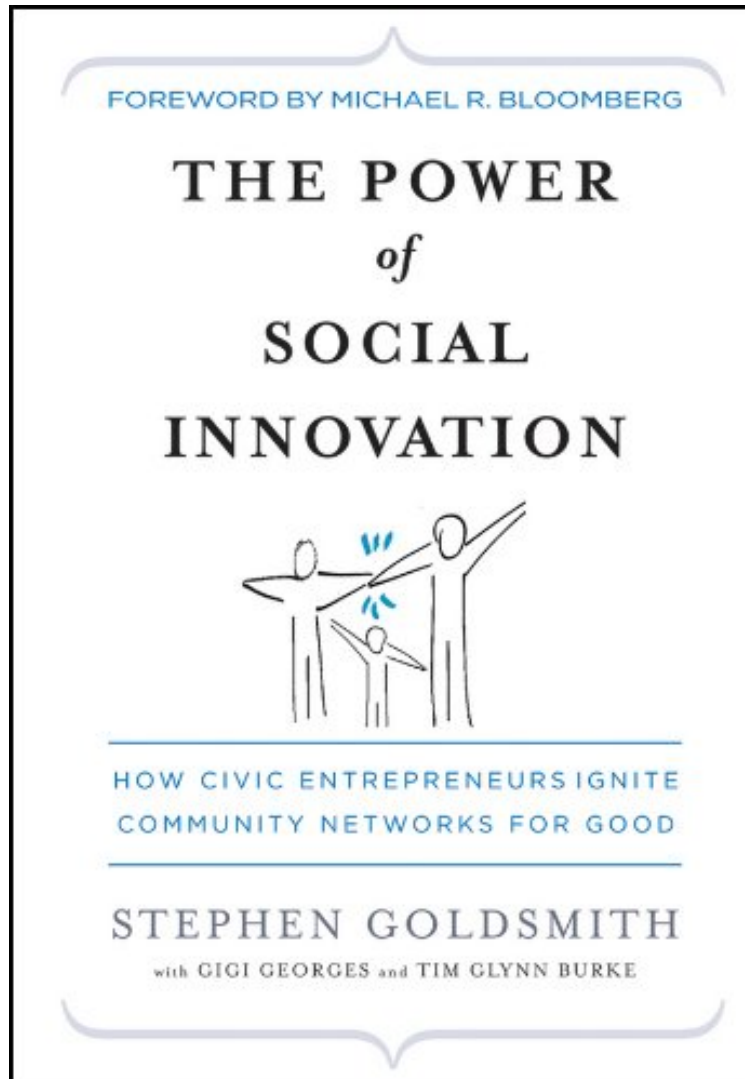


# The Power of Social Innovation: How Civic Entrepreneurs Ignite Community Networks for Good

*Stephen Goldsmith, Gigi Georges, Tim Glynn Burke*  
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**Stephen Goldsmith, Gigi Georges, Tim Glynn Burke : The Power of Social Innovation: How Civic Entrepreneurs Ignite Community Networks for Good** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Power of Social Innovation: How Civic Entrepreneurs Ignite Community Networks for Good*:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *The Power of Social Innovation* By sandy martin This is an insightful look at impact investing from a cutting-edge leader in the field. Excellent, deep factual content, with clear focus on the dynamics of change. A must-read for social innovators. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A great tool

to create permanent social change. By kealexix The Power of Social Innovation is a delightful read that I would recommend to all. It offers an excellent analysis of the role that entrepreneurial citizens have taken and can take to provide solutions to many of the problems that we face in our society. This book will open your eyes as to the great work that various individuals and service organizations have done to improve lives, as well as offering specific suggestions for the reader. For those that feel that the government too often fails as a social service provider, the book offers a blueprint to a more efficient, productive future; for those that feel that private industry is too focused on the bottom line, the book gives strong examples of client-focused entities that understand and react positively to the realities of life. The Power of Social Innovation focuses on civic entrepreneurs as the solution to overcome many of the societal problems that we face and have been unable to solve. Unwilling to accept the status quo and unbending in their desire to create positive change, examples of these individuals and the promising work that they have achieved are presented in a greater "how to" framework that discusses the specific steps and measures that need to be established to create permanent change. A key part of the book that resonated strongly was the section related to results and funding. In the past, social service providers have balked at change (especially change suggestions offered by the private sector), built significant barriers to entry, and created a political climate that protected their inefficient success. Overcoming each of those challenges require patience and strong belief that the existing system must and can change. Civic entrepreneurs recognize this problem and voluntarily apply metrics to their work which is then published for public dissemination and analysis. Not only does this increased transparency create stronger relationships between organizations and funders but it provides the greater community with better sense of the value of this work and the resulting benefits. Funders are also an integral part in creating new system of solutions. Rather than just providing money, they need to ensure that the systems they are supporting will bring about real, valid change. Support for the sake of ensuring continuity doesn't benefit recipients or the community; rather it just allows the status quo to continue to provide ineffective solutions. As the authors note "fund what works but make sure that it works for everyone by involving the client and community". If results aren't promising, funders need to demand changes before they provide additional funds; however, they also need to ensure that the potential benefits to the community are still positive. As the desire of more and more Americans to create positive social change rises, having a resource like "The Power of Social Innovation" to harness that power and direct it properly will create stronger more sustainable communities.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read By DH13 This book is a must read for anyone who is interested in learning ways to help improve the country and the world. Whether you are a business leader, educator or student this book will open your eyes. It will give you hope that there are people out there who are trying to make a positive difference. The author uses real world examples, and quotes from people who have helped make changes along with those who have been impacted by the changes. I read this every night before I went to bed so that my night ended on a positive note. I recommend others do the same, especially people who have the desire to make a difference, but feel discouraged because of the current state of the country and what is shown on the news. The best part about this book is that the language is easy to comprehend. You don't have to be in politics or urban studies to understand what the author is saying. He writes the solutions in a clear and concise manner. Once again this is a must read for anyone who is interested in learning possible solutions to change the world.

