

MATERIAL
INNOVATION
INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM

NICOLE RAWLING

Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends—

We founded the Material Innovation Initiative (MII) in 2019 with a vision for a better world: a world where the materials we interact with every day—from our clothes and shoes to our sofas and car seats—are produced in a way that allows animals, the planet, and future generations to thrive.

Recent scientific findings have clarified both the urgency and the promise of our vision. The modern materials used by the fashion, automotive, and home goods industries contribute approximately 10% of worldwide anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, without intervention, are projected to contribute more than 25% of emissions by 2050. It will be nearly impossible to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels while remaining reliant on animals and petrochemicals for the materials we wear and use every day. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, while issuing a dire climate warning, has determined that a sustainable future is still possible through urgent action. In 2022, the United Nations Environmental Program reported that the fashion sector can positively influence humanity's ability to mitigate climate change and achieve at least seven other Sustainable Development Goals, including our goals to end poverty, advance gender equity, provide decent working conditions, promote responsible consumption and production, preserve biodiversity, and conserve marine resources.

As I reflect on MII's progress in 2022, I'm heartened to see that our small and mighty team has made meaningful strides to tackling these challenges and creating a more sustainable, humane, and beautiful world.

This year was full of firsts and new beginnings for MII. A few highlights from our annual report:

We held our first Material Innovation Conference, which convened hundreds of industry leaders and explored opportunities in accelerating the development and commercialization of next-gen materials.

We launched the Environmental Data Coalition, a group of scientists, investors, material companies, and brands who are committed to solving the next-gen materials industry's greatest sustainability evaluation challenges.

We founded the Next-Gen Materials Committee at GlassWall Syndicate and educated more than 250 investors about opportunities in next-gen materials.

We developed our Next-Gen Synthetics Initiative, owing to our growing understanding of the profound impact petroleum-derived synthetic materials have on our planet and trillions of its inhabitants.

As a start-up in a new and exciting space, we cannot emphasize enough how profoundly your support has facilitated our ability to break new ground this year. Whether you donated, volunteered, interned, provided your advice or expertise, became engaged in the next-gen materials industry, or in any other way contributed to our shared vision, you're helping to engender a restorative, humane economy for the materials we *all* use *every day* in our clothes, cars, and homes.

Thank you for making our work possible!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Rawling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicole Rawling
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

LETTER FROM

JACQUELINE KRAVETTE

MII Board Chair and Director



When Nicole asked me to join MII's board three years ago, I could not have been more honored. I was thrilled to use my skill set and devote my time to making a positive and longstanding impact on animals and the environment in a new field.

MII made great strides in 2022 toward increasing the supply of high-performance, attractive, and affordable next-gen materials. We are delighted to share highlights of our progress with you in the pages ahead.

As MII's Board Chair, I was especially thrilled to welcome new board members this year who helped us refine MII's strategic plan, adeptly steward donor funds, and grow MII into a thriving organization with 18 board and staff members. We were recognized by both philanthropists and independent evaluators as a high-impact nonprofit this year. Animal Charity Evaluators designated MII as a Standout Charity for the second year in a row and said that we are "an excellent giving opportunity." We also earned a Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid for our commitment to transparency in funding our programs and operations.

Despite our challenges as a startup amidst a global pandemic, our mission was enthusiastically embraced by thousands of scientists, students, innovators, startups, material companies, suppliers, media outlets, and investors in 2022. In addition, more than 85 percent of the top global fashion brands we contacted this year reported that they are actively seeking to incorporate next-gen materials into their product lines, both to position themselves as leaders in the space and to help meet their sustainability goals.

While we received a groundswell of support from our industry collaborators this year, there is so much more we can do with additional funds in 2023 and beyond. With your help, we will inspire new next-gen materials programs at top universities, increase private and government investment funding into the next-gen materials industry, develop next-gen solutions to synthetic materials, and support the existing narrative in the fashion, home and automotive industries that next-gen materials are the next big trend that is here to stay.

