

A TASTE OF NATAN


Pop-Up Giving Circle
November 16, 2016



The Jewish Giving Circle Movement

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A Wider Bridge

Location

San Francisco, CA

Year Founded

2010

2016 Budget

\$ 615,000

Website

www.awiderbridge.org

A Wider Bridge (AWB) is a pro-Israel organization that builds bridges between Israelis and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) North Americans and allies.

WB's goals are twofold: first, that through this unique LGBT path to Israel, more LGBT people in North America, both Jews and non-Jews, will find meaningful connection with Israel and Israelis, and second, that through communication, learning about each other, and sharing of knowledge and best practices, the LGBT communities in both Israel and North America will grow stronger and better capable of advancing their goals.

AWB builds connection to Israel among LGBT Americans through five key areas of programming:

- 1) *Travel and Exchange* - creating opportunities for LGBT people and allies to experience Israel, learn about and engage with LGBT Israeli society, and broaden their perspectives through LGBT focused trips.
- 2) *Education and Cultural Programs* - bringing Israeli LGBT leaders, activists and artists to the U.S. to talk about their work, and bringing Israeli and American Jewish and LGBT community leaders together to learn from each other, share best practices and build lasting collaborative relationships.
- 3) *College Programs* - Working with Hillel, Israel advocacy organizations, LGBT student groups, and others, AWB brings seminars, speakers, performers, and other resources on Israeli LGBT culture and society to college campuses.
- 4) *Online Resources and Social Networking* - through its robust website platform and social media, AWB provides opportunities for an even broader audience to learn about and engage with Israel and its LGBT communities.
- 5) *Advocacy and Philanthropy* - creating opportunities for people in the U.S. to learn about and support Israeli LGBT organizations and to be a part of the work of furthering the cause of LGBT equality and inclusion in Israel.

AWB is expanding into more cities over time, intentionally working with both Jewish and non-Jewish LGBTQ leaders. Although many organizations work to strengthen the Jewish community, the pro-Israel community or the LGBTQ community, AWB is the only organization that works to connect all three.

Asylum Arts

Location

New York, NY

Year Founded

2010

2016 Budget

\$732,750

Website

www.asylum-arts.org

Asylum Arts supports contemporary Jewish culture on an international scale, bringing greater exposure to artists and cultural initiatives and providing opportunities for new projects and collaborations.

Asylum Arts a global network of Jewish artists, currently boasting 387 members from 19 countries in North America, Israel, Europe, and Latin America. Most of these artists are young and are not deeply connected to their Jewish identities or with local Jewish communities. Through Asylum's programs, they engage with Jewish history and culture, meet other Jewish artists from around the world, and gain skills necessary for building successful artistic careers.

Asylum hosts an annual gathering of its network in upstate New York, runs local trainings in Europe and Israel throughout the year, and sparks action through small grants to support creative projects that explore Jewish and Israeli ideas, themes, history, and identity.

Asylum has also become increasingly engaged with confronting the cultural boycott of Israeli - and even simply Jewish - artists. It is currently raising funds to study the impact of formal and informal boycotts on its network of artists, as a step toward devising strategies to empower artists, institutions, and communities to combat this delegitimization tool.

Taken together, Asylum's work empowers artists and cultural organizations to create experiences to broaden the impact of Jewish culture. Asylum's artists' performances and exhibitions ultimately enable hundreds of thousands of people a year to engage with Jewish ideas and community through the vibrant Jewish and Israeli cultural landscape.

BimBam

Location

San Francisco, CA

Year Founded

2008

2016 Budget

\$ 1,176,201

Website

www.bimbam.com

BimBam, formerly G-dcast, is a San Francisco-based nonprofit new media studio committed to making Jewish literacy accessible to everyone interested in learning the basics. Its resources are joyful introductions to stories and rituals that empower people to make more confident Jewish choices in their lives, for their families, and in community.

Recognizing that so many people get their information from screens, this creative group brings “good screen time” to Jewish life, from learning how to pick a Hebrew baby name to animated Yom Kippur scapegoats that confess users’ sins to iPhone shofars that can actually be blown. It’s attracting the attention of young families, adults and teachers. With a team hailing from Sesame Workshop, Pixar and Apple, G-dcast is truly on the cutting edge—reaching people where they are with beautiful, accessible content.

