



2022 UPDATES



AGENDA

- 01 Overview
- 02 Digital Literacy Training
- 03 New Programs
- 04 Current State of Affairs
- 05 Future Planning
- 06 Closing

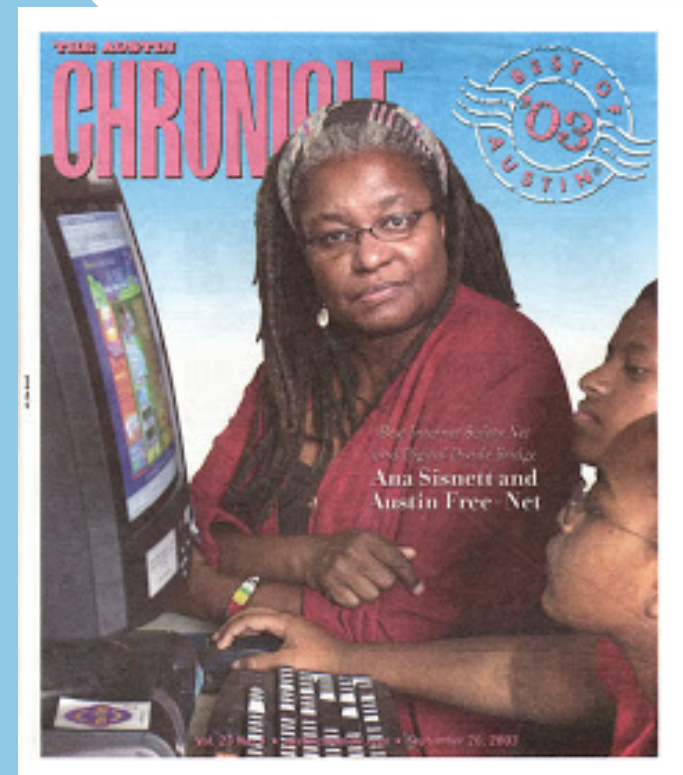




UNDERSTANDING THE LEGACY

- 26+ years of history in Austin
- Pioneering women in leadership roles
- A trusted resource for the community
- A champion for underserved populations

OVERVIEW



Ana Sisnett on the cover of Austin Chronicle for Austin Free-Net, 2003



"Part of why we do
what we do
is to teach people about
the pervasiveness of the technology,
how it's in their lives
whether they want it or not."