We are excited to share all of *our* achievements in this report, every one of them was made possible by *you*—our donors, partners, advisors, and friends. Each dollar is critical to the mission of MII, and it is only through your belief, commitment, and support of our vision that we are making steady and significant progress. As a supporter of several nonprofits, I understand the difficulty in selecting those I believe in and trust. Therefore, we are incredibly appreciative. With every action you help us take, we are one step closer to combating climate change, saving animals' lives, protecting human health and safety, and preserving biodiversity.

Thank you for sustaining our mission!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline Kravette". The ink is a dark color, and the signature is fluid and legible.

Jacqueline Kravette
Chair, MII Board of Directors

OVERVIEW OF MII'S CORE PROGRAMS

MII operates at the center of the next-gen materials ecosystem as a knowledge partner, idea generator, facilitator, and connector. The primary stakeholders with whom we collaborate include:



Brands & Retailers



Scientists, Researchers & Academics



Entrepreneurs, Innovators & Investors



Material Companies



Suppliers

MII serves our stakeholders through our three core programs:

Science and Technology (SciTech): *Revolutionary science and technology are the foundation of next-gen materials innovation.*

MII's SciTech team is the leading resource for scientists, material innovation companies, investors, and other stakeholders to gain insights into scientific trends and technologies in the next-gen materials industry.

We provide open-access scientific insights and research, stimulate new startups and investments, foster a network of researchers across the industry, and provide technical advice for next-gen materials companies. Our Environmental Data Coalition, launched in 2022, develops best practices for environmental impact analysis of next-gen, synthetic, and animal-derived materials.

Innovation: *Next-gen materials entrepreneurs, companies, and investors are the engines of progress in the material innovation economy.*

MII's Innovation team serves as the leading resource for innovators, startups, investors, and brands to gain insights into current and expected innovation trends in the next-gen materials industry. We analyze the state of the industry, map white space opportunities for new companies to form, and connect promising innovators to these opportunities. Our investor partners rely on our connections to investment opportunities and extensive industry knowledge to make informed investment decisions. We also provide next-gen innovators and material companies with performance and aesthetic evaluations of their materials from the perspective of a brand and designer.

Brand Partnerships: *To succeed in the mass market, next-gen materials must be adopted and promoted by brands.*

MII partners with fashion, automotive, and home goods brands to help them integrate next-gen materials into their supply chains, develop next-gen products, and meet their environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) goals. We provide our expertise to brands on investing in, sourcing from, and partnering with next-gen material companies. We also share industry and technology overviews, offer positioning advice and marketing support, and make introductions to next-gen material companies.

OUR TOP PROGRAMMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS 2022



More than
\$455M
invested in next-gen
material companies



More than
250
investors educated about
next-gen materials



More than
40
scientists, investors, material
companies, and brands
recruited to EDC



4
new and expanded
databases



More than
80
media mentions



15
new staff,
board members,
and advisors



Material Innovation Conference:

2 days
74 expert speakers

More than **340** attendees

More than **150** networking meetings



More than
760
meetings with leading brands,
material companies, investors,
and other key stakeholders

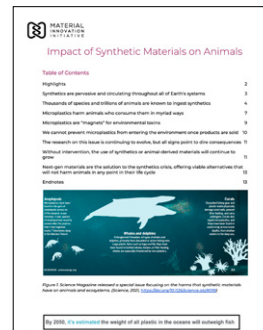
MII IS PROUD TO SHARE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

Investor Engagement and Deal Matching

One of MII's highest priorities is securing more investment for next-gen materials. We educated more than 250 investors about opportunities in next-gen materials in 2022 and connected many of them to material companies who are raising capital. We are increasing investment into the next-gen materials industry by adding material companies' fundraising information to our newly created [Fundraising Database](#) and conducting targeted outreach to investors who have joined our [Investor Database](#). We also relaunched our [Innovator Database](#), allowing for easy download of a list of next-gen material innovators and their materials.

Beyond the next-gen materials companies, we tracked [disruptive textile innovation tech companies](#) that can supply components and/or technologies to next-gen material companies. We added more than 40 of these companies to our next-gen materials company list in 2022.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



MII's growing library of free resources supports all key stakeholders in the industry, regardless of their financial status or stage of development. MII's original brand and industry reports reached thousands of people in 2022.

