



TEXAS WATER TRADE AMONG 1 of 5 FINALISTS SELECTED FOR \$10 MILLION LONE STAR PRIZE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF TEXANS



CONTACT:

Jeanne Culver, 214.352.5980, jeanne@culverpr.com

Marc Moorghen, 773.789.1714, mmoorghen@leverforchange.org

Robin Johnson, 512.982.6558, johnson@texaswatertrade.org

Austin, Texas, January 7, 2021 – Today, Lyda Hill Philanthropies and Lever for Change announced that Texas Water Trade and four other finalist teams will advance to the next stage of the Lone Star Prize, a Texas-based competition launched in early 2020 to improve the lives of Texans and their communities. The \$10 million Prize, sponsored by Lyda Hill Philanthropies, is a statewide competition designed to find and fund bold solutions focused on building healthier, stronger communities.

“The finalists for the Lone Star Prize are answering the call just when Texas needs them the most,” said Lyda Hill, founder of Lyda Hill Philanthropies. “Amid the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, finding long-term solutions to improve the lives of Texans is more critical than ever. Our communities need the vision of these hardworking teams who are committed to making a difference by improving health outcomes, boosting the workforce, and protecting the environment.”

More than 172 proposals were submitted to the Lone Star Prize. Applications were evaluated during a three-month review process by more than 200 peer applicants, philanthropic and civic leaders, and subject matter experts with experience in health, workforce, and the environment among other issue areas. Applications were evaluated

based on four criteria: whether they were transformative, scalable, feasible, and evidence-based.

Nearly 140,000 Texans lack access to clean water services, with millions more facing water quality challenges. The problem is pervasive across geographies, income levels and race, but communities of color are disproportionately affected. And the growing population and price of water will exacerbate the situation. In response, Texas Water Trade, working with the University of Texas at El Paso, Antelope Water Management, and Columbia University, proposes to launch a subsidiary that will install and maintain affordable onsite water treatment systems at a monthly fee below what the lowest income Texans pay today to supplement unsafe drinking water with bottled water—making reliable, clean water available to all Texans.

“At the heart of this effort is the belief that the technological solutions that we are unlocking for water resilience in wealthier communities across the state should be equitably deployed to close the clean water gap that still leaves hundreds of thousands of Texans without basic water services,” said Sharlene Leurig, CEO of Texas Water Trade.

The Award is being managed by Lever for Change, a nonprofit that helps donors to find and fund solutions to the world’s greatest challenges, including racial and gender equity, economic development and climate change.

“I am particularly excited to be involved at this historic moment, as Texas is my home and has always been for me a place of opportunity,” said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change. “So, it’s especially exciting to announce these outstanding finalists for the Lone Star Prize, who are all working on transformative solutions to cultivate strong, healthy, resilient families and communities.”

A final grant recipient will be announced in late spring 2021. Learn more about our Lone Star Prize proposed project [here](#) or visit the Lone Star Prize website: www.lonestarprize.org.

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Texas Water Trade

[Texas Water Trade](#) is a nonprofit organization harnessing the power of markets and technological innovation to build a future of clean, flowing water for all Texans. Our vision is durable, long-lasting water supplies in Texas that ensure future economic growth, ecological resilience and abundant drinking water for present and future generations, no matter their income or zip code.

Lyda Hill Philanthropies

[Lyda Hill Philanthropies](#) encompasses the charitable giving for founder Lyda Hill and includes her foundation and personal philanthropy. The organization is committed to funding transformational advances in science and nature, empowering nonprofit organizations and improving the Texas and Colorado communities. Because Miss Hill has a fervent belief that “science is the answer” to many of life’s most challenging issues, she has chosen to donate the entirety of her estate to philanthropy and scientific research.

Lever for Change

[Lever for Change](#), a nonprofit affiliate of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, helps donors to find and fund solutions to the world’s greatest challenges, ranging from racial and gender equity to economic development and climate change. Building on the success of the MacArthur Foundation’s \$100 million competition, [100&Change](#), Lever for Change customizes and manages open and transparent competitions for donors. In addition, we match donors with nonprofits and social enterprises in our [Bold Solutions Network](#) whose solutions to significant social challenges were highly ranked after rigorous evaluation in one of our competitions. Currently, Lever for Change is managing nine competitions, ranging in size from \$10-to-100 million, awarding \$295 million to grant recipients and strengthening dozens of top organizations. For more information, visit www.leverforchange.org.