BimBam helps curious young adults to answer basic questions about everyday Jewish ideas through 101 videos that share the basics of everything from seders to shivas. It helps Jewish educators feel more confident in teaching Jewish texts and using new media in the classroom through its lesson plans and Tanach videos. And its latest endeavor is a new animated kids series Shaboom!, which engages young children in social-emotional learning through Jewish values, while helping parents of young children connect to Jewish wisdom as they make choices setting up new homes and raising Jewish children.

Campaign Against Antisemitism

Location

London, UK

Year Founded

2014

2016 Budget

\$70,000

Website

<https://antisemitism.uk>

Campaign Against Antisemitism is a volunteer-led organization based in London dedicated to exposing and countering antisemitism in the UK through education and zero-tolerance enforcement of the law.

The organization's primary programs include: consists of eight directorates that collaborate closely to expose and counter antisemitism through education and zero-tolerance enforcement of the law:

Investigations and Enforcement: CAA works closely with police forces around the UK, the Crown Prosecution Service, regulatory bodies and the government to ensure that antisemitism is detected, investigated and punished with the full force of the law.

Outreach and Education: CAA strives to reduce anti-Jewish prejudice through education and training, and through collaborating with other minority communities and anti-racist groups.

Public Affairs: CAA has forged links with the government, local authorities, regulators, police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service, as well as with companies such as the major social networks. It works at the highest levels to tackle the roots of antisemitism and to ensure that the law is upheld effectively, consistently and firmly.

Mobilization: CAA recruits, trains and mobilises volunteers, empowering them to leverage their talent and expertise against antisemitism.

Legal: CAA has recruited some of Britain's most formidable and acclaimed legal minds who volunteer to provide guidance on specific cases and to take action to hold the authorities and private companies to account when they fail to act against antisemitism effectively.

CAA strives to stay true to its grassroots origins, with minimal administrative costs and a heavy reliance on the talent and drive of volunteers. It is currently raising funds for its first staff positions, primarily a volunteer coordinator.

Eshel

Location

New York, NY

Year Founded

2010

2016 Budget

\$282,810

Website

www.eshelonline.org

Eshel's mission is to create community and acceptance for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Jews and their families in Orthodox communities. Founded in June of 2010, Eshel provides hope and a future for Orthodox LGBT women, men, and teens. With more than a quarter of Jewish children in America being raised in Orthodox households, and with children and teens coming out to their families more frequently and earlier than ever before, traditional Jewish communities will increasingly encounter members whose gender and sexual orientation do not fit the norm. Eshel is the main source for providing the resources that Orthodox individuals and communities need to create more inclusive communities, to stop misunderstanding and bullying of LGBT individuals, and to strengthen families and communities that are split across a cultural and religious divide over their LGBT members.

Eshel accomplishes its goals in a number of ways. It trains its members to speak out and act as advocates for LGBT Orthodox people and their families; creates bridges into Orthodox communities to foster understanding and support; and hosts community gatherings for Orthodox people that help them pursue meaningful lives that encompass seemingly disparate identities while also fulfilling Jewish values around family, education, culture, and spirituality.

Since its founding, Eshel's work has gained national recognition and broad media coverage for its innovative mission and unique reach. It has worked with over thousands of Orthodox individuals towards creating an inclusive ethos in their communities and has built a robust parent support network, a speakers bureau and community building programs for LGBT people.

Footsteps

Location

New York, NY

Year Founded

2003

2016 Budget

\$1,579,750

Website

www.footstepsorg.org

Footsteps supports ultra-Orthodox Jews who choose to live mainstream Jewish lives or are considering it. The ultra-Orthodox are the fastest-growing Jewish group in America, but they can also be the most dogmatic; those who separate are often ostracized by family and friends alike, and are left feeling isolated and alienated simply because they have chosen to honor their religion differently. Many live in fear of being exposed for their religious doubts, and several admit to having contemplated suicide. Those who tap Footsteps' services include women seeking divorce from forced marriages and young people who simply do not feel the ultra-Orthodox calling of their ancestors.