Our [Brand Partnerships in Next-Gen Materials](#) report detailed how more than 100 leading fashion, automotive, and home goods companies are using next-gen materials to meet shifting consumer demand, increase environmental sustainability, and address growing animal welfare concerns. Our stakeholders have shared that this report has inspired them to adopt next-gen materials to meet their performance, aesthetic, ESG, and other goals. We were able to secure an exclusive report launch with [Vogue Business](#), one of the two top industry publications read by fashion industry executives.

Our [State of the Industry: Next-Gen Materials](#) report covered the growth and investments in next-gen materials. It provided an overview of the key players involved, the driving forces accelerating material innovation, and the latest investment data for next-gen materials. Our stakeholders who have read this report have shared with us that it has saved them time and money, informed their work and product development, and provided them with the only available comprehensive overview of the next-gen materials industry. Our State of the Industry report received significant attention from journalists, resulting in 40 percent of our total media coverage. We received 32 compelling media exposures, resulting in a tracked reach of over 534 million media impressions.

Our [Impact of Synthetic Materials on Animals](#) report detailed the damage synthetic materials—particularly the microplastics they shed—wreak on ecosystems. For the health of our planet and future generations, our report finds that both synthetic and animal-based materials must be replaced with next-gen materials. This area of impact is a critical reminder that the well-being of the environment and animals is intertwined.

OUR INITIATIVES

MII's initiatives support our stakeholders by fostering connections among them, encouraging knowledge-sharing, promoting science and innovation, and cultivating a global market for next-gen materials across the fashion, automotive, and home goods industries.

Environmental Data Coalition

We launched the [Environmental Data Coalition \(EDC\)](#), a group of more than 40 scientists, investors, material companies, and brands who are committed to addressing the next-gen materials industry's greatest sustainability evaluation challenges. We are gathering reliable, valid sustainability data that will help companies compare next-gen materials with synthetic and animal-based materials. We're collectively developing best practices for environmental impact analysis, spurring sustainable material innovations, and helping to generate a restorative, humane economy for the materials we use every day in our clothes, cars, and homes.

Our EDC Chairs include:

- **Shannon Parker**, Vice President of Operations and Sustainability at Circ, a Patagonia backed textile recycling company
- **Melina Bucher**, Founder and Creator of Melina Bucher Vegan Fashion Bags
- **Gavin McIntyre**, Co-Founder and Chief Commercialization Officer at Ecovative, a next-gen materials company
- **Stephanie Downs**, Co-Founder and CEO of Uncaged Innovations, a biomaterials start-up developing next-generation performance materials
- **Ann Lee-Jeffs**, Senior Director, Corporate Sustainability at Modern Meadow, a sustainable next-gen material manufacturer
- **Alexia Krispin**, Chief Operating Officer at VitroLabs, a cultivated leather company

Material Innovation Conference 2022

On May 18 -19 2022, we held the inaugural Material Innovation Initiative Conference, which explored opportunities and challenges in accelerating the development and commercialization of next-gen materials. The conference featured 74 expert speakers from leading brands, investment firms, material companies, academic institutions, raw material suppliers, mills, nonprofits, and foundations. We welcomed more than 340 attendees to our virtual conference and our attendees held more than 150 networking meetings with one another over the course of just two days.

Conference Speakers:

allbirds **patagonia**[®]

FASHION UNITED

VOGUEBUSINESS

Forbes **BOF**

 **INDIE BIO**

Brand Partnerships

Our Brand Partnership program is establishing MII as a vital resource in supporting brands' transitions to next-gen materials. Our inaugural Chief Partnerships Officer Elissa Rosen joined MII this year after two decades in the fashion industry. Since joining MII, Elissa has developed a brand consulting program that offers brands impartial expert analysis of innovators and next-gen materials, exclusive access to consumer research reports, and curated matching opportunities with material companies and innovators based on each brand's requirements.

Material Swatch Review

MIl's Director of Material Innovation and Design, Thomasine Dolan, helped 30 startups improve the aesthetics and performance of their next-gen products in 2022. She provides comprehensive performance and aesthetic evaluations of next-gen materials from the perspective of a brand and designer at no cost to these startups.

