the final round in its annual awarding of grants to organizations helping residents and communities of the five boroughs thrive.

In its mission to make a lasting impact through the power of collective giving and collaborative action, the all-women all-volunteer philanthropic giving circle aggregates individual donations from its members into high-impact grants. This year, Impact 100 NYC will bestow \$214,000 in grants from 214 members, selecting two of the four finalists to receive Innovation Grants of at least \$100,000, double the number of grants from its inaugural year in 2021. The 2022 finalists are:

[Futures and Options](#) empowers New York City's youth, particularly youth of color and students from historically underrepresented communities, to acquire transferable professional skills, pursue higher education, and successfully compete in a global 21st century economy.

With hydroponic farm-classrooms built in city schools, along with a Discovering Sustainability Science K-12 curriculum, [NY Sun Works](#) provides a year-round, hands-on, and project-based sustainability science education through the lens of urban farming.

Through its portfolio of nature-based programs, [Trail Blazers](#) helps young people to learn, grow, and thrive by integrating social-emotional development based on "Four Pillars" – Care for Self; Care for Others; Care for Community; Care for Environment.

Using the power of credible messengers and peer-to-peer engagement – former foster youth and adoptive parents of foster youth – [You Gotta Believe!](#) connects youth in foster care to permanent and adoptive families.

"It is evident from the applications," said Hope Buerkle, Impact 100 NYC Founding Board Member and Grants Committee Chair, "that these organizations face unprecedented demands for their services along with fundraising challenges. Our goal is to provide high-impact grants that reach underserved populations and meet unmet needs throughout the city; raise the profiles of deserving but lesser-known initiatives; and help organizations dream big."

"In our second year, we again faced a decision-making challenge given the caliber of organizations applying for our grants, and the invaluable benefit and impact they make," added Buerkle "As we evaluate the proposals, either for new programs or projects or significant expansions of existing ones, a key criteria is the potential for the grants to transform these organizations, communities and lives of New Yorkers."

Member-comprised grant review committees (GRCs) determined the four finalists after a rigorous application and review process. At the organization's annual meeting on May 19, each finalist will present to the entire membership, which then votes to select the two grant recipients. Each of the 214 members receives one vote.

Additionally, Impact 100 NYC's newly-launched high school initiative, [\*nextgen\*](#), which gives teens hands-on social impact experience, has also conducted a grant review and selection process. Modeled on Impact 100 NYC's collective approach to philanthropy, *nextgen* teen members are learning and practicing grant-making, fund-raising, taking part in community service, and meeting like-minded do-gooders from across the city. Later this month, they will bestow their first grant.

In its inaugural year, Impact 100 NYC, announced \$147,000 in grants in May 2021 to four New York City nonprofit organizations, awarding its first-ever Innovation Grant of \$102,000 to Fiver Children's Foundation, a comprehensive youth development organization that makes a 10-year commitment to children from underserved communities throughout New York City and central New York. Additionally, three finalists, George Jackson Academy, Reaching Out Community Services, and Youth Represent, were recognized for meeting critical needs and providing vital services, and each awarded a \$15,000 general operating grant to help further their missions.

For complete information on becoming a member of Impact 100 NYC or submitting a 2023 grant application, visit [Impact 100 NYC](#).

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### **About Impact 100 NYC**

By harnessing the power of collective giving and collaborative action, Impact 100 NYC unites women across the five boroughs to fund transformative change that helps the people and communities of NYC overcome adversity and thrive. An all-volunteer organization, Impact 100 NYC empowers diverse women to be change-makers by working and giving together to transform NYC communities through lasting impact. By aggregating individual giving into high impact grants, we connect members to each other, to NYC nonprofits and the communities they serve. Together, through collaborative giving, decision-making and volunteering, we each become transformational forces in our own communities and in our own lives.

Founded in 2019, IMPACT 100 NYC is a 501(C)(3) charitable women's giving circle dedicated to awarding high-impact grants totaling \$100,000 or more to at least one nonprofit in the five boroughs of New York City. Impact 100 NYC is a chapter of Impact100, a global organization with 60 chapters in more than 60 cities and four countries. By the end of 2021, Impact100 will have collectively granted more than \$100 million dollars during its first 20 years.

### **About the Finalists**

**Futures and Options** empowers New York City's youth, particularly youth of color and students from historically underrepresented communities, to acquire transferable professional skills, pursue higher education, and successfully compete in a global 21st century economy. They collaborate with New York City employers to provide transformative career development opportunities to young people, enabling them to succeed in college and inspiring them to pursue meaningful careers.

**NY Sun Works** believes a more sustainable tomorrow starts in the classroom today. Through hydroponic farm-classrooms built in city schools, along with a Discovering Sustainability Science K-12 curriculum, NY Sun Works provides a year-round, hands-on, and project-based sustainability science education through the lens of urban farming. Dedicated to bringing inclusive, high-quality education to the communities where it's most needed, the organization nurtures a generation of environmental innovators, empowered to create solutions to 21st-century global resource challenges.

Through its portfolio of nature-based programs, **Trail Blazers** helps young people to learn, grow, and thrive. By integrating social-emotional development with environmental stewardship, Trail Blazers helps youth step into the world equipped with essential skills and values based on "Four Pillars" – Care for Self; Care for Others; Care for Community; Care for Environment.

**You Gotta Believe!** exists to work toward the day when no one leaves foster care without a family and that NYC's most vulnerable youth do not fall through the cracks by aging out alone. Using the power of credible messengers and peer-to-peer engagement – former foster youth and adoptive parents of foster youth – You Gotta Believe connects youth in foster care to permanent and adoptive families and provides youth with a disruptive solution to end the cycle of abuse and to provide them with the lifelong system of love and support healthy families provide.