Footsteps embraces members at a critical and defenseless juncture in their lives, when they're transitioning into a secular world that is as frightening as it is exciting. Its success in doing so is reflected in its exponential growth: from 2010 to 2014, Footsteps' intake more than tripled.

Footsteps helps new members grow comfortable in their new identities while also nurturing their Judaism in fresh and meaningful ways, providing peer support and access to educational and professional development opportunities, including academic scholarships, summer internships and career connections. Footsteps also facilitates community building through holiday festivities, arts and culture programming, camping trips and milestone celebrations. Experienced "Footsteppers" are offered leadership training and microgrants, and they are encouraged to act as peer supports to those who have just left their ultra-Orthodox community or are simply thinking about it.

Israel Story

Location

Everywhere

Year Founded

2013

2016 Budget

\$438,000

Website

<http://israelstory.org/en/>

Israel Story is a radio and podcasting initiative in English and in Hebrew dedicated to telling the story of a different, diverse and nuanced Israel. In essence, it is about deconstructing borders – both ideological and physical – between Israel and audiences (Jewish and not) around the world. By presenting human-interest stories that profile a broad spectrum of Israelis, and delivering them through the wildly popular medium of podcasting (and live tapings in front of thousands), Israel Story hopes to promote a greater awareness of and interest in modern Israeli society.

Modeled after National Public Radio's This American Life, Israel Story portrays the intricacies of Israeli culture and showcases its rich plurality. Israel, the show posits, is ultimately much more complicated and interesting than the usual coverage it receives. Its primary goal is to amplify and humanize voices that are rarely heard on the airwaves; to tell long-form tales by, and about, regular Israelis. Taking the time to properly present multi-faceted narratives in an intelligent, original manner, while avoiding catchy headlines and simplistic conclusions, is becoming exceedingly uncommon, especially in the Israeli context. Doing so now is thus more important than ever before.

By entering the homes and lives of the people living in Israel – Jews, Muslims and Christians, Ashkenazim and Sephardim, Russians, Bedouin and Ethiopians, Filipino foreign workers and Eritrean refugees, orthodox and secular, Palestinians and settlers, hawkish right wingers and diehard liberals – Israel Story exposes a side of Israel that does not typically make it into the mainstream media. The show offers a fresh way for Jews around the world to connect, and reconnect, to Israel. The show's founders, all Israelis, believe that once someone hears a compelling personal narrative – whether it is touching or humorous, dramatic or illuminating – they can begin to empathize. The 'other' swiftly becomes a person. A person with a story.

Jewish Emergent Network

Location

National

Year Founded

2015

2016 Budget

\$1,500,000

Website

www.jewishemergentnetwork.org

The Jewish Emergent Network is comprised of the leaders of seven path-breaking Jewish communities from across the United States that have come together in the spirit of collaboration. These include: IKAR in Los Angeles, Kavana Cooperative in Seattle, The Kitchen in San Francisco, Mishkanin Chicago, Sixth & I in Washington, D.C., and Lab/Shul and Romemu in New York.

The seven communities in the Network do not represent any one denomination or set of religious practices. What they share is a devotion to revitalizing the field of Jewish engagement, a commitment to approaches both traditionally-rooted and creative, and a demonstrated success in attracting unaffiliated and disengaged Jews to a rich and meaningful Jewish practice. While each community is different in form and organizational structure, all have taken an entrepreneurial approach to this shared vision, operating outside of conventional institutional models, rethinking basic assumptions about ritual and spiritual practice, membership models, staff structures, the religious/cultural divide and physical space.

After two initial gatherings funded by Natan, the Network successfully raised major philanthropic support to launch an innovative Rabbinic Fellowship in 2016, its first major collaborative project. This Fellowship places select early career rabbis into each of the seven participating Network communities for a two-year period, in order to train the next generation of enterprising rabbis to take on the challenges and realities of 21st century Jewish life in America in a variety of settings.

Encouraged by the response to its first collaborative initiative, the Network is now creating additional strategies for scaling its communities' innovative approaches and impact in Jewish communities worldwide.