One of our next-gen start-up clients shared:

I subjected early samples of [our next-gen material] to what I later coined the "Thomasine Test"... We were able to take Thomasine's feedback from our sessions and improve the material's hand feel, surface design, and performance attributes to industry standards within six months. The constant cycle of feedback and iteration with Thomasine allowed our company to quickly develop our first biomaterial. The unique material now passes industry performance standards, including those for tensile strength and flexibility. Most importantly, our material also passes the "Thomasine Test."

MIl's work is a "soft power" — the organization works behind the scenes, lending a helping hand in an unseen but very tangible way. They're the glue between innovators and brands. They really are that middle entity that is facilitating this change in a more meaningful way.

Prioritizing Next-Gen Alternatives to Synthetic Materials

Our most consequential strategic decision in 2022 was to prioritize next-gen alternatives to synthetic materials, owing to our growing understanding of their profound impact on our planet and all of its inhabitants. We look forward to making this field one of our priorities in 2023 and beyond.



MII's Growing Community

We welcomed six new staff members in 2022, four new board members, and five new expert advisors to our Brand Advisory Council.

Our new board members include a corporate sustainability executive, award-winning fashion designer, corporate finance managing director, and founder of a media outlet that helps remove animals from material supply chains:



Kirsty Stevenson, Senior Director of Sustainable Impact & Compliance, HP. Kirsty has worked on all sides of sustainability, as a corporate executive for Gap Inc., senior program lead of a global public-private partnership, VP of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, and triple-bottom-line oriented supply chain leader for both Apple and HP.



John Bartlett, Director of Fashion, Marist College. John is an award-winning fashion designer who has worked in the fashion industry for over 30 years.



Siddharth Hariharan, Managing Director, Rothschild & Co. Siddharth (Sid) has over 18 years of corporate finance experience and leads Rothschild's consumer tech investment banking practice.



Elizabeth Novogratz, Founder and President of Species Unite. As a writer, producer, creative, and founder of Species Unite, a nonprofit media project, Elizabeth is committed to creating a more just world for animals.

I am proud to be a board member and am energized by MII's approach to the materials category. Materials have such an outside negative impact on our planet and there is no reason for the entire ecosystem to not evolve. MII's positioning as the industry's leading think tank, one that can serve as an invaluable resource to innovators, brands, and investors alike, puts it squarely at the epicenter of this changing landscape. Unlike food, which has high switching costs related to taste and familiarity, the switching costs with materials, if done correctly, have a minimal impact on consumers and a massive impact on animals and the planet. MII is a pioneer, whose efforts will one day revolutionize the industry.

Sid Hariharan

Our new Brand Advisory Council members include Natalie Rawling (Vice President of Worldwide Entertainment Relations Strategy at Gucci), Liz Alessi (Senior Consultant to the Executive Creative Director at Coach), Christine Goulay (Founder, Sustainabelle Advisory Services), Donnie Brooks (Chief Executive at Metric Design Lab, LLC), and Tina Bhojwani (Co-Founder & CEO at Aera).

Our Culture

MII continues to be featured as one of Animal Charity Evaluators' [Standout Charities](#). We also earned a [Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid](#) in 2022 for our commitment to transparency in funding our programs and operations. MII is committed to a just, humane, and equitable world for all beings, including our staff. We're actively creating a workplace where our team members have autonomy and purpose and feel valued. We believe our culture is one of the primary reasons we're so effective as an organization.

We held MII's inaugural team retreat in October 2022. The team met in Austin, Texas, for a week to discuss culture, strategy, and vision. It was the first time many of us had met face-to-face. The week was hugely productive, and we were able to create our 2023 goals from the discussions.