- Ana Sisnett

"Looking To The Future" Austin Chronicle, 2001



PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

AUSTIN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

TRAVISCOUNTYTX★GOV



AUSTIN
FILM
SOCIETY



TOCKER
FOUNDATION



pcsforpeople



AUSTIN
Independent School District



FRONT STEPS



Google Fiber



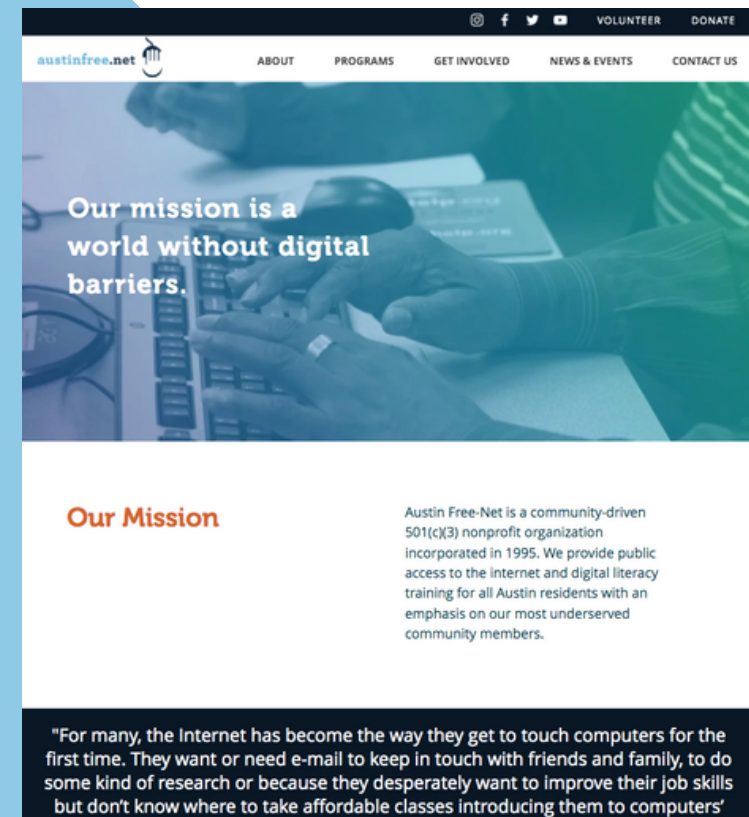
nonprofit & business advisors



TURNING A NEW LEAF

- Update the organization, honor the legacy
- Evolve with technology and the needs of our community
- Focus on our strengths
- Reach 3,000 community members

OVERVIEW





DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING



Staff member, John Fierro, gets devices ready for AISD

Community needs during Pandemic

- Device acquisition
- Access
- Remote Learning

AFN services through Pandemic

- Over 300 devices donated to AISD
- Senior Tech Program
- Remote learning
- Computer Lab Access



DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK 2021



- Assisted COA with the DIW Art Poster Contest
- Created Digital Inclusion PSAs in partnership with Austin Public





DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK 2021

- Hosted two panels with popular digital inclusion topics and panelist

What's Big Tech Doing to Bridge the Digital Divide?

indeed

Google Fiber



Parisa Fatehi-Weeks

Senior Director of Global
Community Impact at Indeed



John-Michael Cortez

Director of Government and
Community Relations at Google Fiber



Daniel Ryne Lucio

Community Impact Manager at
Google Fiber



Justin Brady-Joyner

Global DEI Program Manager
at National Instruments





DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK 2021

- Hosted two panels with popular digital inclusion topics and panelist

East Austin, West Texas and the Digital Divide



Dr. Sharon Strover

Philip G. Warner Regents Prof. in
Communication, former Chair of the RTF
Department at UT, and AFN board member



Natasha Harper-Madison

Mayor Pro Tem, City Council
Member at City of Austin



Nehemiah Pitts III

Community Technology & Telecommunications
Commissioner at the City of Austin



Kelty Garbee

Executive Director of
Texas Rural Funders





DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING

Post Pandemic Planning

- Transition into remote, onsite and hybrid instruction
- Updated classes and workshops to reflect community interest and needs
- New programs to meet community needs and incentivize participation
- Return to Community Partner sites
- Add new partner sites

NEW AND UPDATED CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

2022 FIRST QUARTER

Google Suite Class - An introduction to Google Suite web applications like Gmail, Google Docs, and the Google Drive.

Organize it, Online! - Fundamentals of digital productivity tools including digital calendars, Google tasks, Microsoft tasks, and more.

Microsoft Office Class - An overview of all things Microsoft Office, like Outlook, Excel, Word and PowerPoint.

City of Austin Resources - An introduction to resources provided by the City of Austin for Austin residents.

You've Got Mail! Digital Dating 101 - Learn all about love online. Online dating, dating applications, and navigating online dating world safely.

Rapid Retrain Guide for Veterans - A brief introduction to veteran benefit applications, veteran employment opportunities and the Veteran's Rapid Retrain Assistance Program.