Jewish Farm School

Location

Philadelphia, PA

Year Founded

2006

2016 Budget

\$148,000

Website

www.jewishfarmschool.org

The Jewish Farm School (JFS) teaches about contemporary food and environmental issues through innovative trainings and skill-based Jewish agricultural education.

The organization's aspirations are driven by the Jewish traditions of using food as a tool for social justice and spiritual mindfulness. Since 2006, JFS has been a nationally recognized leader in the Jewish innovation sector, and its programs have been a catalyst for lifelong learning and engagement in Jewish, environmental, and social justice-related issues.

in 2013, JFS pivoted to creating a deeper engagement with its local community of Philadelphia through urban sustainability programs tailored primarily to young adults living in the city. Its vision is to establish a Center for Urban Sustainability Projects (CUSP) in West Philadelphia that might then be replicated in other cities. The CUSP will include a garden and programming space for skills workshops, classes, holiday celebrations, and internships. At the CUSP, members of the Greater Philadelphia Jewish community will build substantive Jewish identity around the themes of food justice and urban sustainability.

Jewish Parent Academy

Location

Brooklyn, NY

Year Founded

2015

2016 Budget

\$49,550

Website

www.jpacademy.org

Jewish Parent Academy (JPA) inspires Russian-speaking Jewish parents to deepen their understanding of the uniqueness of their identity, strengthening a sense of belonging to the Jewish people, heritage, values and Israel. Founded and led by a group of parents from Mazel Jewish Day School in South Brooklyn, JPA is providing diverse and stimulating Jewish learning experiences, presented by outstanding Jewish scholars and educators. By participating in the program, parents become more aware of different cultural, historic and creative aspects of Judaism, enabling them to integrate Judaism into their life and thought and to take on leadership roles in their communities.

JPA brings together a cohort of parents over a semester for small group lectures and holiday celebrations, building a tight-knit group of learners who develop lasting bonds. It aims to be a catalyst for the creation of a vibrant, inspired, learned and empowered community of Russian-speaking Jews in Southern Brooklyn, which boasts the largest Russian Jewish population.

JPA's founders believe that through the continued pursuit of Jewish thought and knowledge, parents will be able to pass their values and a strong Jewish identity on to the next generation.

Jindas

Location

Lod, Israel

Year Founded

2012

2016 Budget

\$1,422,000

Website

www.jindas.org.il

Jindas is enhancing the quality of life for residents of the city of Lod, one of Israel's largest, poorest and most diverse cities, through a massive urban regeneration project that is strengthening partnerships between the disparate communities that live in the city and bringing cutting-edge urban renewal programs to Lod from around the world..

Jindas is creating sustainable change directed by and for the benefit of local residents. It empowers local leaders and brings previously disenfranchised populations into an urban regeneration process - men and women, secular and religious, Jews and Arabs. Whereas many view Lod's multi-cultural make up as an obstacle, Jindas counts the city's unique history and diversity as among its greatest assets.

Jindas is a truly grassroots organization, working both "bottom-up" and "top-down" in close partnership with residents, the municipality and other key stakeholders. Since transforming a landscape requires a comprehensive approach, Jindas develops activities on a variety of inter-connected platforms, including Community Relations & Education, Tourism, Economic Development, Housing, and Environment.

Jindas has emerged as a leader in promoting Lod's prominence and vitality, establishing the city as a model for success in Israel and beyond.

Keshet

Location

Jamaica Plain, MA

Year Founded

1996

2016 Budget

\$2,045,000

Website

www.keshetonline.org

Keshet is a national organization that works for full equality and inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people in Jewish life.

For two decades, Keshet has been helping LGBTQ Jews navigate the Jewish community and the world beyond. Founded by gay Jews seeking to create a more nurturing Jewish world for those whose sexual and gender identities shunted them to the sidelines, Keshet has helped some 166,000 LGBTQ Jews find inclusion in synagogues, day and religious schools, summer camps, JCCs and Hillels. Through training clergy and educators, Keshet has been integral in guiding the Jewish community to help LGBTQ Jews feel safe, valued and included in classrooms, congregations and camp groups.

Keshet's national impact has been extraordinary, expanding to 10 cities, including Boston, San Francisco, New York, Miami, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles.