MI's Team Retreat, Fall 2022

ACCELERATING THE NEXT-GEN MATERIALS INDUSTRY: CASE STUDIES

GlassWall Syndicate

MII closely collaborates with [GlassWall Syndicate \(GWS\)](#), a group of venture capitalists, foundations, trusts, nonprofits, and individual investors who are accelerating the mainstream adoption of products and services that benefit the planet. We founded GWS's Next-Gen Materials Committee in 2022. Our committee meets with investors to share our insights and perspectives, connect them with innovators and startups, and help them navigate the next-gen materials landscape. MII's CEO Nicole Rawling and board member Naomi Sachs now lead the committee. Elaine Siu, MII's former Chief Innovation Officer, and GWS Director Macy Marriott discussed our work together on the [Plantbased Business Hour podcast](#).

We co-hosted a successful evening for approximately 50 MII and GWS stakeholders in May, which was geared toward encouraging more investment in the industry and making connections among material companies, investors, brands, and the media. We collaborated with GWS and the [Good Food Institute](#) in September to lead a webinar series that focused on, in part, the role disruptive tech companies play in accelerating the next-gen materials industry. Our webinar was titled [Exploring B2B Markets](#).

GlassWall SYNDICATE

Fall Webinar Series: Exploring B2B Markets

NEXT-GEN MATERIALS: UPSTREAM OPPORTUNITIES
The role components and disruptive tech companies play in accelerating the next-gen material industry

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **MATERIAL INNOVATION INITIATIVE**


SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2022
10AM - 11:30AM PACIFIC TIME

LIVE *Online*


TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/369243315697](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/369243315697)


*DISCOUNT CODE AVAILABLE FOR ACTIVE GWS MEMBERS


GUEST SPEAKER



SYDNEY GLADMAN, PHD
Chief Scientific Officer, Material Innovation Initiative


ENTREPRENEURIAL PANEL



ELAINE SIU (MODERATOR)
Material Innovation Initiative


ALISSA BAIER-LENTZ
Kintra Fibers


MICHAEL SALTZBERG
CovationBio


ENA CRATSENBURG
Ginkgo Bioworks


EDWARD SHENDEROVICH
Synonym


CHARLES DIMMLER
Checkerspot

The Humane Society of the United States

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) invited MII to host a material innovation lab at its gala to showcase the technology behind next-gen materials. It was the first time MII had the privilege of publicly presenting material innovation feedstocks, designs, and stories from next-gen companies, including [Orange Fiber](#), [Tandem Repeat](#), [Slow Factory](#), [Uncaged Innovations](#), [KD New York](#), [Bolt Threads](#), [Mink](#), and [BioFluff](#). Our innovation lab displayed environmentally sustainable and humane alternatives to silk, cashmere, fur, polyester, and other conventional materials. We educated leaders from Neiman Marcus, Gucci, Chanel, Kering, and other major brands about the promise of next-gen materials as a win for the fashion industry and the planet.



INNOVATION LAB

You can help
accelerate sustainable,
animal-free materials.

MYLO

Mil's Material Innovation Lab at the HSUS To the Rescue! Gala

Soarce

MII inspired the next-gen material startup [Soarce](#) to find new applications for its novel seaweed-based technology. Soarce's mission is to help apparel brands transition to 100% renewable, high-performance product lines by reconstructing seaweed into regenerative, highly functional textiles. Without using any restricted chemistries or synthetic materials, its seaweed composition can be made into next-gen products such as shoes or car seats or into fire-resistant technical fabrics that can become campfire jackets or motorsport suits.

Soarce's Co-Founder Mason Mincey shared his excitement to partner with MII:

“Soarce had early conversations with MII when we were still developing our scientific strategy and applications for our seaweed-based textile technology. [MII's Chief Scientific Officer] Sydney helped inspire us to consider next-gen leather and wool, and we are now actively pursuing these targets. We are excited to work more closely with MII, and so happy that a nonprofit like MII exists to support us along our development journey.”

Soarce now has proof of concept, is conducting R&D for its new product, closed a \$580,000 funding round, and joined MII's [Innovator Database](#). Soarce plans to submit its swatches to MII for comprehensive performance and aesthetic evaluations in 2023.



BioFluff

MII has supported Martin Stübler, the visionary founder of the next-gen fur company BioFluff, in creating the first 100% plant-based, petrochemical-free, ethical, and sustainable alternative to animal and plastic fur.

