



Perspectives THE KRESGE FOUNDATION 2017 Annual Report



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## Perspectives

Firmly rooted in our founder's mission to promote human progress, Kresge stands for equity, truth, justice and respect for the individual dignity of all people as we work to expand opportunities in America's cities. Always has. Always will.



## Refractions

Kresge is showing up at this most difficult time in American society by uncovering foundation blindspots, highlighting communities and issues deserving greater attention, and more.



## Collaborations

Behind each grant and investment is a story about a problem and the approaches that are being taken to help solve it. More and more, it's a multidisciplinary plan involving multiple partners within and outside the foundation. Here, we share a few of those stories, as well as our own journey in interdisciplinary collaboration.



## Vantage Points

The managing directors of Kresge's program and practice teams share their insights about strategy, priorities, accomplishments and what they view to be the most pressing challenges going forward. 2017 foundation grants and investments can also be found here.



## Trustees & Staff

Kresge's Board of Trustees and staff are dedicated to ensuring that the foundation meets its goals to advance its mission.



# perspectives



## Putting Our Values Into Perspective

Nimble. Able to pivot and change direction as events and developments dictate. Deploying our resources in flexible mixes to yield the most effective outcomes. That was The Kresge Foundation's game plan in 2017 — a year in which it became clear that institutions and individuals of conscience must articulate their values with force and clarity. Every day.

# Why Equity Matters to Us

## IT'S THE DRIVING PRINCIPLE BEHIND OUR URBAN OPPORTUNITY FRAMEWORK

By Elaine D. Rosen  
*Chair  
 Board of Trustees*

Equity has been an important part of the conversation in The Kresge Foundation boardroom since I joined the board in 2004. As I look back, I find that as trustees we have not been outwardly vocal about equity, but it has indeed – in my recollection – always played a central role as we determine how best to fulfill our duties. All the while, foundation staff have gravitated with determination to address equity as a core principle and have demonstrated that in their fine work, day in and day out. As we consider the environment today in which federal, state and local policy decisions traced to race, gender, ethnicity and sexuality continue to deepen disparities in health, wealth, education and safety, I feel compelled to declare where our board stands and to discuss our work and how it matters.

Kresge's focus and reach have completely transformed since I joined the board. For the 80 years following Sebastian S. Kresge's generous mandate to "promote human progress," the foundation issued capital challenge grants to help countless institutions and organizations across the U.S. build and expand their physical plants to serve public needs such as health care services, education and the arts. In the mid-2000s, we began using our resources in much more direct ways. Today's work is incredibly complex and intricate, fully aimed at tearing down barriers and replacing them with enablers that increase opportunities for people to enter and thrive in the economic mainstream.

Although still firmly seeded in our founder's mission, this new way of working forced our trustees – willingly – to establish a framework to ensure that each of the hundreds of unique grants and investments awarded by the foundation each year is keenly focused on an overarching goal.



“Do work that matters.  
Vale la pena (*It’s worth the trouble*).”

—Author and activist Gloria Anzaldúa

As this strategy was taking shape, our reflections and deliberations were difficult: We knew the vision we sought would take time, involve risk and test every facet of the organization.

Through much individual and group soul-searching, guided by our incredibly insightful President and CEO, Rip Rapson, the board adopted the “urban opportunity framework” as our north star. It was — and remains — rooted in the aspiration that American cities grow more inclusively so that disparities among their residents are

eliminated and all have full access to the building blocks of just and equitable life opportunities. More simply: to expand opportunity for people with low incomes in America’s cities.

To consider our framework is to deal head-on with issues of

equity. We constantly ask ourselves how we might demonstrate our commitment to help ensure that status at birth does not equal destiny. We ask how we might support our grantees as they confront bias and constraint. And we ask each other if we are truly advancing equity.

The lived experience of inequality in our country is well documented. Take, for example, practices such as redlining, which contributed significantly to persistent racial wealth gaps. Generations of African Americans seeking home ownership were blocked from receiving federally backed loans and experienced restricted neighborhood choice.

In Detroit, Cleveland, Baltimore, Philadelphia and countless cities across the country, African American families were prohibited from obtaining loans to improve their homes. They were also restricted from buying or building homes in flourishing communities while their white neighbors fled to newly built residences on spacious lots surrounded by schools with better resources and modern suburban shopping districts. A decade earlier, following Pearl Harbor, more than 100,000 Japanese

Kresge’s Education and Human Services programs are collaborating to further student success by understanding and addressing student hunger and homelessness.

Americans were held at internment camps based on unfounded fear that they were a risk to national security. These heinous actions, and thousands more, were intended to wall off entire populations. Acts of similar intent and spirit continue today.

Such patterns of inequality are abhorrent and self-defeating. We are carefully confident that our urban opportunity framework is a strong vehicle by which we can begin to address them, and I am extremely proud of the examples you will read about in this report that demonstrate innovation by cross-cutting issues at their root cause, including:

- ▶ **“Connecting the Dots,”** which brings to life an innovative partnership of data sharing among six health and human service providers, powering them to provide clients access to health care, housing, education, employment and other assistance in the same visit.
- ▶ **“Food and Housing Insecurity – in College”** describes the ways our Education and Human Services programs are collaborating to further student success by understanding and addressing student hunger and homelessness.
- ▶ **“A Rising Tide of Climate Resilience”** illustrates how climate-adaptation and preparedness solutions are coming directly from residents most affected by climate-induced extreme weather — partly through Creative Placemaking activities — in New Orleans, a city on the front lines of a warming world.

Addressing systemic barriers to opportunity — deliberately and over the long term — is the challenge and objective of many fine philanthropic organizations that seek a more just and equitable

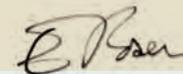
society. We are a small part, but to us it is a crucial tenet of our responsibility, and it is unimaginable to do otherwise.

As trustees of this organization, we have been entrusted with an incredible sum and responsibility. Driving change in America’s cities is the strategic focus toward which we persevere. But at the very core of this work is the desire to confront the systemic inequality that pervades almost every corner of every community.

Fourteen years as a Kresge trustee have taught me that a strong and sustained focus on equity always has been — and must always be — a central measure of our success.

### Welcome

We were delighted to welcome Kathy Ko Chin and Cecilia Muñoz to the Kresge Board of Trustees in 2017. In just a few months, Kathy, who serves as the president and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, and Cecilia, who serves as vice president of Public Interest Technology and Local Initiatives at New America, have demonstrated their tight alignment to the foundation’s strategic direction. Both have made it their life’s work to find solutions to the most pressing challenges affecting our democracy and the people most impacted, and we are delighted that they have chosen to bring that perspective to Kresge’s work.



Elaine D. Rosen  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# Hanging a Question Mark

## WHAT WE STAND FOR — AND WHAT WE STAND AGAINST

By Rip Rapson  
President and CEO

The Kresge Foundation seeks to advance opportunities for low-income people in America's cities. That commitment stems from the belief that the challenges confronting cities — deepening racial fault lines, stagnant economic mobility, accelerating climate change, severe disparities in educational and health outcomes, calcified patterns of neighborhood disinvestment — interact and intertwine to fence off meaningful opportunity for far too many people.

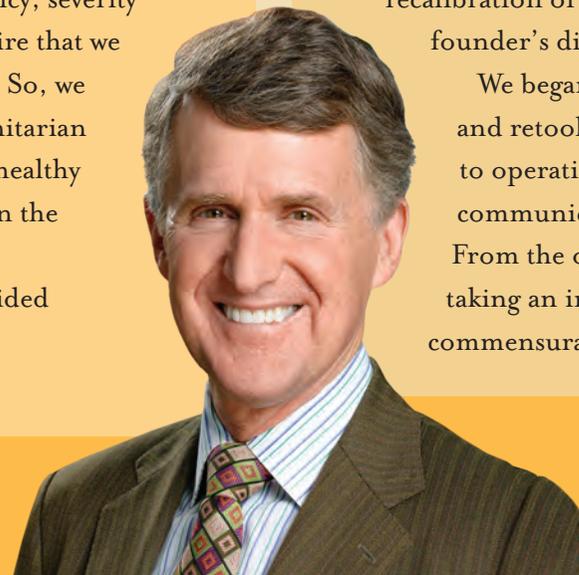
It is a consummately human tendency to attack these problems in ways in which we're most familiar. Yet, the urgency, severity and complexity of the challenges cities face require that we move into less familiar and comfortable terrain. So, we take with good measure the sage advice of humanitarian Bertrand Russell, who said, "In all affairs, it's a healthy thing, now and then, to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted."

For more than 80 years, the foundation provided

challenge grants for capital projects. Some 12 years ago, we began a pivot away from that approach — a pivot born of a conversation between our trustees Elaine Rosen and Lee Bollinger, who were co-chairing the board's search for a successor to our distinguished and long-serving president John Marshall. After a first round of candidate interviews, Lee turned to Elaine to suggest that the foundation needed to elevate its aspirations — to migrate from practices that had become narrow and calcified toward approaches that held promise of penetrating the defining issues of our time. In a word, Lee suggested that we look to Russell and "hang a question mark" on both what we took aim at and how.

Elaine agreed, setting in motion the fundamental long-term recalibration of how The Kresge Foundation would fulfill its founder's directive to "promote human progress."

We began by establishing six programmatic areas and retooling every dimension of support necessary to operationalize them — human resources, finance, communications, grants management and otherwise. From the outset, we committed to four principles: taking an integrative, long-term view; embracing risks commensurate with the magnitude of the challenges



we sought to address; developing a more complete toolbox; and addressing the root causes of disparities facing low-income people.

The changes proceeded quickly, accompanied by a deepening commitment to our hometown of Detroit and the creation of a Social Investment Practice to supplement our grantmaking with loans, guarantees and other financial instruments. But some six years in, another trustee, Irene Hirano, precipitated our next iteration of strategy. At a board retreat, she cloaked within a compliment a deceptively simple question:

“Our six programs are clear and effective, but what makes us more than a holding company?”

Talk about hanging a question mark. To answer the question, we had to identify what unified our work — what principle could and should animate every part of the organization. The answer around which we coalesced

Kresge's Education Program promotes postsecondary access and success for low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students living in cities in the U.S. and South Africa.

was urban opportunity: using the full spectrum of the foundation's resources to pursue the dismantling of the structural obstacles to equitable opportunity in American cities. We would create in their place pathways to full participation in the social and economic mainstream.

The implications of crystallizing our aspirations in these terms was both straightforward and multifaceted. On one hand, each of our programs and the Social Investment Practice would be defined by their progress in reducing urban disparities. On the other hand, the interbraided nature of those disparities required an interbraided set of responses.

We accordingly took three fundamental steps.

First, we created an American Cities Practice to arc across our six program teams and thread through them, identifying investment, convening, research and other approaches to take aim at enhancing structures of urban opportunity across America.

Second, we elevated the centrality of our Social Investment Practice. Rather than standing apart as a separate node of activities, it would work hand-in-glove with the program teams to develop investment instruments advancing those teams' priorities.

