Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs: Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett and Former Mayors Greg Ballard, Bart Peterson and Steve Goldsmith
“We have chosen to invest more than $11 million in The Mind Trust. If they can successfully double the number of children who attend high-quality schools, which we believe they will do, the benefits to those kids—and the city—will be tremendous. Furthermore, if The Mind Trust can help to produce such gains in Indianapolis, the city can serve as a model for other communities across the nation.”

John Arnold, Co-Chair, the Laura & John Arnold Foundation
Indianapolis has a rare and unprecedented opportunity. Today, just 15,000 of the 45,000 kids within Indianapolis Public Schools boundaries are enrolled in high-quality public schools. Over the next seven years, our community has the opportunity to double that number – to 30,000 students by 2023.

The Mind Trust’s Grow Great Schools campaign will help turn this vision into reality. Through the campaign, we will work to raise $32 million by 2019. This will provide an additional 7,500 students within IPS boundaries the opportunity to attend great public schools – and get us halfway to the ultimate goal of 15,000 additional students in high-quality seats by 2023. By achieving our seven-year vision, Indianapolis will become a rare city where more than two-thirds of students in the urban core have access to an excellent education. That will have a transformative effect – not only for the students and families who benefit from great schools – but for our entire community.

Leading national philanthropists recognize the promise of this opportunity in Indianapolis. In 2016, the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation invested $14 million in The Mind Trust’s vision, offering a strong endorsement of our approach – and a major step towards what’s needed to turn our opportunity into reality.

But there’s still enormous work to be done.

That’s where you come in.

“Every staff member I’ve come in contact with at PLA@103 cares about the kids being successful,” LaToya said. “Prior to PLA, it used to bring tears to my eyes thinking about what La’Mya was going through during the school day. Now I know people are looking after her. It’s a huge weight lifted off my shoulders.”

LaToya Tahirou, Parent

“Providing educators the flexibility to utilize their talents in the ways they know will best meet their students’ academic needs is paramount. Innovation Network Schools are an integral tool in helping us transform IPS into a high-performing school district. We’re pleased to partner with the Indianapolis Mayor’s Office and The Mind Trust to maximize the power of these schools and leverage this unique opportunity to make our district among the best in the nation.”

Dr. Lewis Ferebee, Superintendent, Indianapolis Public Schools
A CITY READY FOR TRANSFORMATION

Indianapolis has worked for more than a decade to prime the education landscape for transformation. As a result, we’re better positioned than nearly any other city in the country — and better than at any point in our history — to double the number of students in our urban core who attend great public schools. Our city has all of the key assets in place to achieve this, including the right policy tools, governmental entities using these tools, and the necessary ecosystem to support the launch of high-quality schools.

The policy tools to launch great schools — and governmental entities leveraging them

To become great, schools must have key conditions for success. Schools need autonomy so that talented school leaders, rather than a district central office, can make key decisions about budget, staff, curriculum and more. Great schools also must have accountability for achieving results.

Indianapolis is fortunate to have two pathways to launch schools with these conditions. Our city became the first in the nation where the mayor could authorize public charter schools in 2001, creating a route for high-quality, autonomous schools to be launched outside of school districts. Former Mayor Bart Peterson maximized this law by creating Indianapolis’ Charter School Initiative, and today our city boasts more than 35 Mayor-sponsored charter schools. These schools dramatically outperform their district peers, as three Stanford University studies have shown.

Then in 2014, at the urging of then Mayor Greg Ballard, the IPS Board, and IPS Superintendent Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee, Indiana lawmakers created a second pathway to autonomous schools. They passed a law enabling IPS to launch high-quality, autonomous schools called Innovation Network Schools. These schools operate within IPS and are accountable to the IPS Board for improving student outcomes, but have the guaranteed flexibility of charters. In partnership with the Mayor’s Office and The Mind Trust, IPS has embraced Innovation Network Schools as a lever for driving change.

Building the landscape to grow great schools: A 15-year history

2001: Indianapolis’ mayor becomes the first in the nation to authorize public charter schools.

JULY 2006: From the success of the Mayor’s Charter School Office, The Mind Trust is born.

JANUARY 2007: The Mind Trust creates its first of three incubators, which include the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship, Charter School Incubator and Innovation School Fellowship.

SEPTEMBER 2007: The Mind Trust recruits national education organization TNP to Indianapolis to build a pipeline of excellent teachers.

SEPTEMBER 2011: The Mind Trust launches its groundbreaking report, Creating Opportunity Schools, which proposes restructuring Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) to increase autonomy, resources and accountability at the school level.

MAY 2011: The Mind Trust recruits national nonprofit Stand for Children to Indianapolis to engage families and grassroots stakeholders in education change.


TNP

DECEMBER 2011: The Mind Trust launches its Teach for America (TFA) Indianapolis and Innovation School incubators–our Education Entrepreneur Fellowship, which includes the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship.

Fellowship. Through these, we’ve provided education leaders with the time, expertise, supports and resources they need to launch high-quality schools or nonprofits focused on meeting systemic education challenges in Indianapolis. We’ve also recruited three of the nation’s top education organizations, Teach For America, TNTP and Stand for Children, to Indianapolis, to fill critical demands for classroom talent and parent engagement. As a result of these efforts, The Mind Trust has strategically built a network of organizations that are working together to transform Indianapolis’ K-12 system. And we’ve created a per-capita concentration of education talent that is unparalleled across the country.