Martin was inspired to found BioFluff after visiting fur tanneries in Europe. Upon his return, Martin contacted MII for guidance on alternatives to animal fur and was surprised to learn that only synthetic alternatives were available on the market. After meeting with MII, Martin was determined to develop a high-performance next-gen fur.

During the process of creating his company, Martin read most of MII's reports. He shared that our White Space Report was instrumental in understanding the investor landscape and iterating quickly between different business ideas. He reached out to every company included in MII's State of the Industry Report and shared that the report's market projections helped him present his vision to investors. In Martin's words:

The value of MII's role as a relationship facilitator in the next-gen materials industry cannot be overstated. The MII team played a vital role in getting us in touch with the right investors, which ultimately led to the close of our first pre-seed funding round...[This] fuel[ed] us with the resources and momentum needed to create sustainable plant-based fur. We simply could not have crossed this milestone without them.



BioFluff is now a leading next-gen fur company, and it promotes ethical integrity and sustainability as its top value propositions. The raw materials it uses are widely available, more affordable than animal and plastic fur, and have, in the company's words, "advantages for the agro-ecosystem...such as increased biodiversity and improved soil fertility."

Martin's company looks forward to making the world a more sustainable, humane place for decades to come, and the MII team is thrilled to be part of his journey!

As BioFluff's success demonstrates, the exploitation of animals and the environment to create high-quality fur is not necessary or inevitable. With advancements in material science and innovation like those made by BioFluff, we can create fibers that mimic the positive properties of animal-derived fur and eliminate their negative impacts, thereby creating a global market for sustainable, cruelty-free fur.

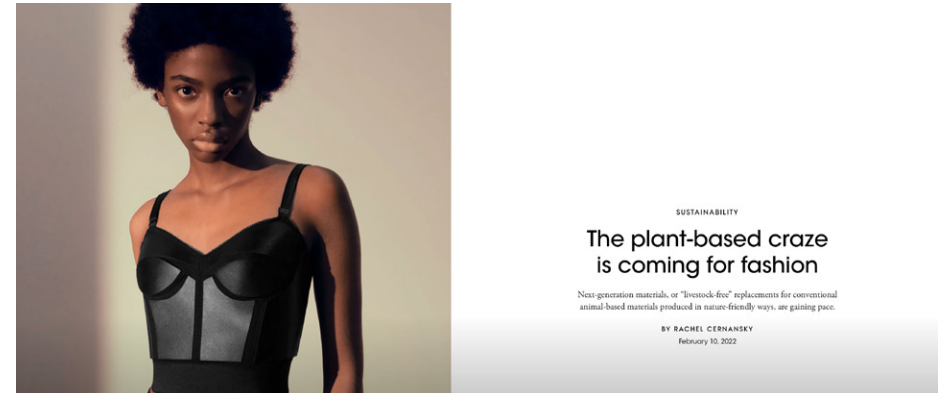
COMMUNICATIONS

MII's Communications Program was elevated to new heights in 2022: We rallied the brightest minds in the industry at our inaugural Material Innovation Conference, strengthened our relationships with the media, unveiled our new website, and expanded our global reach.

Media Engagement

MII was featured more than **80 times in more than 60 prestigious media outlets** in 2022, including:

- **Vogue Business**, one of the top industry publications read by fashion industry executives.
- **Sourcing Journal**, a global resource for apparel and textile executives working on the supply chain side of the business.
- **Business of Fashion**, an international resource for fashion creatives, executives, and entrepreneurs.
- **Women's Wear Daily**, one of the top fashion industry trade journals, often referred to as the "Bible of fashion."



Just How Big Is the Market for Next-Gen Leather and Biomaterials?

BY JASMIN MALIK CHUA 🇻🇳 APRIL 7, 2022 10:43AM



SUSTAINABILITY

Can a Materials Revolution Make Fashion More Sustainable?

For our latest online BoF Professional Membership event, please join BoF's Sarah Kent and Rachel Deeley along with Elaine Siu, chief innovation officer, Material Innovation Initiative, Tanyaradzwa Sahanga, product creation, sustainability and commerce consultant, and Claire Bergkamp, chief operating officer, Textile Exchange, as they explore fashion's new frontier of material innovation.

