



Suzanne Smith

FOUNDER, SOCIAL IMPACT ARCHITECTS

Suzanne Smith (@snstexas) has a deep belief that everyone is a changemaker. As a serial social entrepreneur, she strives to harness the powerful force of organizations, including nonprofits, foundations, and socially responsible businesses and individuals, especially students and young entrepreneurs, to maximize the potential of the social sector to create real, scalable impact.

In 2009, Suzanne founded Social Impact Architects, a registered Benefit Corporation, to reshape the business of social change. She combines her MBA know-how with two decades of experience as a nonprofit innovator to serve as a consultant, adviser, and thought partner. She is also a highly sought-after public speaker at conferences nationwide, including being selected as a featured speaker at TEDxTurtleCreekWomen, and teaches as an adjunct professor at the University of North Texas. For her outstanding work as a leading thinker, she was recognized with the Next Generation Social Entrepreneur Award by the Social Enterprise Alliance. In 2015, Social Impact Architects was recognized as one of the “Best for the World” small businesses by B Corp.

Suzanne also authors Social TrendSpotter (@socialtrendspot), one of the sector's top blogs, according to the Huffington Post. Known for its relatable way of blending important concepts and new ways of working with storytelling, Social TrendSpotter has been hailed by readers as “the only blog I read each week.” Suzanne is frequently interviewed by regional and national media on social entrepreneurship and has published articles in *Forbes*, *See Change*, *Nonprofit Business Advisor*, *Upstart* and *Grantmakers in Health*.

Suzanne's first jobs at the City of Garland and Texas Municipal League taught her the power and potential of local government to impact change. Later, she worked for Phoenix House to scale evidence-based prevention and treatment programs to Texas and for the American Heart Association to build a national state advocacy strategy. One of her greatest achievements was co-founding the Alliance for a Healthier Generation—one of the country's first movements focused on combating childhood obesity—with a team from the William J. Clinton Foundation. She also co-founded Flywheel: Social Enterprise Hub in Cincinnati, Ohio, to help nonprofits build meaningful and sustainable social enterprises.

Suzanne holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, where she was selected as the CASE Scholar and now serves as a Research Fellow and on their Alumni Council. Nationally, she was selected as a member of Peter Senge's Society of Organizational Learning and Young Entrepreneurs Council. She also served on the national board of the Social Enterprise Alliance.

A third-generation Texan, her roots run deep through her work to improve her community with Entrepreneurs for North Texas, Dallas Business Club, Leadership Dallas, Leadership North Texas, and the Junior League of Dallas. She currently serves in leadership roles on the South Dallas/Fair Park Trust and the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty. She received the *Dallas Business Journal's* 40 under 40 award in 2012 and the Dallas Regional Chamber's Young ATHENA Leadership Award.