A New Way to Fund Social Profit
How can bottom-up philanthropy support your mission?

The Big Picture: Universal Basic Philanthropy

Philanthropy and social impact boasts some of society’s most admirable individuals. So why does the system often feel so inefficient? At Token Ibis, we see a few problems with the way things work today:

- **Power**: Social issues and services affect everyone (almost) equally, but decision-making power depends on private wealth.
- **Autonomy**: Individuals go into social profit because they want to help, but helping can too easily undermine the self-determinism of already marginalized populations.
- **Information**: How do we know what works and what doesn’t? The big-data age has led to an obsession with metrics and analytics. But we think that the most important information isn’t in the data—it’s in the people.

These are fundamental problems that pervade all of social profit. However, we believe there is one good mechanism—and one good solution—to tie together all three: money. In the private sector, money unequivocally embodies power, autonomy, and information. But in philanthropy, the flow of money is backward. So let’s fix it.

We call this concept **Universal Basic Philanthropy (UBP)**. Imagine a day when every single adult individual receives a guaranteed credit from the state to donate to a nonprofit of their choice. You can think of it like a splittable vote. Or, more accurately, you can think of it like a brand new type of money. Someday, it might be second nature to understand that everybody has two types of income—one to spend as a private individual, and one to spend as a member of society.

Today, contributions in philanthropy are coming from fewer and fewer people. We don’t want to just stop that, we want to do better. We want to empower populations who have been priced out of philanthropy to understand that their values matter. In the process, we will be aggregating an ocean of genuine human
experiences to show that UBP isn’t just the right thing to do—it’s the smart thing to do.

Pilot Project

Universal Basic Philanthropy has the potential to fundamentally change the way that social impact works. But before we can even talk about it on a large scale, someone needs to see how it works on a small scale first. This is the core mission of Token Ibis.

We are working to prove the benefits of UBP right here in Albuquerque. Token Ibis has been working to develop a digital web platform, raise some seed money, and build the right partnerships to operate the first-ever UBP experiment. The project has gone well enough that we are now looking to expand our network of supporters and partners.

That’s where you come in. By partnering with Token Ibis, you can lend us credibility and purpose through the social impact that you create every day. In return, we provide a technology-centric approach for the community to discover and support your work. Unlike in any other setting, they will do so with the guaranteed means to contribute financially.

One way or another, something like UBP is coming to the social impact scene. We think it would be a lot of fun for it to happen here in Albuquerque, and we hope that you’ll be a willing part of it.

Find out more at https://tokenibis.org