A decade ago, only one Jewish high school offered a Gay-Straight Alliance club. Now there are 10, including one at a Modern Orthodox high school. Whereas Keshet once had to convince Jewish organizations to participate in LGBTQ training, those organizations now come to Keshet to help make the Jewish experience they provide a more sensitive, welcoming and inclusive one.

Limmud International

Location

London, UK

Year Founded

2006

2016 Budget

\$339,933

Website

www.limmudinternational.org

Limmud began in 1980 as a gathering for Jews from across the UK to come together to explore Jewish text and culture, and to build friendships and connections. Inspired by the idea that everyone could be a presenter and an active participant, Limmud modeled a new form of active engagement with Jewish life that was volunteer-led and self-directed.

Since then, Limmud has become a global phenomenon, with 83 communities in 43 countries running local Limmud events based on a common set of shared values. Its flagship annual conference is a five-day gathering of 3,000 people in Birmingham, UK, which attracts 3,000 people. Across the world, in 2015 alone, 33,000 people participated in Limmud events created by 3,000 volunteers. Limmud communities everywhere share the commitment that “wherever you find yourself, Limmud will take you one step further on your Jewish journey.” All Limmud groups promote learning, volunteerism, and diversity, yet each event is adapted to the local culture.

Almost all Limmud conferences are run entirely by volunteers. Limmud International, founded in 2006, develops and connects these volunteers worldwide as they establish and grow Limmud communities, providing training, mentoring and support for Limmud groups, and a forum for the sharing of ideas and best practices. Though each Limmud is unique to its own community and volunteers, Limmud International equips volunteer leaders with the skills and networks they need to launch and sustain successful gatherings over time.

Mayyim Hayyim

Location

Boston, MA

Year Founded

2001

2016 Budget

\$646,498

Website

www.mayyimhayyim.org

Mayyim Hayyim's mission is to reclaim and reinvent one of Judaism's most ancient rituals - immersion in the mikveh - for contemporary spiritual use; to teach about this resource to all who are interested; and to make the mikveh a sacred space that is open and accessible to all Jews and those who are becoming Jews.

A successful model for a vibrant, creative and authentic 21st century Judaism, Mayyim Hayyim has changed the Jewish landscape by reinventing and restoring the ritual of mikveh and making it accessible and attractive to the entire Jewish community. It has hosted 13,000 immersions, including more than 2,500 conversions to Judaism, since opening in May 2004; runs 110 education programs annually; receives requests for assistance and information from more than 85 cities across the North and South America, Israel and Europe; and has hosted 30 exhibits in its art gallery.

Mayyim Hayyim serves the entire Jewish community, from infants to seniors. Its visitors represent all denominational backgrounds; they are black, white, and Asian; able-bodied and with disabilities; gay, straight, and transgender; survivors of abuse; from interfaith families and all socio-economic backgrounds. Mayyim Hayyim visitors find an engaging and welcoming place that encourages Jewish choices. Every member of the community feels welcomed and valued on their own terms.

Communities around North America are now replicating this model of the "community mikveh," one that is open and welcoming to all. Mayyim Hayyim has thus become a laboratory for piloting new resources, programs and strategies with the dual goal of improving Jewish life in Boston, and enabling other communities to benefit from its experience.

Mishpucha

Location

Brooklyn, NY

Year Founded

2010

2016 Budget

\$211,060

Website

www.mispuchacamping.org

There are an estimated 750,000 Russian-speaking Jews (RSJs) in the United States. Proud in equal part of their American, post-Soviet, and Jewish identities, RSJs are not only a significant portion of the American Jewish population, but are also a tremendous source of vitality, innovation, and strength for the entire Jewish community.

By embracing and celebrating the multifaceted elements of RSJ identity, Mishpucha's vision is to build an authentic and enduring Russian-speaking Jewish community - a network of local community hubs throughout the East Coast and beyond where children, teens, young adults, and families thrive as an integral part of American and global Jewry.

Mishpucha has grown from an annual tent-camping weekend for RSJ families in New York, to a grassroots nonprofit organization that connects thousands of secular RSJs with Jewish community life. Since 2010, "Mishpucha Camping" has been bringing together RSJ young adults and their children for a weekend of informal Jewish learning and outdoor adventure. Mishpucha Camping has grown rapidly in size and popularity, retaining participants at an exceptional rate of 90%, while welcoming many new, previously unengaged families exclusively through word of mouth. Mishpucha is now experimenting with replicating this outdoor, informal family education model in other cities.