And third, we underscored the desirability — indeed, the necessity — of working across disciplines. Just as people in cities don't live their lives in vertical silos, neither could Kresge rely exclusively on hermetically sealed vertical funding silos.

These three changes added up to a reverse-engineering form of problem-solving — deconstructing a challenge and its underlying



drivers so as to assemble the appropriate combination of disciplinary strategies, talents and funding tools in correct doses at the right cadence. Each challenge requires that we hang a different set of question marks — that we take a different perspective. I invite you to spend time with the remainder of this report to see some compelling examples of this approach.

### The Primacy of Values

Breaking from our safe and secure moorings has never been more important than in the current environment. In the wake of the November 2016 election, Kresge has been forced to look inward, to interrogate our values.

The foundation's privileged position carries with it elevated responsibility to ensure that there is no equivocation about what Kresge stands for, and what we stand against:

- ▶ We stand *for* the pursuit of truth — *not for* fealty to the indefensible or depreciation of reasoned discourse.
- ▶ We stand *for* opportunity structures that dismantle the persistent and pervasive racial, economic and political barriers that impede pathways to equality and justice — *not for* the enshrinement of those barriers in public policy ... in the perpetuation of racial and ethnic division ... or in the corrosion of compassion for the least fortunate among us.
- ▶ We stand *for* the stewardship of our shared destiny and the promotion of structures of mutual support — *not for* a machinery of feigned outrage and continual vilification that undermines confidence in our most fundamental democratic institutions.

- ▶ We stand *for* the power of creative problem-solving that calls on community wisdom, intergenerational exchange and respect for difference — *not for* the comfort of facile judgments, bombastic certitude and rhetorical hyperbole about complex, interbraided problems.
- ▶ We stand *for* the embrace of every individual's inherent dignity, worth and decency — *not for* a denigration of those whose skin pigment, gender, physical conditions, sexual orientation or faith differs from our own.
- ▶ And we stand *for* an abiding optimism about the possibilities of the human spirit — *not for* the dismal brew of a calculating and cruel cynicism placed in service of self-advancement.

Those are our values. But the true test of those values is how we behave when they come under assault. In those cases, we intend to be guided by three ethical imperatives of action.

#### First, we must bear witness.

It's understandable for community workers, nonprofit organizations and philanthropists to question whether their voices matter in an environment saturated with misinformation. Generated with calculating precision and distributed with bot-powered efficiency, wave upon wave of social media fictions and public distortions create an intellectual flotsam and jetsam intended to obscure the real issues of the day. It is imperative that we not be distracted, let alone silenced, by these diversionary feints. Our collective voices do matter — enormously.

More than ever, we must encourage our partners to give voice to their values — our values — for a just and humane society. We must continue to tell the stories of ordinary people and exceptional



The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's pre-development work for pilot projects demonstrates how using innovative finance mechanisms can advance green infrastructure solutions in low-income communities.



The Center for Good Food Purchasing encourages public institutions to consider local economies, health, a valued workforce, animal welfare and environmental sustainability in food production.



The Memphis Riverfront Development Corp. is revitalizing its Mississippi riverfront, which has been a long underutilized asset.

organizations working in dignity to improve the economic, social and political conditions of community life. In the surfacing and amplification of those stories, we deny the power of an insidious, nascent sense of defeatism to smother authenticity and conviction.

**Second, we must create space to demonstrate our courage.**

Libraries, community centers, social service agencies, places of worship and countless other places of public gathering and sanctuary already play a central role in safeguarding individual and group expression and in affirming the power of informal networks of mutual assistance. Their importance will only grow as threatened and disempowered communities look for physical, spiritual and emotional safe harbor and support.

We need to fortify these and other parts of the civic membrane that enable us to hold acts of courage. These are the organizations closest to those most affected by injustice. They are vehicles to amplify community voice and build community agency. As the demands on them multiply, we must support them generously and without hesitation.

**Third, we need to forge alliances around the nonnegotiable.**

Although foundations can't lobby or advocate for legislation, we can help build and strengthen the alliances necessary to advance those truths of equity, fairness and justice that we know to be inviolable:

- ▶ That the machinery of public decision-making must be calibrated to ensure that city residents have full agency not only to engage in, but also shape, the policies, practices and investments that create the map of neighborhood life.

- ▶ That every city in America must play a role in, and reap the benefits of, the evolution of equitable, inclusive regional growth and prosperity.
- ▶ That the arts can refract the infinite varieties of creativity and cultural identity into a kaleidoscope of community-building possibilities.
- ▶ That unequal educational attainment is an injustice no civilized society can tolerate.
- ▶ That climate change is a social justice issue.
- ▶ That moving upstream to eradicate the social, economic and environmental determinants of health disparities is an essential predicate of our nation's approach to public health.
- ▶ That the work of human-serving organizations needs to be recognized as moving beyond charity to providing the essential supports that families require to achieve economic mobility and social well-being.

Institutions like Kresge must accordingly recommit to ensuring that individuals, organizations and movements possess the tools they need to organize and mobilize, to educate and advocate, to rebuild social capital and strengthen citizen-based problem-solving.

### Fortifying the Architecture

Our concepts of risk and safety have been turned on their head. Acts that were once risky are now elementary and insufficient. Fundamental democratic norms that were once safe are too often trivialized as transitory or out of touch.

I choose, however, to view this moment as a time to adjust our perspective, not to make our peace with a new normal. It is a time to

reassess, recalibrate and recommit. The nonprofit and philanthropic sectors have spent decades trying to create and assemble enduring and resilient building blocks of opportunity and justice. Although that architecture is still incomplete, we have nevertheless created a complex, dynamic and durable infrastructure to fit together those building blocks in an increasingly coherent, impactful way. This is no time to put down our trowels and mortar. We need to keep building and rebuilding. Even when the building inspector tells us we don't have a permit — even when the demolition crew drives onto the site.

My father was an architect and a planner. In this climate, we all need to be. We all need to take a stand for our values and fortify the architecture of opportunity and justice.

For nearly a century, through changing times and shifting political tides, The Kresge Foundation has continually adjusted our perspective and recommitted to carrying out Sebastian Kresge's directive to promote human progress. Today, that commitment is deeper than ever. By hanging a question mark on how we do our work, we open new possibilities for the ways we fulfill that commitment.

These challenges aren't going away any time soon.

Neither are we.



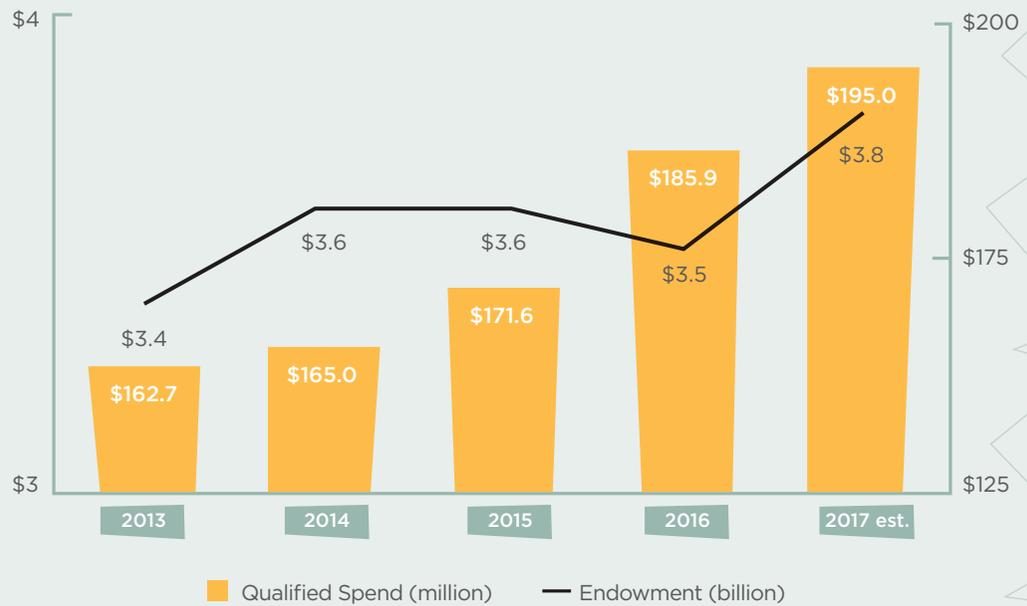
Rip Rapson  
President and CEO

# 2017 Financial Report

Our primary investment objective is to preserve and grow our endowment by generating returns greater than our spending on grants, social investments, administrative costs and inflation.

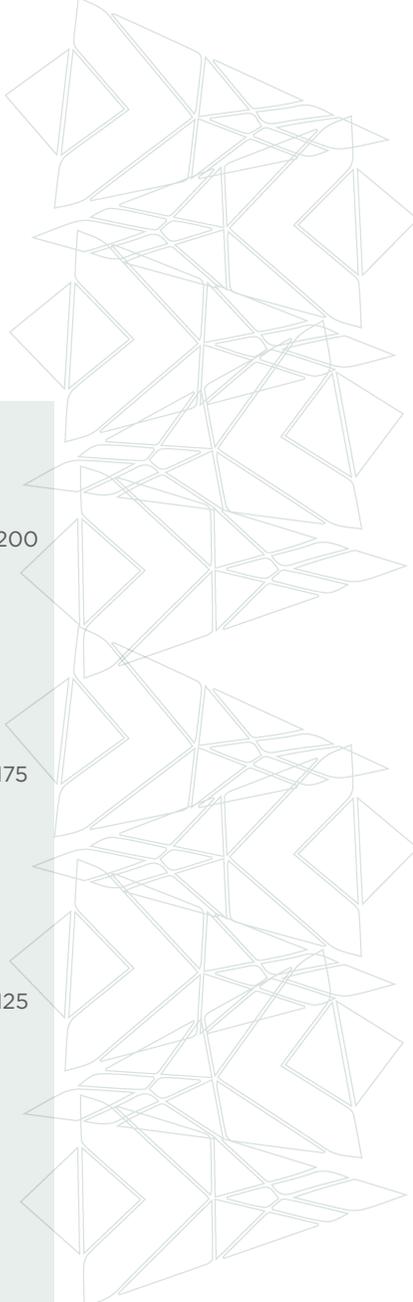
We believe measuring our performance over market cycles of at least five years is appropriate. For the five-year period ending December 31, 2017, the endowment has returned 9.5 percent annually, well ahead of our spending-plus-inflation target of 6.9 percent annually.

In 2017, the Board of Trustees approved 510 grants totaling \$144.2 million. In addition, we made 22 social investment commitments totaling \$51.7 million to organizations whose efforts support our goals through program-related investments.



**Robert Manilla**  
Vice President, Chief Investment Officer

**Amy Robinson**  
Vice President, CFO and Chief Administrative Officer





Kresge is showing up at this most difficult time in American society by uncovering foundation blindspots, highlighting communities and issues deserving greater attention, and more.