With these core elements, the stage is set for dramatic growth of great schools in Indianapolis, as evidenced by the momentum already underway. Some 33 percent of students in Indianapolis’ urban core now attend public charter schools, and some of the best performing mayor-sponsored charters are expanding to meet growing demand among families. The number of Innovation Network Schools also continues to grow each year, and there’s huge demand among students and families to attend these high-quality, autonomous schools. At each Innovation Network School that has launched, enrollment has increased — in some cases by as much as 30 percent.

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The requisite ecosystem for growing great schools

It’s not enough just to have the right policy pathways. To ensure these pathways are used to grow great schools, it is critical to have talented education innovators to create and run schools. It’s also important to have a robust network of support organizations addressing schools’ key challenges, such as retaining quality teachers, streamlining enrollment processes and more. The Mind Trust was launched in 2006 to meet these needs. We attract top education talent from across the nation and globe to Indianapolis and equip these social entrepreneurs to 1) launch and lead new schools and 2) create nonprofits that reshape our K-12 system.

To do this, The Mind Trust has established three incubators—our Education Entrepreneur Fellowship, Charter School Incubator and Innovation School Fellowship. Through these, we’ve provided education leaders with the time, expertise, supports and resources they need to launch high-quality schools or nonprofits focused on meeting systemic education challenges in Indianapolis. We’ve also recruited three of the nation’s top education organizations, Teach For America, TNTP and Stand for Children, to Indianapolis, to fill critical demands for classroom talent and parent engagement. As a result of these efforts, The Mind Trust has strategically built a network of organizations that are working together to transform Indianapolis’ K-12 system. And we’ve created a per-capita concentration of education talent that is unparalleled across the country.

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The Mind Trust will equip a diverse corps of some of the nation’s best education innovators to launch great schools through a few distinct pathways. Through our Innovation School Fellowship, we will support the launch of high-quality Innovation Network Schools. We also will help successful IPS schools become Innovation Network Schools through our Educator Empowerment Awards. And we will incubate high-quality, independent charter schools through our Charter School Fellowship and Charter School Design Challenge. In addition to supporting school incubation, we’ll also monitor each school’s success – and we’ll define “great schools” as those that earn an A or B on Indiana’s accountability system and show significant academic growth on other national assessments.

Doubling the number of students attending high-quality schools in Indianapolis’ urban core will require careful planning, strategic implementation and lots of hard work. To that end, we have developed a comprehensive strategy for growing excellent schools and ensuring their success.

**LAUNCHING GREAT SCHOOLS**

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**INVESTING IN WORLD CLASS TALENT**

Talented educators are the most essential ingredient to great schools’ success, which is why supporting them is a key component of our strategy for growing great schools. The Mind Trust will continue to invest in proven teacher pipelines such as Teach For America and TNTP, and we will support Teach For America’s Indianapolis Principal Fellowship and the nationally recognized Relay Graduate School of Education to recruit and train the next generation of school leaders. In an effort to identify new talent strategies, we’ll also invest in promising solutions to attract and retain top-notch teachers, including efforts that individual schools develop.

**ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY**

To ensure great schools are sustainable, it is critical that the parents and communities who stand to benefit most from them are invested in these schools’ success. To that end, we’ve made it a core part of our work to engage the community in our efforts to grow great schools, and community engagement will continue to play a central role in our strategy for doubling the number of students attending high-quality schools in Indianapolis’ urban core. Through our community engagement efforts, The Mind Trust will focus on building awareness and understanding of education change, engaging civic leaders as advocates to support education reform, and helping school leaders engage families to ensure schools launch with community support. We’ll also continue to work in close partnership with Stand for Children and the national advocacy office of UNCF to engage parents and convene community conversations around education.

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**THE GROW GREAT SCHOOLS VISION**

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**THIS INVOLVES THREE PILLARS:**

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**A CALL TO ACTION:**

“...I have been involved in education reform in Indianapolis for many years, and I can say that we’ve never had an opportunity to drive significant, systemic change like the one we have today. I urge the community to get behind the effort to double the number of students in great schools in the heart of our city and seize this historic moment.”

Rob Smith, President, Eli Lilly & Company Foundation
Changing public education is difficult. It requires the dedication and tireless efforts of leaders over decades. In Indianapolis, we’re fortunate to have The Mind Trust as the central driving force behind education change. The nonprofit has shown an unwavering commitment to Indianapolis, and our students and community are the greatest beneficiaries.

Maggie Lewis, President, Indianapolis City-County Council

We’re fortunate to have Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett and former Mayors Greg Ballard, Bart Peterson and Steve Goldsmith as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Grow Great Schools campaign. We’re also grateful to have a core group of community leaders who make up our Grow Great Schools Campaign Cabinet:

- John Ackerman, Managing Partner, Cardinal Equity Partners
- Ryan Brady, Philanthropic Advisor to the Glick Funds, Director of Stewardship, Central Indiana Community Foundation
- Rodney Byrnes, VP, Real Estate and Development, Strategic Capital Partners, LLC
- Molly Chavers, Executive Director, Indy Hub
- Al Hubbard, Chairman, Partner, E&A Companies
- Maggie Lewis, Indianapolis City-County Council President
- Rob MacPherson, Vice President for Development & Philanthropic Services, Central Indiana Community Foundation
- Rose Mays, Professor Emerita, Indiana University School of Nursing
- Mark Miles, CEO, Hulman & Company
- Rob Smith, Senior Director, Corporate Responsibility and President, Lilly Foundation, Eli Lilly & Company
- Jasmin Shaheed-Young, Director of Corporate and Community Relations, Keystone Construction

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