BOF LIVE

Can a Materials
Revolution Make Fashion



Media Resource

MII has served as an expert behind-the-scenes resource on next-gen materials for the media. Because the next-gen materials industry is new, journalists often need our support to understand the challenges innovators face and to report accurately both on the industry and on the environmental sustainability of next-gen products. Numerous reporters have changed their stories, which would have had negative impacts on the industry, based on the facts and context we have provided them. We gladly provide this support and information to the media and are happy to serve as expert sources, providing quotes or background information to journalists covering the next-gen materials industry.

Website

MII's new website supports scientists, startups, investors, material companies, brands, and other stakeholders by:

- Providing resources that support launching next-gen start-ups, creating next-gen products, conducting next-gen research, and investing in next-gen material innovation.
- Offering open access to MII's scientific, technological, innovation, and brand engagement content.
- Sharing events and other opportunities that allow audience members to connect directly with MII and one another.

ADVANCING THE **NEXT-GEN MATERIALS** REVOLUTION BY CONNECTING SCIENCE AND BIG IDEAS.

We are a think tank focused on research, knowledge-sharing, and fostering connections to fast-track the development of environmentally preferable and animal-free materials. We work to cultivate a global market for next-gen materials across the fashion, automotive, and home goods industries.

Our three core programs are **Science & Technology**, **Innovation**, and **Brand Partnerships**.



ENVIRONMENTAL DATA COALITION

The Environmental Data Coalition (EDC) seeks to address the longstanding issues in the textiles industry's environmental data analysis methods. EDC members will collaboratively develop industry-wide strategies to tackle challenges and establish best practices for conducting comparative environmental impact analyses of next-gen, incumbent, and current-gen materials.

[READ MORE](#)

WHO WE WORK WITH

We are creating a collaborative ecosystem for the development of next-gen materials that are high-performance, animal-free, more sustainable, and that are considered true replacements for some of the most damaging materials on the market.

FOR SCIENTISTS: 

FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND START-UPS: 

FOR INVESTORS: 

FOR BRANDS AND RETAILERS: 

FOR SUPPLIERS: 

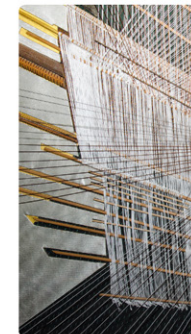


Medium Shopper Caramel and Chair - Credit - von Holzhausen

MATERIAL INNOVATION CONFERENCE 2023

The Material Innovation Conference (MIC) is our annual flagship event exploring key issues and featuring exclusive insights on the innovation path from concept to commercialization in the next-gen materials industry. Attendees to this unique global event can expect to interact with an industry ecosystem of retailers, brands, entrepreneurs, scientists, investors, academia, business incubators, raw material suppliers, mills, and nonprofits.

[READ MORE](#)



Credit - Ananas Anam

[GET IN CONTACT WITH MII](#)

OPERATIONS & LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

MII's Board of Directors provides oversight of our finances and leadership. Our board helps shape our positive culture, grow our team and programs, hone our long-term strategy, and expand our reach as a movement. Our board also manages the performance of our CEO, including by conducting an annual 360° review and surveying staff. The CEO is unaware when this evaluation takes place and is not involved in the process.

Our diverse board includes leaders and experts in fashion, corporate sustainability, finance, investment banking, nonprofit development, and other fields.

MII's Board of Directors Members:

Board Chair and Director

Jacqueline Kravette, Senior Account Executive, OpenTable

Secretary, Treasurer, and Director

Linne Caudell, Senior Director of Finance, Integer Holdings Corporation

Directors

John Bartlett, Director of Fashion, Marist College

Siddharth Hariharan, Managing Director, Consumer Tech Investment Banking, Rothschild & Co

Elizabeth Novogratz, Founder, Species Unite

Amy Rosenfeld, Senior Vice President, NBC Sports

Naomi Sachs, Interim COO, Joywell Foods

Kirsty Stevenson, Senior Director of Sustainable Impact & Compliance, HP

Operations

While not as glamorous as our programmatic work, MII's operations are the foundation of the organization. Our Operations team is responsible for creating MII's policies, fostering a supportive workplace culture, and managing MII's Human Resources, Finance, and IT departments. Without Operations, our culture would suffer and our doors (figuratively!) couldn't stay open.