## refractions

# Showing Up When it Counts

## SUPPORTING THE CHARGE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

By Ariel H. Simon  
*Vice President,  
 Chief Program and Strategy Officer*

The 2016 election and its aftermath have challenged core American values — and so, too, Kresge’s mission.

Representing something altogether different from the normal rhythms of political change and party factionalism, these consequences have come not just in the form of hateful rhetoric and policy out of Washington — but also in the fraying of social fabric and norms of decency throughout the country.

And yet, we have been inspired by partners who have stood up in the past year through social movements of profound breadth and impact. By nonprofits that have stretched themselves creatively, empathetically and inexhaustibly on behalf of those they serve. By private citizens who have shown up at airports, at marches,

in courts and at town halls to be heard and offer solidarity and support to friends, neighbors and strangers alike. By public figures, religious leaders and even CEOs who have taken real personal risk to call out bigotry when they see it. But philanthropy — which so prides itself on risk-taking, mission-orientation and a commitment to serve others — does not, and must not, get a pass.

In that spirit, immediately following the 2016 election, the Kresge Board of Trustees broke new ground in approving a multimillion-dollar increase in our 2017 grantmaking budget. In particular, we created an Opportunity Fund to help the foundation respond to the unprecedented challenges of this troubled time, and to address likely threats to our core values as an institution. Very simply, the intent was to create a funding vehicle for Kresge to do what so many of our partners have done over the past year: step up in an entirely new way.

The Opportunity Fund represents a new structure for Kresge: a pool of flexible, responsive funding that can be deployed to enliven and protect core values; to take aim at cross-cutting priorities that no one program team could address directly; to uncover our blind spots as an organization, highlighting communities and issues that require far greater attention; and to serve as an incubator for our local and national work.



“We are committed to showing up, to speaking out and to affirming and supporting nonprofits that are leading the charge for positive change in this difficult moment for our country.”

—Ariel H. Simon, The Kresge Foundation

In practice, it allowed us to marry our words to action in 2017. As we spoke out with ever greater vigor about challenges to core American values and Kresge commitments — from the United States’ withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement to the administration’s appalling false equivalencies after Charlottesville — we simultaneously pushed ourselves into new areas of work and forms of funding to better and more directly support those commitments.

With the Kresge board’s active direction and input, in 2017 we invested in efforts designed to safeguard civility and decency, counteract hate, support emerging social movements, advance civil rights, defend our immigrant and refugee neighbors and provide legal assistance to the underserved. Among other projects, we partnered to support:

- ▶ The Community Remembrance Project, part of a campaign led by the **Equal Justice Initiative** to memorialize and tell the stories of victims of lynching throughout the South, and to contextualize that legacy of terror in the broader history of racial injustice;
- ▶ Teaching Tolerance and Hatewatch, two programs of the **Southern Poverty Law Center**. The former provides cutting-edge materials to educators nationally to foster an understanding of and commitment to diversity, equity and

justice; the latter is a critical source of monitoring, analysis and reporting that brings attention to hate-group activities and hate incidents in the United States;

- ▶ The **Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services** efforts to provide critical support and information to, and build organizing and advocacy capacity within, communities throughout metro Detroit and around the country;
- ▶ The **People’s Climate March**, a March 2017 protest on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and in hundreds of other cities around the world, in support of critical environmental protections under threat and action in the face of global climate change;

The Equal Justice Initiative’s Community Remembrance Project in Montgomery, Alabama, recognizes the victims of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites, erecting historical markers and creating a memorial that acknowledges the horrors of racial injustice.



Kresge Foundation Environment Senior Program Officer Jessica Boehland attended the 2017 People's Climate March in Washington, D.C., to reaffirm Kresge's support for the Paris climate agreement.



- ▶ The elevation of civil legal services as a social justice priority by the Justice for All Project through the **National Center for State Courts**, aiming to bridge the shocking gap in access to legal representation and tools for low-income people on issues ranging from eviction to domestic violence;
- ▶ A range of activities to help cities respond to a rising tide of preemption laws coming out of statehouses — on topics as far afield as immigration, minimum wage, plastic bags and bathrooms. Our funding helped create the **Local Solutions Support Center** through the Rockefeller Family Fund and supported research and action by the **National League of Cities**. That resulted in a range of convenings, advocacy and communications activities, as well as legal supports to cities under threat; and
- ▶ **Vera Institute of Justice's** legal support to immigrants and asylum seekers facing deportation, in partnership with cities around the country.

On behalf of the Opportunity Fund team and the entire foundation, I am proud to stand alongside so many partners who have spoken out, who are doing the difficult day-to-day work, who are facing threats head-on and who are demonstrating tremendous organizational and individual courage.

The Opportunity Fund embodies Kresge's cross-disciplinary way of working and our commitment to the principle of "opportunity." Our members represent the broad diversity of our staff. We have sought to draw from the full spectrum of the foundation's expertise, to partner with peer funders to invest wisely and unlock even more responsive resources and to push our own comfort level with, at times, challenging topics and tools for social change.

And so, beyond creating a new responsive capacity at Kresge, the Opportunity Fund has helped build our institutional muscle for — and comfort with — addressing issues that we might have shied away from in the past, but which are essential to confront if we are truly committed to "opportunity" as the fulcrum of our mission.

Kresge is under no illusions: Ours is but one minor voice, and our reach is deeply limited. But we are committed to showing up, to speaking out, and to affirming and supporting nonprofits that are leading the charge for positive change in this difficult moment for our country.

## 2017 Opportunity Fund Grants

In support of civility, civil rights, immigrants and refugees; legal services for the underserved; and counteracting hate.

**Grants: 20** **Total Committed: \$3,645,000**

**ACCESS\***  
Dearborn, Mich.  
\$370,000

**Color Of Change**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$100,000

**Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$30,000

**Constitution Hill Trust**  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
\$350,000

**Equal Justice Initiative**  
Montgomery, Ala.  
\$500,000

**Foundation for Louisiana**  
Baton Rouge, La.  
\$150,000

**Funders' Committee for Civic Participation**  
Austin, Texas  
\$30,000

**National League of Cities Institute, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$100,000

**National Legal Aid and Defender Association**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$150,000

**NEO Philanthropy, Inc.**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$500,000

**NEO Philanthropy, Inc.**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$100,000

**The Power Coalition**  
Baton Rouge, La.  
\$50,000

**Proteus Fund, Inc.**  
Amherst, Mass.  
\$75,000

**Rockefeller Family Fund, Inc.**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$250,000

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice**  
Durham, N.C.  
\$50,000

**Southern Poverty Law Center**  
Montgomery, Ala.  
\$150,000

**ThinkTennessee**  
Nashville, Tenn.  
\$50,000

**University of Minnesota**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$300,000

**Vera Institute of Justice**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$300,000

**Women's March Foundation**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$40,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

### National Legal Aid and Defender Association

Grant funding to the NLADA advances collaborative work with the U.S. Department of Justice to increase access to civil legal aid for low-income individuals by expanding funding and integrating civil legal assistance into other federal programs.





# collaborations



Behind each grant and investment is a story about a problem and the approaches that are being taken to help solve it. More and more, it's a multidisciplinary plan involving multiple partners within and outside the foundation. Here, we share a few of those stories, as well as our own journey in interdisciplinary collaboration.

# Working Across Disciplines to Enhance Impact

## MODELING PHILANTHROPY AFTER THE REAL WORLD

By Chris Kabel  
Deputy Director  
Health Program

In recent years, philanthropy has called for greater collaboration among nonprofit and public-sector partners, cutting across disciplines — the rationale being that no one organization working in isolation can hope to make significant progress against the complex challenges we jointly aim to address.

Yet how many foundations practice what they preach when it comes to cross-sector partnership within their own institutions?

Most organize their work vertically within fields of practice, attempting to fix longstanding challenges along parallel paths. Doing so certainly carries advantages — foundations can recruit talent with deep expertise in particular sectors, building relationships and credibility among those they seek to influence and uncovering the nuances and leverage points required to achieve their goals.

However, people do not live their lives in the ways that most



foundations organize themselves internally. In fact, people constantly navigate multiple, interconnected systems — from education, transportation and employment to health, housing and human services — that shape their opportunities. As a result, communities have a more holistic understanding of their challenges and solutions than many of the organizations dedicated to supporting them. Philanthropy has a responsibility to respond accordingly.

After The Kresge Foundation transitioned to a strategic philanthropy approach about a decade ago, we found that a single programmatic lens was increasingly insufficient to realize our full potential to positively affect long-standing challenges whose roots

are structurally interconnected. Beginning in 2011, program officers and managing directors started to explore opportunities to structure grants that would advance the strategies of multiple Kresge programs and pooled resources on cross-disciplinary projects.

To identify new opportunities for cross-team grantmaking — our term for when more than one program contributes to a single grant — our leadership created a series of supports in 2014, among them:

- ▶ Formally embedding the encouragement of more cross-team collaboration in senior staff members’ job descriptions;
- ▶ The creation of a \$2 million incentive pool, which provided matching dollars for cross-team grants; and
- ▶ An internal “Good Pitch” competition to generate ideas for grants that addressed multiple program priorities.

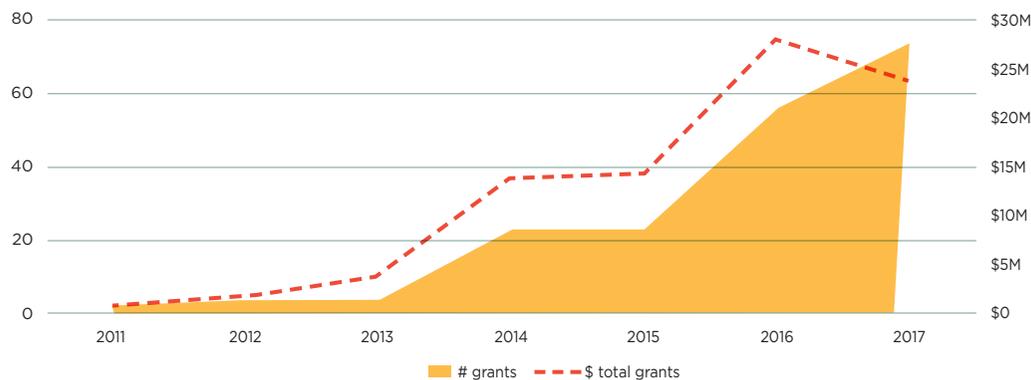
As with any organizational change effort, some aspects worked better than others. While program staff responded strongly to the cross-team incentive fund, “Good Pitch” was discontinued after two rounds.

These internal changes contributed to a level of cross-team collaboration that is now a part of our operational DNA. In 2013, only 3 percent of Kresge’s annual grantmaking involved contributions from multiple teams; by 2017, this proportion had risen to more than 16 percent — a high of 74 cross-team grants.