Praise for The Power of Social Innovation "Goldsmith guided us in Florida on our successful faith-based initiatives. His bold approaches continue to inspire public officials and community groups alike with keys to activating citizens and expanding opportunity for all." —Jeb Bush, former Governor, Florida "It has been a great pleasure to work with Steve Goldsmith. His work with us at America's Promise and all of his other diligent efforts are so well reflected in this book. The Power of Social Innovation reminds each of us in government, philanthropy, the nonprofit community, and as private citizens that we can and must work together to ensure the full fulfillment of the American Dream and to ensure the success of our most precious resource, our children." —Alma J. Powell, chair, America's Promise Alliance "The Power of Social Innovation is a must read for social innovators who want to make a powerful impact. Stephen Goldsmith surveys the field and provides indispensable tools to help civic entrepreneurs scale up their ideas and produce the best possible results." —Geoffrey Canada, president and CEO, Harlem Children's Zone "Goldsmith provides a useful toolkit for entrepreneurial public executives and innovative nonprofits and foundations. His research encourages transformative social change by advocating a shift in focus from direct services to citizens to building new, higher performance networks of public, private, and nonprofit organizations." —Mark R. Warner, United States Senator, Virginia "When it comes to doing good, Stephen Goldsmith is as disruptive an innovator as we've seen. Read and study The Power of Social Innovation if you don't just want to do good, but want to make the greatest impact possible." —Clayton M. Christensen, professor, Harvard Business School and author, Disrupting Class

"This book is a sort of bible of social innovation, full of examples of social entrepreneurs' successes. It sets out both the potential of the partnership approach and the huge difficulties it will have to overcome." (The Economist, August 2010) "Lots of people talk about 'reinventing government.' Steve Goldsmith has actually done it" (Wall Street Journal,

July 31, 2010) "When it comes to doing good, Stephen Goldsmith is as disruptive an innovator as we've seen. Read and study *The Power of Social Innovation* if you don't just want to do good, but want to make the greatest impact possible." —Clayton M. Christensen, professor, Harvard Business School and author, *Disrupting Class* From the Inside Flap Civic leaders across the U.S. and throughout the world are discovering creative ways to overcome the obstacles that seal the doors of opportunity for too many. These inspiring individuals believe that within our communities lie the entrepreneurial spirit, compassion, and resources to make progress in such critical areas as education, housing, and economic self-reliance. Real progress requires that we take bold action and leverage our strengths for the greater good. *The Power of Social Innovation* offers public officials, social entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and individual citizens the insights and skills to create healthier communities and promote innovative solutions to public and social problems. This seminal work is based on Stephen Goldsmith's decades of experience, extensive ongoing research, and interviews with 100+ top leaders from a wide variety of sectors. Goldsmith shows that everyday citizens can themselves produce extraordinary social change. The book explores the levers and guiding principles used by champions of civic progress who drive new organizations, new interventions, or new policies to enhance social conditions. *The Power of Social Innovation* features illustrative case studies of change-oriented philanthropists, public officials, and civic leaders. While all collaborate across sectors, they run both start-ups and established organizations such as the New York City public schools, United Way of America, the United Negro College Fund, and Teach For America. The book shows the catalyzing role each plays in transforming a community's social service delivery systems. To complement the book's myriad tools and case studies, *The Power of Social Innovation* web site ([www.powerofsocialinnovation.com](http://www.powerofsocialinnovation.com)) provides links to relevant Harvard research as well as additional helpful resources.