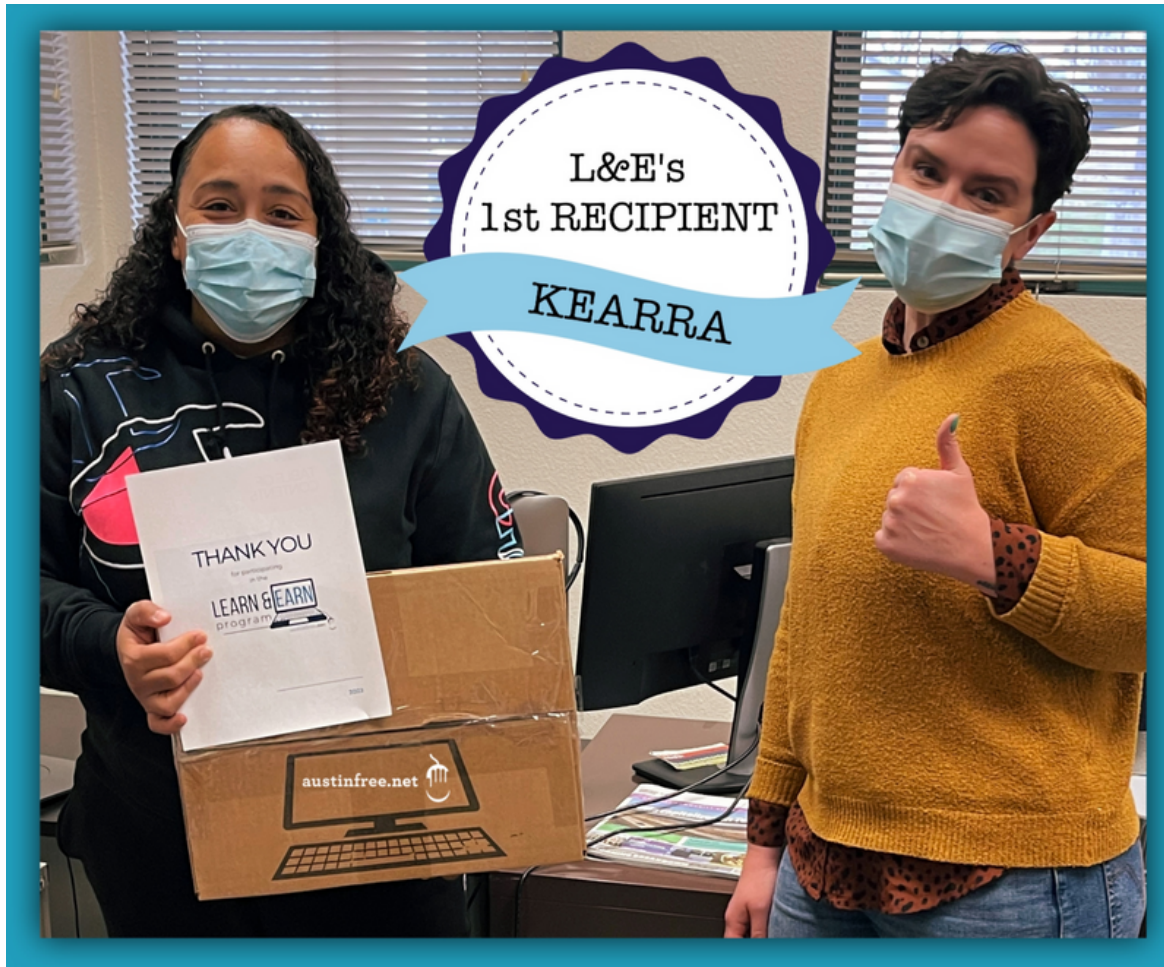
Computer Fundamentals - Learn the basics of computers, the internet and safely navigating the digital realm.





NEW PROGRAMS





Austin Free-Net's Learn & Earn program is designed to increase community members' access to convenient and private digital devices while simultaneously educating participants on how to use those devices.





ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Clients in need of digital assistance are matched with trusted advisors who can help them navigate a digital goal. Digital goals can include:

- DEVICE ACQUISITION
- ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE INTERNET
- DEVELOPING RESUMES
- TELEHEALTH
- WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE

CLIENTS





Volunteer Digital Navigators can help community members while strengthening the following skills:

- TUTORING
- GROUP INSTRUCTION
- CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
- TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY
- COMMUNICATION
- CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND AWARENESS

VOLUNTEERS



Google Fiber

Tech4Troops.org

Foundation Communities

Del Valle Libraries

The Dell Foundation

Texas Capital Bank



**INTERESTED
PARTIES**





CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

- Skeleton crew
- Meeting current targets
- Securing adequate and appropriate funding

AUSTIN FREE-NET STAFF



KATE THORNTON

AFN Program Manager



JESS ROSS

Executive Director



JOHN FIERRO

AFN Lead Instructor

Volunteers - Computer lab assistance, funding, website management, Digital Navigators

Austin Public Library Digital Navigators - Scheduled 3 days a week at the DeWitty for 1:1 client meetings, open office hours and live streaming events

Americorps Members - Scheduled to be onsite August 2022

UT Students - Using their class project time to help us achieve funding and outreach goals

CURRENT STAFFING RESOURCES



AVERAGE SALARIES FOR NON-PROFIT ROLES IN AUSTIN



PROGRAM MANAGER

\$88,556 annually

43% below the city average



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

\$149,900 annually

49% below the city average



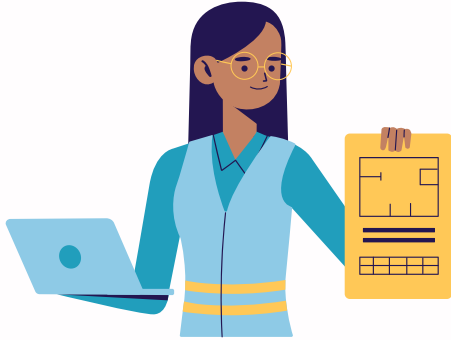
TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

\$53,330 annually

14% below the city average

The USD had an average inflation rate of 2.67% per year between 2016 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 17.14%. A dollar today only buys 85.368% of what it did in 2016.

POSITIONS NEEDED AT AUSTIN FREE-NET



**PROGRAM
COORDINATOR**

\$60,000



IT COORDINATOR

\$60,000



**(2) DIGITAL
LITERACY
INSTRUCTORS**

\$50,000 / each



**BILINGUAL
DIGITAL LITERACY
INSTRUCTOR**

\$55,000



**VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR**

\$55,000

Filling these positions would bring AFN's
employee count back to Pre-Pandemic operations



SERVICE DELIVERY - INCREASE

- Able to afford a full staff and salary increases closer to Austin averages
- Expansion of programs and offerings back to pre-pandemic levels
- Executive Director will be able to dedicate time to obtaining adequate funding resources so that Austin Free-Net can stand on its own
- Serve thousands instead of hundreds
- Meet and exceed performance measures
- Set the groundwork for the organization to thrive beyond our current contract



SERVICE DELIVERY - NO INCREASE

- Limited expansion opportunities for classes, workshops, digital navigation services with possible delays in delivery due to our current bandwidth
- Ability to reach our current performance measures will be questionable
- Executive Director and Program Manager roles will continue to take on direct service tasks to close the staffing gap



FUTURE PLANNING

2022 AND BEYOND

Austin Free-Net aspires to be one of the most recognizable non-profit organizations in Austin.

FUTURE PLANNING

AUSTIN FREE-NET'S FUTURE GOALS

- Solidify our presence in the digital inclusion community at Net Inclusion 2023 (San Antonio)
- Secure continuous support from Big Tech in Austin for devices and funding
- Expand our services across the city with a focus on under represented zip codes
- Solidify our social media presence so we can reach more people
- Generate stable funding opportunities so that Austin Free-Net can become more independent and less reliant
- Assist a minimum of 3,000 community members annually



FUTURE PLANNING

HOW WE PLAN TO MEET FUTURE GOALS

- The more funding, the more impact
- Engaging Big Tech in Austin
- Using City Data to target underserved areas of Austin
- Working closer with Austin media outlets and social media platforms to get the word out



CLOSING

THANK YOU!

austinfree.net 