More important than grant quantities — or the proportion of our funding they represent — is the depth of involvement that Kresge program staff, grantees and partners are now contributing to cross-program strategy development and implementation. We’re seeing this collaboration manifest in at least four different ways:

- ▶ Joint program support for a project or to a single grantee: By far the most prevalent method of cross-team grantmaking, partnering on an individual project grant is typically initiated by staff who recognize the relevance of the work to their strategy and to that of another program in the foundation.
- ▶ Multiple program investments in a single place: While Kresge currently funds work in more than 230 cities, we

**Growth of Cross-Team Grantmaking**



Year	Cross-Team	
	Grants	Total Grants Awarded
2011	2	\$750,000
2012	4	\$1,550,000
2013	4	\$3,600,000
2014	23	\$13,800,000
2015	23	\$14,200,000
2016	56	\$28,000,000
2017	74	\$23,700,000

have designated three priority cities to intentionally layer investments — Detroit, Michigan; Memphis, Tennessee; and New Orleans, Louisiana. Our commitment to these cities' recovery has required a multidisciplinary approach and almost every Kresge program has active grants in these communities. Kresge has spent years building relationships in these three cities, which has led to new opportunities to invest across programs.

▶ Multiple investments in topics of shared concern among each program and practice: Kresge has invested in topics and sectors that do not fall neatly into one of our six program areas, but which affect our ability to achieve multiple program goals. Examples include healthy and affordable housing, early childhood development and improving outcomes for boys and men of color. Our work is richer and more responsive because of our ability to blend disciplines.

▶ Multisite, multiteam, multipartner initiatives: Multisite initiatives enable several Kresge teams to contribute to the design of major philanthropic investments to both improve community outcomes and influence fields of practice. In most cases, these interdisciplinary initiatives leverage other funding partners, which in turn magnifies the impact of Kresge's investment. Examples include the Strong, Prosperous and Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC) and Fresh, Local and Equitable: Food as a Platform for Creative Neighborhood Revitalization (FreshLo); both are featured in this annual report. (See pages 48 and 52.)

While the growth of Kresge's cross-team grantmaking has been significant, grants are only one indicator of how this cross-disciplinary thinking is taking root inside the organization. There are many ways in which the unique perspectives of various Kresge program staff positively influence these investments in more subtle ways.

For instance, in this report, Kresge Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Ariel H. Simon describes the emergence of the Opportunity Fund, which has been shaped by the perspectives of staff from multiple departments within the foundation. (See page 14.)

The foundation's work in Memphis, as discussed later in the report, also exemplifies our multidisciplinary ethos. In April 2017, Kresge launched an opportunity for nonprofits in Memphis to apply directly for funding with an emphasis on work that addresses more than one foundation program priority. It is rare for a national funder to create such a broad open funding opportunity in a specific city. But the response was overwhelming, with more than 100 applicants.

Ultimately, we funded 11 community-driven efforts in Memphis, including a project spearheaded by Neighborhood Preservation Inc. that was funded jointly by the American Cities Practice and the Health Program. Neighborhood Preservation is featured in this report. (See page 36.)

Our ability to respond to community priorities in a multidisciplinary manner has been enhanced by the evolution of strategic priorities within each Kresge program. For example, in 2015, the Education Program introduced the Aligning and Strengthening Urban Higher Education Ecosystems focus area, recognizing that the

success of both first-generation and historically underrepresented college students is shaped by factors that exist beyond the college campus, such as stable housing and reliable transportation. The foundation's work in this focus area has opened new opportunities for other Kresge programs to collaborate with the Education team, as described in the report. (See page 28.)



Similarly, the Arts & Culture Program, which aims to embed Creative Placemaking within comprehensive community development, regularly engages other Kresge programs. A good example is the team's partnership with the Environment Program around climate change in New Orleans, as brought to life in the story, "A Rising Tide of Climate Resilience," in this report (page 32).

Working across every program team, Kresge's Social Investment Practice aims to identify ways in which multiple forms of capital can achieve program goals, which by its nature is a multidisciplinary approach. We believe that this kind of integration will increase our impact on issues and in places.

Yet by no means does the deepening adoption of interdisciplinary funding lessen the import of our individual program teams. Expertise within these disciplines still matters. Kresge President and CEO Rip Rapson likens this programmatic expertise to a gyroscope: "In the face of problems whose configurations are constantly altering, we use our expertise as a stabilizing mechanism that permits us to isolate the underlying drivers of the problem and land on an entry point."

Kresge is among several foundations increasingly investing at the intersections of multiple programmatic perspectives. As such, we feel a responsibility to examine our practices and to share what we are learning with the field. To that end, we have engaged a third-party firm to conduct an evaluation of our cross-team work, explore whether and how cross-team grantmaking enables our grantees to achieve a bigger impact, and share those lessons with our peers and partners. We will do this as we continue to explore new ways to deploy our unique mix of resources — intellectual, financial, network and social — to expand opportunity in America's cities.

I invite you to join and learn with us on this journey.

# Connecting the Dots

## EMPOWERING HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ENTITIES TO COLLABORATE LIKE NEVER BEFORE

A doctor diagnoses an adult patient with asthma and sees on the patient’s electronic medical records that she lives near a pollution site.

Before the patient’s next visit, the doctor uses email to refer the patient to other resources. The next day, a social worker reaches out to connect the patient with a real estate agent to help find housing in another part of town, and a workforce specialist makes contact to provide employment assistance in the new neighborhood.

There was a time when such collaboration among agencies was a pipe dream. Now, thanks in part to Kresge grant recipient Stewards of Change Institute (SOCI), it could be closer than ever. SOCI is behind a program designed to improve communication among six major areas of practice: human services, health care information technology, public health, education, public safety and emergency response.

That program, the National Interoperability Collaborative (NIC), launched in June 2017

and eventually will advance the use of interoperability and data-sharing partnerships to benefit at-risk and underserved individuals and families. SOCI is working with think tank AcademyHealth to use \$1.2 million in Kresge seed funding to provide guidance, promote and facilitate standards and promulgate information sharing across sectors.

“We solve both a simple and a complicated issue: If you can’t get systems to talk to each other, you can’t help people,” says SOCI President Daniel Stein. “We like to think of ourselves as the ones who help everyone else connect the dots.”



Aspiranet, cited by Stewards of Change as a real-world example of an interoperability project, relies on coordinating service delivery and keeping meticulous records for its work with children and families. The California-based organization provides a broad range of services to foster and adoptive families and teens aging out of foster care.



Stewards of Change uses vision mapping to support organizations in reaching their interoperability goals. The process is designed to rapidly distill the thinking of a diverse group of conference and workshop participants around challenging topics.

### How It Works

The best way to understand how NIC functions is to think of it as a network, or a community of networks. A new approach, it enables public agencies on one side of an issue to see and understand what other agencies are doing — a repository for data so health professionals and human services providers can determine how best to help people.

In short, it's a shared resource to empower agencies to be more effective in providing services.

Ultimately, NIC's technology interface will work like a highly tuned search engine such as Expedia or Travelocity. Service providers will query for information and a database representing a variety of agencies and sectors will return a host of searchable results.

NIC currently focuses on governance and standards dissemination. With the leadership of SOCI and AcademyHealth, NIC provides case studies and technical assistance on health crises, identifies best practices through comprehensive review of interoperability guidance and toolkits, and convenes key stakeholders to share information and provide feedback on how the systems can work together.

As part of these efforts, NIC disseminates information and recommendations in print and through an online portal. It

also offers educational and technical assistance through SOCI's "InterOptimability" Training Curriculum and Certification (ITCC). The idea is to explore best practices as a way of teaching partners how to make data more shareable and get the most out of the data warehouses with which they share it.

"We're not recreating the wheel here, but everybody has been operating in their own systems for so long (that) a huge part of what we're doing is simple education," says Stein, who works out of SOCI headquarters in Centerport, New York. "The nuts and bolts of creating data warehouses is pretty straightforward, but the protocols that relate to privacy in how you query those databases, where the data resides, who accesses the data and how — those are much more complicated issues."

NIC is less worried about the design of these data repositories and more concerned about how various agencies can access them by storing data in forms and formats that work with a variety of systems.

“With a rich infusion of data, agencies can be more responsive, and they all will be responding together, as a team.”

—Rodney Ogawa, Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust

In addition, NIC must address another significant challenge: privacy. According to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, public and private organizations that exchange personally identifiable information about clients must keep information confidential.

State laws governing this data often are more stringent than federal laws. Stein says SOCI works with organizational leaders, attorneys and managers to identify the specific information they want to exchange, then craft agreements to meet the legal requirements.

### Why It's Important

Solving these problems is a big deal because of what the solutions potentially can overcome: disparate health and human services organizations keeping data in silos. While a handful of previous interoperability efforts have involved outreach from health care to other sectors, NIC largely focuses on social services. Some information is medical in nature. Most of it, however, is not.

This is by design. As Stein explains it, the program works hard to treat the whole person — not just singular aspects of a person's health or well-being. NIC also connects agency participants with seemingly unfettered access to a broad array of cutting-edge information, training, tools and best practices to enhance efficiency, save money, improve outcomes and advance their own interoperability goals.

“There's increased recognition that larger social and environmental factors contribute to a person's health and well-being,” says David Fukuzawa, managing director of Kresge's Health and Human Services



A Kresge grant supports an effort to improve collaboration among health and human services via better use of technology and information-sharing.

programs. “By getting a handle on this data — by tracking the data across agencies — providers can get a much more comprehensive look at someone's health, the nonmedical factors that may have an impact and how we can go about helping that person most efficiently.”

Or to put it another way: It's a way to treat the whole person every time. The benefits of a system where providers have access to comprehensive information about an individual are many, including reducing stress and humiliation for those who must constantly prove eligibility to receive important services.

“When a parent is seeking assistance for food, housing and child care, they have to submit paperwork at each of the agencies. A system that is integrated and interoperable can streamline the process and create an environment of support to help families thrive,” Fukuzawa adds.

### Successes to Date

So far, NIC has identified three state agencies as partners: California, Connecticut and Virginia. A fourth partner, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), joined the fold last year.

One of the most successful projects to date has been the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust (SVRDT) in northern California.

“With a rich infusion of data, agencies can be more responsive, and they all will be responding together, as a team,” says Rodney Ogawa, co-founder and co-director of the SVRDT. “When this is working effectively, the system becomes more person-centered instead of agency-centered.”

The ability of the NIC approach to create person-centered systems is one of the reasons that Kresge supports this work, Fukuzawa adds.

“Focusing on interoperability and integration of services reminds us all that we are on the same team and allows us to essentially ‘pass the ball’ as we serve clients,” he says. “When partners come together to examine these issues, we are better able to connect services around individuals and families and identify effective methods of operating that advance social and economic mobility.”

Independent of the grant, SOCI also has leveraged NIC for new models to better address public health-related crises such as lead-contaminated water in Flint, Michigan, or natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Dubbed Health Emergency Linkages and Preparedness (HELP), the model was put together by HIMSS and SOCI and was the centerpiece of a Guidance Document and Action Plan that the two organizations announced and published last year.

Participants in Stewards of Change Institute training conferences share vision and ideas that are drawn and connected in real time in panels that SOCI President Daniel Stein says provide a visual report and road map.



