



**City of Austin Office of Innovation**  
800 Guadalupe St.  
Austin, TX 78701

August 14, 2018

OpenIdeo Bridge Builder Challenge sponsors,

Please accept this letter as a strong show of support for Built with Humanity's request for funding from the GHR Foundation. The Build with Humanity Fellowship will be impactful because it:

- Creates sustainable change by developing innovators and leaders in communities -- designing and implementing solutions with the people impacted, not for them.
- Aligns with the City of Austin's focus on equity and meeting the needs of all residents.
- Identifies and addresses real problems for Austin communities by leveraging the expertise and resources of Austin's world-class design and technology sector.
- Has established a network of influencers and design leaders that are not just supportive of the fellowship, but actively investing in its development and success.

We look forward to supporting the fellowship by:

- Facilitating collaboration between the fellows, faculty, mentors, and staff supporting the fellowship, and the City of Austin.
- Supporting data sharing and collaboration with other local initiatives and City programs.
- Provide opportunities for the fellows to present design research and solutions to City decision makers in order to facilitate positive community-led change.
- Support the ongoing leadership of the fellows within their communities by providing mentorship and opportunities to voice ongoing community needs.
- Where valuable, make connections with other city governments to highlight how the fellowship model could be implemented in their city.

Please give this proposal your full attention and if I can answer anything further please let me know. I may be reached at [innovation@austintexas.gov](mailto:innovation@austintexas.gov).

Sincerely,

**Kerry O'Connor**  
Chief Innovation Officer