

# A BOLD URBAN FUTURE

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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# Introduction

East, west, north, south: Cities in their grit and glory are forging a new dynamism – each in its own way – through connection and cooperation. New players complement the tried and true; new possibilities offer a frank hope. There are new styles of decision-making, too, that are inclusive and distributed.

Those of us invested in community – the public, private, non-profit and philanthropic sectors – are stepping up, electing to participate beyond our traditional boundaries and areas of interest.

**What is emerging is a style of philanthropy that is visionary and strategic.** It is unafraid to ask hard questions and fearless in the face of great challenge. Unlike our practices of the past, almost nothing is off-limits today. We are willing to take risks and propose solutions commensurate with the size of the challenge at hand.

This new way of working has become central to the ethos at The Kresge Foundation. We believe this approach represents the next generation of philanthropy for us and for the entire sector. It arises from our aspiration to effect meaningful change in society. It has been shaped and tested by our efforts in Detroit.

The extraordinary circumstances associated with the city's bankruptcy propelled us in unexpected directions. It caused us to stretch and grow in ways we hadn't thought possible – creatively, analytically, collaboratively and financially.

**In these pages, you will come to see how we are expanding opportunities in America's cities through next-generation philanthropy.**

We invite you to read about the six core beliefs validated during our journey in Detroit.

Similarly, we will acquaint you with the contributions our national programs are making to the futures of cities across the United States.

Bold is not a goal; it is a byproduct of collective effort.

**Bold is the urban future that awaits us.**