### What's Next

Looking ahead, Stein says NIC will expand in a variety of directions. In the immediate future, the organization will double down on work with existing partners, helping California, Virginia and Connecticut in particular create what Stein calls “interstitial tissue” for increased collaboration. What’s more, NIC will line up more work that can be transferable to other jurisdictions down the road — specifically, legal work that pertains to data-sharing agreements. NIC also expects to expand its educational offerings, adding more workshops and training courses across the country.

Further down the road, Stein expects funding for the NIC to continue to grow. Because Kresge came to the table early — and thanks in part to its participation — the project subsequently received additional funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, IBM and Microsoft.

“Fundamentally, you have to do a lot of this stuff in parallel because, sequentially, it would take a lifetime, and that’s hard for systems that have limited money, time and bandwidth,” Stein says. “This is not a problem we can solve in weeks or months or even years.

“It’s going to require buy-in on a new strategy for integrating health care and human services overall.”

# Food and Housing Insecurity — in College

## STUDYING THE CAUSES AND REMOVING THE BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

It's time to retire the idealized image of the college student who couch surfs and subsists on peanut butter sandwiches and cups of hot noodles.

That's because for a considerable number of college students, there is nothing ideal about the scarcity in their lives. Instead, it is a symptom of poverty — one that significantly diminishes students' chances to graduate.

In a 2017 survey — the largest ever of its kind — of 33,000 community college students funded by The Kresge Foundation's Education and Human Services programs, a research team led by Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab of Temple University found that 33 percent of community college students were hungry, nearly 50 percent lacked secure housing and 14 percent were homeless.

All are profound challenges that conspire to undermine college success.

"When most people think of college, they traditionally imagine an 18-year-old with a book under her arm and a backpack over her shoulder walking past ivy-covered buildings," says William F.L. Moses, managing director of Kresge's

Education Program. "And we associate it with dorms and cafeteria meal plans. But most college students are not 'traditional.' Many are working either full- or part-time, they have children, and more and more, they're struggling to afford food and stable housing."

### Removing Obstacles

Jobs, kids, lack of transportation — these are barriers burdensome enough for anyone. But when layered on top of trying to graduate, they're the kind of barriers that more often than not take students out of the postsecondary game.



Students distribute food at Houston Community College, one of three pioneering community colleges where Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab has been conducting research into hunger and homelessness.

Imagine staying up all night — not because you had to study, but because you didn't have a place to sleep. Or missing a meal — not because you were too busy, but because you couldn't afford to eat.

"I've been in numerous meetings with students at 8 a.m., and the coffee is all they're going to have until 7 at night," says Goldrick-Rab, a professor of higher education policy and sociology at Temple University. And scarcity, she says, interferes with cognition.

"The level of stress among these students is very visible," she says. "When you are hungry and worried, you can't function in class."

Building on initial data, Kresge in 2017 supported Goldrick-Rab's further research into how hunger and homelessness are being addressed at three pioneering community colleges: Houston Community College in Texas, which is providing food scholarships for 250 students; Bunker Hill Community College near Boston, Massachusetts, which is providing cafeteria vouchers to 100 students; and Tacoma Community College (TCC) in Tacoma, Washington, which is collaborating with the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) to provide rental assistance for students who are homeless or at imminent risk for losing a place to live.

With 14,000 students, many of whom are parents with low incomes, TCC launched the joint housing-assistance program after a preliminary survey revealed an acute need for such support. Under the program, TCC and THA target students in a workforce development program that helps them navigate careers.

To remain eligible, students must stay enrolled in courses offering 12 or more academic credits, maintain at least a 2.0 GPA and participate in supportive workshops on such topics as financial literacy. The average age of students participating in the program is 35, and 82 percent of participating students are parents. Many more students apply for assistance than the college can serve.

After just one year of implementation, the results from the Tacoma housing program were promising: 21 out of 22 participating students remained enrolled in school. In comparison, of the 146 eligible applicants the program could not serve, only 35 students

Houston Community College food scholarship recipients have access to free produce, meat and other fresh foods.



Student data captured during registration for the Houston Community College food distribution program is used for research.



Income-eligible students at Houston Community College can receive food scholarships to obtain nutritious groceries.



stayed enrolled at TCC. The average GPA of the participating students was 3.05, compared with the average GPA of 2.96 for all TCC students. The program has been so successful that it has been expanded to include 150 students, including some who began their college studies in prison.

### One Less Thing to Worry About

One grateful beneficiary of the Tacoma program is John, a 19-year-old freshman who escaped a household of violence and drug use only to spend his last few years of high school living in a car. Despite those obstacles, he managed to graduate from high school with a 3.5 GPA.

John enrolled at TCC in the fall of 2017 with the help of state and federal grants, but neither was sufficient to cover housing. He also didn't want the burden of a loan.

"Taking out a loan means (paying) interest and accumulating debt that I can't afford," says John, who has been working as an Uber Eats driver and living in a garage.

However, John was selected for the rental assistance program and

A food distribution program at Houston Community College provides support to students, some of whom are also parents.



was planning to move into proper housing. He is thrilled for the help, and it will surely give him one less thing to worry about as he studies to become an ultrasound technician.

"I know it's not like a guarantee ... but I can now start looking for apartments, and this is so awesome," he says. "It will be so much better."

The housing assistance program was a key reason that Emerson Rensink, a 32-year-old sophomore, chose TCC to pursue an associate degree in paralegal studies. When he started at TCC in March 2016, he had been experiencing homelessness for nearly

A survey funded by The Kresge Foundation found that 33 percent of community college students were hungry.

**"The level of stress among these students is very visible. When you are hungry and worried, you can't function in class."**

—Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, Temple University



One year in, almost every student enrolled in a Tacoma housing program remained in college.



six months, at first crashing with various friends, then living in his car after losing a well-paying job at a Home Depot warehouse. Renting in Tacoma was getting pricier — like nearby Seattle — and Rensink was priced out.

So, he applied to the housing program in the fall of 2016, and by January 2017, he was living in a one-bedroom apartment with a rent of \$780 including utilities. The program subsidizes \$443

of that amount, which leaves Rensink to cover the remainder with the income from his part-time job. He will be graduating with an associate degree in May 2018 and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree immediately.

The Tacoma program is not without its challenges. As local rents soar, it's becoming harder for the subsidies to keep up. It's also growing more difficult for students to find housing close to campus. Above all, says THA Executive Director Michael Mirra, "The challenge is deciding who gets what when there is not enough to give."

Too often what keeps college students from seeking the help they need, besides a scarcity of resources, is a sense of shame. They don't want to admit that they're hungry, couch surfing or showering at the school gym. And they think no one else is in the same boat.

That's why, along with raising public awareness, the three programs aim to change the narrative for the students themselves.

"For students," Kresge's Moses says, "it becomes a matter of letting them know that they are not alone."

As the Goldrick-Rab team collects the data on the programs — what works, where, why and how — they will collaborate with the program leaders to educate

federal, state and local decision-makers about the most effective ways to address scarcity among college students, and how the solutions might be scaled. Meanwhile, these innovative colleges are providing invaluable aid to 500 students who remain on a path to a college degree.

"This has been life-changing," Rensink says. "It's hard enough to do school full time and work, and I'm also an officer of a school club.

"When you throw in homelessness on top of that, I don't know if I could have made it this far without this."

# A Rising Tide of Climate Resilience

## MAKING NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER AND ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW ORLEANS

It was raining in New Orleans. Destiney Bell was keeping an eye on her roommate's toddler as she monitored the rain gauge in her yard.

The water was rising, and Bell knew what that meant: Her street would flood. Indeed, within an hour, the corner was submerged.

Bell used her phone to snap photos of her rain gauge and the flooded street. She then uploaded them to ISeeChange — a global online platform that allows anyone with a smartphone to document climate impacts on their daily life.

Bell's observations — together with those of her neighbors and others across the country — are painting an ever-more-detailed portrait of risk and resilience in the era of climate change. With Kresge Foundation support, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and its partner ISeeChange are finding creative ways to marry big data with the experiences of urban residents. This approach results in fine-grained, real-time information that can target adaptation efforts where they are needed most. And it uses the principles of Creative Placemaking — the integration of arts, culture and community-engaged design — to identify and address the challenges of a warming world.

Climate challenges do not affect all people equally. House by house, block by block, there are huge differences in vulnerability based on geography,

health status, income level and other factors. Such differences are not always visible to decision-makers. For example, when city officials assess flood risk, they typically look at average elevation and (increasingly unreliable) floodplain maps. They do not, generally, consider the view from Bell's window. That has begun to change.

### Delivering Innovative Solutions

In 2016, Kresge's Environment, Health and Arts & Culture programs teamed up to improve the way New Orleans and other



Destiney Bell is all too aware of the impact of flooding in relation to climate change. She's among hundreds of citizens who report rain gauge readings and supply photos of submerged streets to ISeeChange, a civic media enterprise that encourages people to document climate effects in their neighborhoods.

vulnerable cities respond to a changing climate. Together, they supported TPL's work to pilot a holistic approach to adaptation, Creative Placemaking and developing healthy places. The collaboration with ISeeChange helped TPL and Kresge find ways in which climate and Creative Placemaking approaches could combine to deliver innovative solutions.

By working across disciplines — both within the foundation and on the ground — the project is charting a climate plan that puts community needs front and center.

Earlier, TPL — a national leader in creating parks and protecting green spaces — provided data and analysis to help the City of New Orleans secure a \$141 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant will be used to create a "resilience district" in the mixed-income Gentilly neighborhood, where Bell lives. It calls for a sizeable investment in green infrastructure — parks and green spaces that absorb

stormwater, while providing places for neighbors to gather and play. These multitasking urban oases offer several climate benefits: Their shade helps cool the city and reduce energy use, while shoreline parks protect against rising seas and flooding. Trails and greenways connect residents to popular destinations and each other.

The city's first task was to decide where to build green infrastructure for maximum effect. To do this, TPL's Climate-Smart Cities Program gathered stakeholders who possess critical pieces of data but do not always talk to one another. These included New Orleans city officials, the sewer and water authority, health groups, local nonprofits and the parks department.

Together, they created a multilayered map that pinpoints vulnerable areas where poverty, aging infrastructure and high rates of disease intersect with climate-influencing factors like heat

The impacts of climate challenges can vary from person to person, neighborhood to neighborhood. There are huge differences in vulnerability based on geography, health status, income level and other factors.



“Civic action is a luxury. Most people just don’t have the time, and given their experience, they don’t think they’ll be listened to.”

—Julia Kumari Drapkin, ISeeChange

and flooding. Taken together, the data provide an extraordinarily detailed map of risk — and a blueprint for building resilience.

“You make better decisions when you consider all this information together,” says Sarah Olivier, TPL’s New Orleans program director.

For example, the city was considering a site for a park near an elementary school and a large public housing project. The site was already a strong candidate, but when public health data was overlaid, Olivier says the area “showed up bright red” as a hot spot for asthma and other diseases made worse by climate change — affirming the neighborhood’s urgent need for green space.