Ohel Ayalah

Location

New York, NY

Year Founded

2004

2016 Budget

\$100,000

Website

www.ohelayalah.org

The mission of Ohel Ayalah (OA) is to keep young Jews Jewish. To do that, OA provides young Jews on the margins with free, walk-in High Holiday services, Passover Seders, and other holiday gatherings. OA offers substantive, meaningful, inspiring services within a framework that works with the lifestyles and values of contemporary Jews in their 20s and 30s.

Holidays are the time of year when many young Jews feel inchoate stirrings inside themselves and seek to connect with the Jewish community. And yet, rather than welcome them warmly, the Jewish community puts stiff entry fees in their way and requires advance planning and reservations.

OA welcomes young people who find themselves stymied by these obstacles and who are thus on the verge of drifting away. It offers them services geared to them and a community of peers. OA is not an established synagogue that caters to the needs of Jewish families, but a “pop-up” community that seeks out the unaffiliated and tries to keep them Jewish by involving them in a service that is beautiful, uses beautiful music, offers explanations of what is happening, introduces great Jewish texts, and fosters a sense of community by asking people to study a Jewish text together. All of these strategies aim to spark participants’ interest in their Jewish heritage and to keep them engaged until they reach a stage of life where they might be more willing and able to formally affiliate with a synagogue.

Olim Beyachad

Location

Herziliya, Israel

Year Founded

2007

2016 Budget

\$ 1,739,430

Website

www.olim-beyahad.org.il

Olim Beyahad has broken new ground in the integration of Ethiopian Israelis into Israeli society. The organization was established in 2007 with the aim of increasing the employment rate among excelling Ethiopian Israeli university graduates by enabling them to find employment in positions commensurate with their education. These graduates faced enormous hurdles to appropriate employment, despite their academic achievements: lacking the right networks, with few Ethiopian professionals as role models, overwhelmed by cultural differences, and stymied by serious racial stereotypes, even these highest achieving members of the community could not find suitable employment.

Olim Beyahad stepped in to provide these graduates with training and - critically - with Israeli mentors drawn from the highest levels of Israeli professional society. These mentors opened their networks and sometimes their companies to program participants, often hiring the first Ethiopians to be employed in particular companies and professions.

Buoyed by its success, the organization has expanded its scope to work with undergraduates and teenagers, supplementing the original employment-oriented program with other enrichment services involving life/leadership skills, and creating new programs such as an internship program, a preparatory course for the psychometric exam, and an entrepreneur development initiative. It draws regularly on its now extensive network of volunteers and employers who are committed to promoting its mission, and its program alumni are leading the way to the successful integration of the Ethiopian Israeli community into society, reducing the community's unemployment and eliminating prejudices.

Paideia

Location

Stockholm, Sweden

Year Founded

2000

2016 Budget

\$1,053,900

Website

www.paideia-eu.org

Paideia, The European Institute for Jewish Studies, was created in 2000 through foundational grants from the Swedish government and the Marcus and Marianne Wallenberg Foundation as a pluralistic and non-denominational institute focused on academic excellence and social innovation.

Paideia actively promotes the flourishing and renewal of European Jewish culture and intellectual life, supports cross-cultural dialogue, and presents a positive paradigm of minority culture within European societies. It runs intensive, high-caliber programs for the academic study of text, for social entrepreneurship and for cross-cultural explorations of Jewish identity.

Over 500 highly accomplished individuals in over 40 countries have graduated from Paideia programs, many of whom did not learn of their Jewish heritage until they were young adults. They are becoming a new voice for European Jewish culture: from religious and community leadership to education, from the arts to academia, Paideia alumni add substance, innovation and enthusiasm to Jewish life and culture across Europe. By combining authentic Jewish knowledge with effective social engagement and communal networking, Paideia has become a premier institute for higher Jewish education, leadership and activism, with virtually 100% of its graduates describing themselves as professionally and/or socially active in Jewish life.