Partnership with Scarlet Spark

MII collaborates with [Scarlet Spark](#) to enhance our organizational management practices, including workplace improvements, training provision, and employee support. We continue to work with them to establish an organization-wide training program, streamline our internal communications processes, and improve our hiring and onboarding processes.

DEIB Glossary

MII created a [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging \(DEIB\) glossary](#), which serves as a common reference point for discussing DEIB-related issues and promoting inclusive language and practices within our organization.

MII began and continues to explore a power-sharing model of organization management. Practically speaking, this means the C-suite team members share decision-making and responsibilities with our CEO Nicole Rawling. Doing so distributes power more broadly across the organization, increases inclusion, and allows for more voices at the table.

FINANCIALS

Voluntary Audits

MII undergoes an audit every year, even when not required to do so. It's a long, complicated process but we do it because we believe in transparency - for ourselves, our board, and our supporters. We publish the auditor's financial statements along with our 990 tax filings.

You can find our 2021 audited financial statements and our 2021 990 tax filing [here](#).

Our 2022 financial statements can be found below. Please note they are not audited and are subject to change. Our 2022 audited financial statements will be released in July 2023.

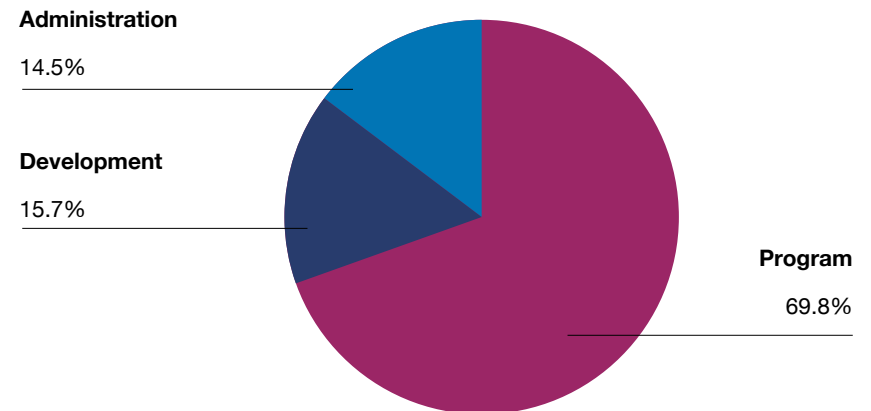
Income

	2021	2022
Grants	377,403	1,110,011
Individual contributions	199,537	62,006
Programmatic income	63,802	287,937
Other	1,010	214
TOTAL	\$641,752	\$1,460,168

Expenses

	2021	2022
SciTech	159,716	352,122
Innovation	136,201	256,386
Brand Partnerships	80,718	211,957
Communications	89,628	213,123
Fundraising	94,995	233,167
Administration	74,828	214,199
TOTAL	\$636,086	\$1,480,955

2021 MII Spend



MII'S ADVISORS & SUPPORTERS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Advisory Councils

MII is supported by our Investor, Science & Technology, and Brand Advisory Councils. Our Advisory Council members provide advice to MII in their areas of professional expertise, introduce MII to contacts who can advance the next-gen materials industry, and participate in MII projects and outreach campaigns.

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Thank You, Donors!

MII's North Star—the ultimate change we wish to see in the world—is that materials used in the fashion, automotive, and home goods industries are environmentally preferred, cruelty-free, and allow future generations to thrive.

Our donors' support doesn't just translate into support for exciting new next-gen companies and scientific advancements. As early supporters of MII, our supporters are building a movement and engendering a restorative, humane economy for the materials we use every day in our clothes, cars, and homes.

We invite you to learn more about our work at <https://materialinnovation.org/> and become a critical part of our mission: <https://materialinnovation.org/support/>.



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You can advance this work at www.materialinnovation.org/support.



You can contact us at www.materialinnovation.org/contact-us or info@materialinnovation.org.

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