But the picture was still not complete. Missing were the voices of people like Bell — those with deep ties to the neighborhood’s history and with a stake in its future.

### Engaging Multiple Voices

To engage those voices, TPL forged a partnership with ISeeChange, a civic media enterprise that encourages people to document climate effects in their neighborhoods by using rain gauges and heat sensors. ISeeChange uses Creative Placemaking strategies to elicit residents’ observations and stories — and to enlist them in solving the challenges they identify. That is not always easy, especially when it means long days and nights at public meetings.

“Civic action is a luxury,” says ISeeChange founder (and Gentilly resident) Julia Kumari Drapkin. “Most people just don’t have the time, and given their experience, they don’t think they’ll be listened to.”



ISeeChange invited local residents to a pop-up block party that included audio stories about the past, present and future of the neighborhood.

To counter that perception, Drapkin and her team got creative. To identify flood-prone areas that were not on the city’s radar, Drapkin’s team placed comment boxes inside laundromats, nail salons and restaurants. Within two weeks, the comments helped the city identify 150 previously uncharted flooding hot spots. Some of the people who submitted feedback began uploading information about those spots to the ISeeChange platform.

The ISeeChange team went door to door around those hot spots recruiting citizen scientists — including Bell — to provide an on-the-ground reality check for the city’s flood maps. Bell and her neighbors also contributed stories and reminiscences, creating an archive of collective memory.

As they learned more about flooding in the neighborhood, ISeeChange helped organize a “pop-up” block party with a local business owner. They decorated a board with images of flooding alongside headphones with recorded stories and an invitation to comment on the city’s green infrastructure plans.

There was more. A live storytelling event, co-hosted with a local public radio producer, brought residents and decision-makers together on equal footing. And public art projects raised awareness of climate challenges — including chalked street markings and ropes

that graphically depicted flooding and rising sea levels.

Taken as a whole, these storytelling, visual and civic engagement efforts embody the goal of Creative Placemaking: engaging the people who are most affected by climate change to build civic dialogue and find solutions that work. Too often, says TPL's Matthew Clarke, "Creative Placemaking is treated as an afterthought — a mural that gets painted at the end of the project."

This is more foundational.

"It's a process that helps get nuanced, personal data from the community," he says, noting that at the same time, it "elevates the legitimacy of different kinds of information."

### A 'People-Centric' Approach

Social scientists have long understood the value of community-generated data, but its collection is frequently neglected.

"The process of working with residents is as important as the product," says Regina Smith, managing director of Kresge's Arts & Culture Program. "The process is a people-centric approach that puts beneficiaries at the center of decision-making.

"This approach is not just the new 'it' thing; it's becoming part of the DNA of how organizations work."

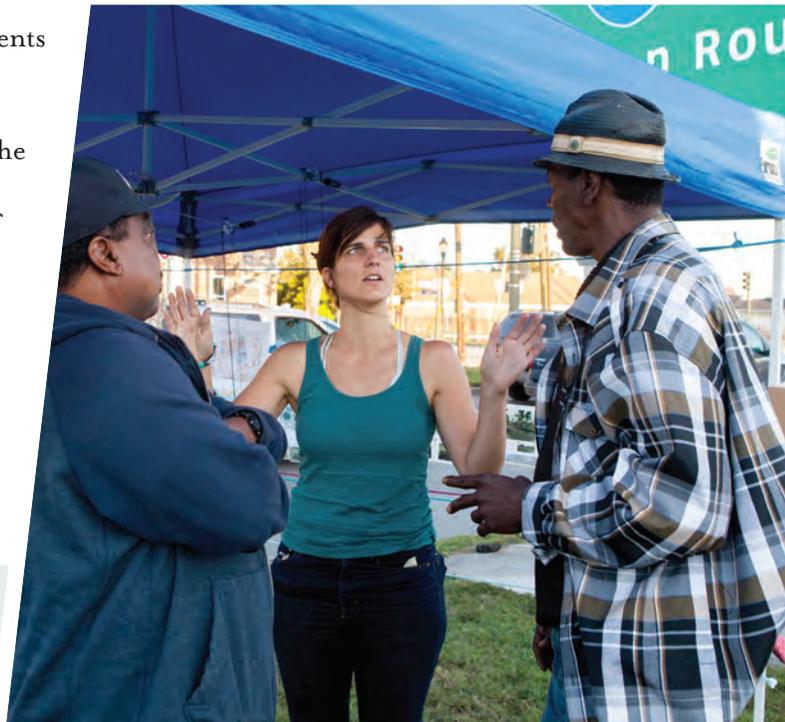
While important in its own right,

the process also yields a valuable product. The information amassed — both the multilayered map created by the Climate-Smart Cities Program and the personal stories, data and observations contributed — is shaping a more resilient New Orleans. Both are included in a city request for proposals that will guide the development of green infrastructure throughout New Orleans.

Because data collected by Bell and others can help better predict and prevent floods, the city will distribute another 300 gauges next year. And spurred by this project's success, both TPL and ISeeChange are launching similar projects in flood-prone communities like Norfolk, Virginia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Richmond, California.

And in 2017, Kresge's Environment Program awarded new grants that will broaden the base of New Orleans residents who understand why urban water management is important.

"Our grantees are identifying a critical mass of people who are motivated to support green infrastructure projects in their neighborhood and engage in policy advocacy at the city level — all toward the goal of making their neighborhoods safer and enhancing their quality of life," says Kresge Environment Program Managing Director Lois DeBacker. "It is essential to lift up the voices and life experiences of those on the front lines of a warming world."



ISeeChange's Lindsey Wagner discusses an exhibit at a pop-up block party with local residents.

# Creating Neighborhoods of Opportunity through Citywide Initiatives

## IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK IN MEMPHIS

Neighborhood Preservation Inc. (NPI) and Knowledge Quest are among 10 Memphis, Tennessee, organizations to be awarded a total of \$1.3 million in grants by The Kresge Foundation in a 2017 open call for proposals to boost opportunity for city residents with low incomes.

The open call was one part of a broader acceleration of Kresge investments in Memphis, where the foundation helps support neighborhood nonprofits and citywide community development organizations and intermediaries across sectors. Since 2014, Kresge has contributed \$6.6 million (\$3 million in social investments and \$3.6 million in grants) to spur economic and community development in Memphis. Multiple Kresge teams in a variety of disciplines collaborated to provide the funding.

Chantel Rush, program officer with Kresge's American Cities Practice, says Memphis illustrates Kresge's commitment and approach to "place-based work."

"We seek to serve as a supportive philanthropic partner to Memphis nonprofits, public-sector leaders and local philanthropy," Rush says. "We support both citywide organizations and those driving positive change in neighborhoods."



Carnes Garden is a community learning garden in the Carnes-Galloway neighborhood of Memphis — a major strategic priority for Neighborhood Preservation Inc.



Knowledge Quest's Green Leaf Learning Farm operates as a certified USDA organic farm.



Knowledge Quest teaches students about growing food in ways that build community and increase access to healthy foods.

"Our investments recognize the good work underway and increase the access Memphis-based institutions have to national resources."

Kresge's work in Memphis exemplifies the ways the foundation works across programs and disciplines, with grantmaking that involves Health, Human Services, Arts & Culture and Education, along with Social Investments, to promote a geography of opportunity in the city.

### 'The Secret Sauce'

It has been a 20-year journey for Knowledge Quest, but a short one for founder and Executive Director Marlon Foster. Born and raised in South Memphis, he went to LeMoyné-Owen College. After college,

he spurned job offers outside the city because he wanted to start a business in the neighborhood where he grew up.

The result was Knowledge Quest, a youth-centered organization serving some of the most poverty-stricken ZIP codes in Memphis.

"My friends told me I turned into a social worker, but I said I was a social entrepreneur," he says.

Knowledge Quest has evolved from a few after-school programs to a 3-acre main campus centered on urban agriculture and two off-campus locations with ancillary programs — all in a neighborhood cited five years ago as one of the United States' most dangerous.

"We have been slow and methodical," Foster says. "Our most valuable asset is an authentic relationship of trust with the neighborhood. That's our secret sauce."

An idea from a teacher "who wanted kids to know where food comes from" led to Knowledge Quest's emphasis on nutrition and gave birth to the Green Leaf Learning urban micro-farm. It began when Foster offered to cut the grass on an overgrown lot in exchange for permission to plant vegetables there.

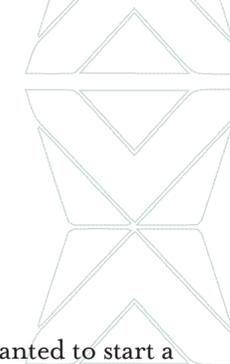
Now owned by Knowledge Quest, that first lot features 44 seedbeds, a pavilion, a compost bin, a climate-controlled greenhouse and a worm farm. Next door, three abandoned buildings are being repurposed; there's also an orchard nearby.

### Changing the Narrative

Meanwhile, Knowledge Quest continues its after-school offerings, a program supporting families at risk of becoming homeless or displaced, a Universal Parenting Place with resources to address behavioral issues early in a child's development, and the Jay Uiberall Culinary Academy, where high school students train with guest chefs.

"Everything is related to Green Leaf," Foster says. "We were typecast as a youth development organization, but to me, it was community development, taking our highest and best asset — our children — and building community development around their own development.

"What I envisioned with Green Leaf was education, housing, economic development, community development and more. It is its



“What we’ve been doing as a policy organization is to get a much better understanding of neighborhood housing and commercial markets that appear to have opportunities for revitalization and strengthening.”

—Steve Barlow, Neighborhood Preservation Inc.



Neighborhood Preservation Inc. makes engaging the community a priority in its revitalization efforts.

own ecosystem with scalable neighborhood models from which we can track best practices.”

Support from Kresge has been crucial, Foster explains, because it validated Knowledge Quest’s approach to community development. It funded a 30-by-72-foot climate-controlled greenhouse, the hiring of a business manager and development of a master plan “to increase opportunities for the neighborhood through agriculture.”

The master plan foresees an expansion of the Green Leaf Learning Farm, construction of the Residences of Green Leaf, an apiary, street festivals and a park with an experiential playground.

“We are reinventing from within,” Foster says. “It’s about bringing back dignity and honor to people and neighborhoods.”

### Fighting Blight and Leveraging City Assets

About 3 miles north, NPI President Steve Barlow is in a brainstorming session to plot next steps in the organization’s fight to rid the city of blight. During the past years, urban neighborhoods experienced epic out-migration of 170,000 people as the city’s land area grew from 208 to 323 square miles.

The dimensions of the problem are staggering: 30,000 vacant residential lots, 12,500 vacant houses and 2,500 vacant apartment units. Barlow’s methodical systems approach has attracted people from across the city to share in a framework for action.

“What we’ve been doing as a policy organization is to get a much better understanding of neighborhood housing and commercial

markets that appear to have opportunities for revitalization and strengthening,” Barlow says.