The Sefaria Project

Location

New York, NY

Year Founded

2013

2016 Budget

\$ 2,162,065

Website

www.sefaria.org/

Sefaria brings the entire Jewish canon to your iPhone.

Sefaria represents the future of Jewish education in every form. It's a free, open, online, living library of Jewish texts—a veritable digital infrastructure of Jewish study, education and knowledge—as accessible on the subway as in the classroom, library or synagogue. It's not just easy to click into: with text in both Hebrew and English, and a beautiful, clean interface, Sefaria is also easy to read and to use, providing access to ancient Jewish texts free of charge to anyone at any time.

For educators, scholars and students, Sefaria makes class preparations and work efficient by enabling users to discover connections between texts to easily build the source sheets that Jewish learners rely on. Users are able to take active roles in translating and commenting on texts, leading to vibrant online debates and discussions.

With its open-source technology, enabling anyone to use Jewish texts on their own websites and in their own apps, Sefaria is building the digital infrastructure upon which further digital innovation will build.

Just a few short years after launching, Sefaria now showcases 30 million words of text, 10,000 source sheets and hosts more than 30,000 visitors a month. By 2018, it expects to have digitized the entire canon in Hebrew, as well as key English translations, including the Talmud. Although several Jewish text websites exist, Sefaria is the only one that permits interactive teaching and learning in both Hebrew and English, and at a price - free! - that everyone can afford. Led by Jewish thinkers and educators across the U.S. and Israel, and fed by scholars around the world, Sefaria belongs to the global community now and for all time.

Studio of Her Own

Location

Jerusalem, Israel

Year Founded

2010

2016 Budget

\$105,000

Website

N/A

Studio of Her Own is a unique cultural initiative designed to promote artistic creations of Jewish religious women artists and enrich the public cultural scene by introducing bold artworks through a gendered lens. It is the only organization in Jerusalem and across Israel that focuses on addressing the needs of emerging Jewish religious women artists in advancing their artistic careers and gaining public exposure and recognition.

Since its establishment in 2010, Studio of her Own has served more than 35 emerging religious women artists through its unique incubator program. The participating artists are all graduates of prestigious art schools (such as the Bezalel Academy for the Arts) and other professional college-level art programs and come from across the religious spectrum.

Studio of Her Own serves as a platform to advance the business goals and financial independence of the artists by providing:

- 1) *A physical and mental space*: artists are offered the ability to work in a creative incubator with access to a physical space to develop their studio practice and proximity to other artists.
- 2) *Financial and business management training*: artists achieve the means to gain economic independence by studying in a course designed to teach the basics of developing and advancing business initiatives.
- 3) *Opportunities for public exposure*: artists gain exposure through art exhibits presented to the wider public.
- 4) *Personal mentoring*: artists benefit from role models and access to networks.
- 5) *Opportunities for meaningful communal work*: artists engage in community voluntary work, such as teaching art to girls at risk, empowering women victims of domestic violence, and more.

Tsofen - High Technology Centers

Location

Nazareth, Israel

Year Founded

2008

2016 Budget

\$2,113,767

Website

<http://tsofen.org/en/>

Tsofen strives toward full integration between Israel's Arab citizens and its hi-tech industry as a means of encouraging sustainable economic development and a more equal society.

Tsofen works with the Arab community and stakeholders from the Israeli local, governmental and private sectors to add thousands of Arabs into Israel's hi-tech sector, and also to create hi-tech centers as economic anchors in Arab towns that employ both Arabs and Jews. Such centers provide employment opportunities in hi-tech for thousands of workers, which is beneficial both to the hi-tech industry - which has a shortage of workers - and to area residents, whose quality of life is improved.

The essence of Tsofen's success over the past 6 years lies in its ability to identify business opportunities - first in Nazareth, where the organization launched, and also today in the "Triangle" region, a cluster of Arab towns along the Green Line where over 300,000 of Israel's Arab population lives.

In 2015, Tsofen received a major seal of approval from the Israeli Ministry of Economy, which awarded it and another NGO a 10 million shekel tender for 3 years to increase the integration of Arab professionals in Israel's hi-tech industry and reduce the gap in hi-tech employment between Israeli Jews and Arabs.