To that end, NPI’s work is built around four priorities: assembling data about blighted properties with the Memphis Policy Map that, for the first time, quantifies the problem in detail; community engagement so Memphians are essential partners in resolving blighted properties; reclaiming and reusing vacant land and abandoned houses; and improving code enforcement so there is a standard of property maintenance that is consistent.

Barlow’s appointment as NPI president stemmed from his work as a lawyer specializing in blight-related problems. He filed Memphis’ first lawsuit using a new Tennessee law, the Neighborhood Preservation Act. In 2012, he and business leaders formed NPI to act as the court-ordered receiver of blighted properties with absentee owners.

### Charter for Change

A turning point elevated the work to a citywide priority in 2016, when NPI organized a summit that produced the interdisciplinary Memphis Neighborhood Blight Elimination Charter. It was the first time the city had a clear mandate: “Every neighborhood in Memphis and in Shelby County has the right to be free from the negative impacts and

influences caused by vacant, abandoned and blighted properties.”

The 23-page charter became a call to arms for Memphis and created new momentum for change.

“We reached a point as a city where we had gotten so big and had so much empty land in so many neighborhoods that almost everybody understood that addressing blight was important to their quality of life, their home values, their kids staying here, the likelihood of business locating here and existing businesses staying here,” Barlow says.

Most of all, the charter became the umbrella under which each nonprofit working on blight issues could gather.

“Our goal was that the charter was the place where all ideas came together and was based on us staying connected, communicating and talking about what we were each doing and where to go first, and where it makes sense to intervene, where to stabilize, where to invest and where the market can be the market,” Barlow says. “We want to help strategic approaches get deployed as a result of neighborhood-based strategic thinking.

“It is about engaging with the community.”

More than 100 butterfly sculptures installed in 2017 brighten the neighborhood around Carnes Community Garden in Memphis.

### Maximizing Opportunity

Barlow says Kresge has connected NPI to people and good practices around the U.S. He also took inspiration from a 2016 speech Kresge President and CEO Rip Rapson delivered in Memphis.

“He said that we should be audacious in our goal setting,” Barlow recalls. “It inspired people to think big, and the opportunity by NPI to connect with Kresge has been formative to our growth.”

Kresge also influenced local thinking about blight and how to

reimagine city assets such as Memphis’ riverfront, parks and other public places.

“We are looking at things defined as negative, and how they can be turned into positives and how to use data to make hard choices about where and how to spend money,” Barlow says. “We are thinking about systems and how we create neighborhoods of opportunity.”

Kresge’s Rush says the foundation’s focus in Memphis is to improve systems with “backbone infrastructure” like NPI, while supporting neighborhood-level community development such as Knowledge Quest. It’s turning out to be a powerful recipe for community development change in Memphis.



# Homeless in L.A.

## INITIATIVE AIMS TO CREATE LONG-TERM HOUSING WITH SERVICES TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS

They sleep in parks and on sidewalks. They wrap themselves in blankets in store entrances and tattered sleeping bags in Metro stations. They huddle in tents and rest exposed on cardboard mats on Skid Row.

They're the homeless of Los Angeles, California, a marginalized population that grew by an eye-popping 75 percent from 2011 to 2017. At 57,000 and counting, L.A.'s unsheltered community is the second-largest among U.S. cities, behind only New York.

In fact, homelessness in America would have fallen in 2017 if Los Angeles had been left out of the equation. Instead, the nationwide numbers grew by about 1 percent — the first spike in homelessness in the U.S. since 2010.

It was so bad in L.A. that city officials earlier declared a state of emergency on homelessness, describing the situation as “unprecedented and growing.” Multiple factors — a housing shortage, skyrocketing rents, job losses and lack of federal and state safety nets among them — have contributed to the crisis.

Taking action, Kresge partnered with several California-based funders to help the city stem the tide. The foundation's approach has been strategic, innovative and focused on the system.

Many people who find themselves living on the streets face complex sets of challenges that both cause homelessness and keep them trapped in a cycle of poverty and despair: mental and physical health, substance-abuse and lack of access to government services are among the most common.



Clifford Beers Housing is among several organizations developing permanent supportive housing in southern California that receive funding through California Community Foundation and CSH.

Attacking all of those problems at once comports with Kresge’s increasing emphasis on cross-disciplinary approaches to solving social problems.

### Partners in Innovation

Kresge is a major partner in a unique, multipronged initiative designed to triple the number of permanent supportive housing units — homes that also provide support services to help people succeed on their own — built in Los Angeles each year. The foundation brought its expertise in health, human services, housing and social investments to the table when it joined the already established Accelerating Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative. The California Community Foundation (CCF), the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Weingart Foundation and the City of Los Angeles kicked off the initiative, along with various nonprofit lenders and developers, in May 2016. Kresge joined shortly after. The goals are twofold: improving outcomes and reducing costs to tackle homelessness.

The partners have committed a combined \$63 million to a revolving loan fund (a self-replenishing pool of money that uses interest and principal payments on old loans to issue new ones) to build 1,000 new permanent supportive housing units each year, more than tripling the previous build rate. Kresge’s contribution includes a \$1 million, three-year grant — as well as a \$6 million program-related investment — to provide “on the ground value that will have a catalytic effect,” says Kimberlee Cornett, managing director of Kresge’s Social Investment Practice.

A major benefit of Kresge’s participation is that it “helps us leverage capital from more traditional sources,” says Brigitt Jandreau-Smith, chief lending officer at CSH (formerly known as the Corporation for Supportive Housing), whose mission is to use housing as a platform to improve lives and communities while maximizing public resources. “And it helps us to create a longer-term plan” than would otherwise be the case.

Encampments are common in Los Angeles, where the homeless population has drastically increased since 2011.



PATH Executive Director Amy Anderson at a construction site for new supportive housing.



The initiative provides capital so nonprofit developers can start work on 10 to 15 new developments each year. Loans are made by CSH through its Supportive Housing Loan Fund. The \$6 million loan from Kresge supports that fund, as well as catalyzing investment from donor-advised funds (DAFs) held at CCF. DAFs enable donors to make charitable contributions for which they receive an immediate tax benefit. The funds work similar to a health savings account in that donors contribute as often as they wish and advise where and when the money should be deployed. DAF dollars are traditionally awarded as grants. However, Kresge’s Social Investment Practice team has worked to encourage more such investors to use their money as impact investments, allowing the host to generate returns and recycle those funds for use again and again.

### A Long-Term Solution

There is a difference between permanent supportive housing and low-income housing. The latter is for people who have basic



Clifford Beers Housing built the Holt Family Apartments permanent supportive housing community in Pomona, California. Features include outdoor space, a playground, basketball court, community gardens and case management staff.

“Kresge is both an investment partner and a thought partner.”

—Ann Sewill, California Community Foundation

supports in place like jobs, help from family and access to medical and mental health care.

By contrast, permanent supportive housing is “designed primarily for people with long histories of homelessness due to persistent obstacles like serious mental illness, substance use disorders or chronic medical problems,” according to CSH. Such housing is designed for residents who might otherwise cycle in and out of shelters, emergency rooms and publicly funded mental health care services, which places a heavy burden on those facilities and taxpayers.

In general, people living in supportive housing are assigned a caseworker, employed by the city at a ratio of one to every 25 units of housing. The caseworker helps residents access health care, seek counseling and obtain government benefits, such as Social Security Income, food assistance and other supports.

“There is data showing this type of housing leads to health improvements as well as cost savings in the public health system,” Cornett says.

There has already been success in L.A. The initiative has 1,000 units of supportive housing in the pipeline, and thousands of formerly homeless residents now have places to live as well as access to mental health and substance abuse treatment.

### Leveraging Resources

Meanwhile, CCF was able to raise \$4 million from their DAF account holders to partially replace the Kresge capital. As a result, CCF is repaying \$1.5 million of its loan early — and serving as

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti meets with neighborhood council leaders at the award-winning 28th Street Apartments, an adaptive re-use of an historic YMCA, owned and operated by Clifford Beers Housing.



a great example of how Kresge’s resources can be leveraged to attract other capital.

“As individuals and families learn that DAFs can also be used as a source of investment (as opposed to only grantmaking), large amounts of philanthropic capital can be unlocked for socially beneficial purposes,” says Fred Karnas, senior fellow and head of Kresge’s internal housing workgroup.

Such loans are an approved use of DAFs, but are not often employed by community foundations. Here is where Kresge’s innovative approach comes into play.

For the Los Angeles initiative, the funds are drawn to make low-interest loans to nonprofit developers. Loans make the money “go further and be more impactful,” Cornett says. When the loans — which carry below-market interest rates — are paid back, the donors can then use the proceeds to direct grants to their favorite charities, including those involved in solving homelessness.

A host of nonprofit developers are working on projects across L.A., such as A Community of Friends, Clifford Beers Housing, LINC Housing, Los Angeles Family Housing, Mercy Housing California, New Directions for Veterans, PATH Ventures, the Skid Row Housing Trust and the SRO Housing Corp. Along with other interested developers, they can apply for loans through CSH.

“Nonprofit developers were very nervous” about the potential risk, says Ann Sewill, CCF vice president of health and housing. Kresge’s

participation helped ease their minds, not only because of the money it provided, but also because it amounted to a stamp of approval from a major, national foundation.

“Kresge is both an investment partner and a thought partner,” Sewill says.

Developers can also seek grants from United Way’s Home for Good Funders Collaborative. Those are meant to cover the cost of site acquisition, drawing up building plans and getting construction and zoning approvals from the city. As part of the initiative, the city’s planning and housing departments are streamlining approvals for the nonprofit developers.

Kresge’s participation brings another benefit to the program: It attracts participation from other organizations and financing institutions.

“A national foundation of Kresge’s reputation helps push the policy agenda forward,” Sewill says.

And what Kresge is doing in L.A. can serve as an example in other regions dealing with similar issues.

“Our work in Los Angeles holds the potential to develop new models for other cities struggling to address the challenges of large populations of chronically homeless residents,” Karnas says.

# Doing the Best for Young Children in Detroit

## A HEALTHY AND THRIVING COMMUNITY STARTS WITH HEALTHY AND THRIVING KIDS

Metro Detroit native Dr. Joneigh Khaldun knew at age 5 that she wanted to do something about the health challenges around her. In her first public health “intervention,” she says she hid her grandmother’s cigarettes.

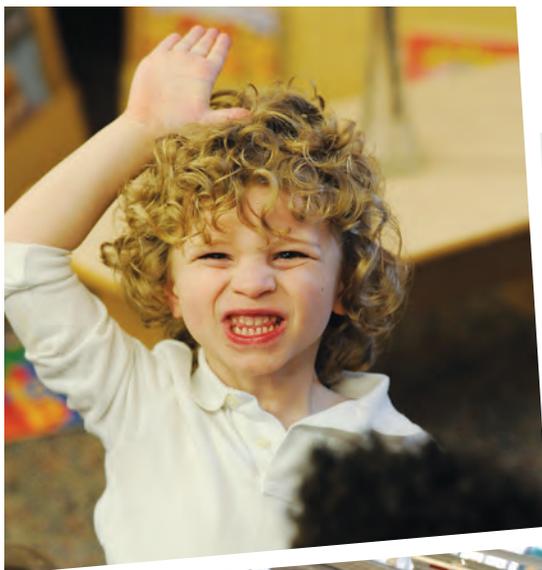
She followed her passion and entered a career in public health via medical school. And in 2017, she came back to her home community of Detroit to tackle the city’s most pressing health challenges.

Today, Khaldun serves as the director and health officer for the City of Detroit Health Department and practices as an emergency physician. She has witnessed the whittling of public health budgets across the country and now leads efforts to coordinate health services across systems to deliver more comprehensive care for Detroiters — including the youngest residents in the city. She is especially passionate about coordinating services for families to improve outcomes for kids.

“After years of disinvestment in communities of color,” Khaldun says, “combined with the fact that Detroit does not have a robust transportation system, those barriers have created a situation where we are not doing the best for our children.”



City of Detroit Health Department Director and Health Officer Joneigh Khaldun, M.D., leads an initiative called Ready to Learn, a comprehensive approach to developing accessible and innovative services to keep kids healthy.



Ready To Learn helps enhance early childhood center inspections, monitoring and reporting.



Kresge funding helps support professional development for child care providers in Detroit.



Dr. Joneigh Khaldun is passionate about coordinating family health services with the goal of improving outcomes for children.

### Ready to Learn

Khaldun leads an initiative called Ready to Learn (R2L), funded in part by Kresge’s Health and Detroit program teams. R2L is a comprehensive approach to developing accessible and innovative programs and services to ensure that children are healthy and physically able to engage and participate in school.

The initiative includes a series of linked and mutually reinforcing programs, including what Khaldun calls a “public health home.”

That’s a system where children are holistically assessed for critical public health needs — immunizations, vision, hearing, lead testing, nutrition and behavioral health challenges. They are then provided with services on the spot or get a referral to a pediatrician or mental health care provider.

The department also works to better understand the policy and structural barriers that impede access to services for families.

“Our current systems have failed our children,” Khaldun says. “The challenge is that there are silos between systems that are designed to support children and families.

“One of the things that we are focused on with this grant and beyond is in integrating our programs so that families actually receive comprehensive care.”

Grant funding will also allow the department to expand its education efforts around lead remediation and reboot its volunteer outreach project to focus on children within ZIP codes who are at high risk for poor health outcomes.

R2L has already helped to enhance early childhood center inspections, monitoring and reporting. A data-driven system is in development to ensure that an estimated 200 early child care facilities are inspected annually, and plans for quality and safety are implemented across all programs in the city.

### Early Years for Success

R2L is closely aligned with the Detroit Program’s Kresge Early Years for Success (KEYS): Detroit, an investment strategy to strengthen

“It is exciting to be a part of something that is trying to break down silos, build a system and bring together stakeholders who naturally wouldn’t come in a room together.”

—Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, City of Detroit Health Department



Kresge President and CEO Rip Rapson and La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, at the launch of Hope Starts Here.

the city’s neighborhoods by putting the essential building blocks in place to support the healthy development of young children and prepare them for educational success.

“Detroit’s comeback must include investments in the healthy development of young children, and we believe that a strong early childhood system will ensure a healthy and thriving community,” says Wendy Lewis Jackson, managing director of the Detroit Program.

Kresge’s early childhood investments focus on four strategic categories: development of comprehensive facilities that provide innovative programming and supports; investments in vital areas such as data and research; grantmaking programs for improving professional development and neighborhood connections; and support for the Hope Starts Here initiative.

Launched in 2016, Hope Starts Here is a citywide alliance of advocates and partners for improved early childhood systems in Detroit. Kresge President and CEO Rip Rapson co-chaired the effort with La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Khaldun serves on the Hope Starts Here Stewardship Board, a cross-sectoral table composed of parents, child care providers, early childhood educators, health care providers, local and state government representatives and business, community and

philanthropic leaders. The Stewardship Board guided the process of creating a blueprint to improve early childhood outcomes in the city.

“It is exciting to be a part of something that is trying to break down silos, build a system and bring together stakeholders who naturally wouldn’t come in a room together,” Khaldun says. “The best part of the effort is that it started with the community, with a really robust community engagement process.”

Hope Starts Here gathered input from 20,000 Detroiters as it created a plan of action to make Detroit a world-class city for kids. Through a nearly yearlong community engagement and awareness-raising process, Hope Starts Here invited families and caregivers to make the case for a focus on early childhood and sought recommendations for action. More than 2 million connections were made through hundreds of meetings, surveys, community conversations and strategy sessions.

Through that community input, Detroit now has a 10-year framework, grounded in a cross-sectoral all-hands-on-deck philosophy, for improving early childhood services. It includes 26



policy priorities, 15 strategies and six overarching imperatives.

“The framework provides a coherent and comprehensive approach for supporting young children for the next decade,” Jackson explains. “Its beauty is that, at its core, Hope Starts Here is a community engagement platform. It is not intended to be a plan that sits on a shelf.

“There will continue to be community input and engagement as we consider advancing some of the imperatives outlined.”

To collaborate internally on that action plan, a KEYS: Detroit work group has met regularly within Kresge to share portfolios and expertise in education, health and human services. The cross-team conversations allow for an information exchange to enable program staff who are doing work nationally to connect Detroit to best practices and make investments that support the work in Detroit.

“These regular conversations have enhanced our understanding for how to strengthen the impact of early childhood funding in Detroit and have been particularly helpful as we consider strategies to support the long-term development and success of all children,” Jackson says.

As for Khaldun, like many of the children Kresge has had the opportunity to engage with through its KEYS: Detroit focus, she has big dreams for the future.

She is already thinking about how to build upon the R2L program and deepen the linkages between systems. Her vision is to ensure that for every child in Detroit — wherever they are

touching the system — health providers can click on one button and understand the history of the family, any support it currently needs and swiftly provide warm connections across health and social service systems.

“We owe it to our families and children to align our systems and programs with their needs, and not let any child fall through the cracks,” Khaldun says. “Detroit’s children are our greatest asset, and our community is resilient. As a society, we just must step up to the plate and support them.”



Kresge is committed to improving early childhood outcomes in Detroit.

# Nourishing Body — and Spirit

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS WHILE ENGAGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

In many low-income neighborhoods, it's easier to buy a Big Mac than a head of lettuce.

Residents of neighborhoods without access to fresh, affordable food suffer high rates of preventable disease and die earlier — by decades — than those in more affluent areas. Investing in local food systems not only boosts access to quality foods and improves health, but can build community and jump-start inclusive economic growth. Neighborhoods become more vibrant and cohesive.

That's the goal of Fresh, Local and Equitable (FreshLo), a joint initiative of The Kresge Foundation's Arts & Culture and Health programs. Launched in 2016, FreshLo supports neighborhood-scale food-oriented development projects — from gardens and incubator kitchens to community markets, while engaging residents through Creative Placemaking, or the integration of arts, culture and community-engaged design into development and planning.

In 2016, Kresge awarded FreshLo planning grants to partners in 26 communities, and in late 2017, selected 23 of them for two-year implementation grants.

"For folks embedded in the community, this is not exactly a new idea," says Tatiana Hernandez, senior program officer with Kresge's Arts & Culture Program. "It is human nature to use creative expression to engage people."

But "Naming it, and including creative expression in the program design," is part of what makes FreshLo unique, Hernandez adds.



In Louisiana, a FreshLo grant is helping support a neighborhood teaching kitchen as part of a community resource center. FreshLo stands for Fresh, Local and Equitable, The Kresge Foundation initiative designed to help grantees implement neighborhood-scale projects that increase equitable economic opportunity and improve health outcomes for residents.



Above, grantees from Kresge's FreshLo initiative participate in a convening in Cleveland, Ohio. Far left, the Asian Economic Development Association's Little Mekong Night Market in St. Paul.

### In High Demand

The urgent need for this work was evident from the start, says Stacey Barbas, senior program officer for the Health team at Kresge. In fact, the more than 500 applications for FreshLo funding set a Kresge record for responses.

FreshLo's grantmaking process involved grantee organizations and area residents every step of the way. During the planning phase, grantees were able to dive deeply into local issues and to empower residents to design projects that reflect community priorities. That's because FreshLo grantees were encouraged to tailor their projects to residents' concerns rather than adhere to rigid funding guidelines.

Grantees even helped design their own evaluations, enabling them to set benchmarks and define success on their own terms. Kresge staff and consultants provided intensive support throughout this phase.

FreshLo supports organizations and neighborhoods that have long been overlooked by national foundations — neighborhoods like the South Side of Billings, Montana, for one. Located literally on the other side of the tracks from Billings' more prosperous downtown, the

historic South Side is on the rebound after years of neglect. Burned-out buildings dot its potholed streets, and food and other necessities are scarce. The last remaining grocery store closed in 2013.

Looking for solutions, the Healthy by Design coalition — which includes RiverStone Health and Yellowstone County's health department — applied for and won a FreshLo planning grant to improve food access while revitalizing the South Side.

"The Kresge planning grant enabled us to spend a year listening — asking residents what would make the neighborhood healthier and more vibrant," says Healthy by Design's Community Health Improvement Manager Melissa Henderson.

Henderson and her colleagues went into the community — to the senior center, middle school, bus stops and mobile home parks. They showed residents a visual display of possible neighborhood improvements and gave each one a few pinto beans to vote on priorities. When the votes were tallied, the winners included

“The Kresge planning grant enabled us to spend a year listening — asking residents what would make the neighborhood healthier and more vibrant.”

—Melissa Henderson, Healthy by Design, Billings, Montana

a grocery store, community gardens and a campaign to build neighborhood pride.

Those plans are barreling ahead with the help of a Kresge implementation grant that followed the planning phase. One working group is exploring options for a grocery store. Another is launching community gardening efforts. The coalition is also working with incarcerated women to increase production in their therapy garden and distribute the bounty to South Side residents in need.

The project also engages local artists in Creative Placemaking strategies to help integrate arts, culture and community-engaged design into the neighborhood fabric. Those include wraps that transform traffic signal boxes into public art, signs that brand the South Side as “the bright side of the tracks” and other artful touches.

“I like the positiveness of seeing the South Side as a welcome mat for Billings, rather than just being swept under the mat,” says Linda Deavila, a 40-year neighborhood resident.

Supporting local leaders like Deavila is key to the project’s success. Deavila attended a national convening of FreshLo grantees in Memphis, Tennessee, then came back to take on a leadership role.

“The gals at RiverStone are always getting others in the community to take the lead,” Deavila says.

### Overcoming Barriers

A thousand miles west, Fresno, California, faces a similar dearth of healthy food options. Though it is located in the heart of California’s Central Valley, where rich soils produce much of the



The annual Asian Economic Development Association’s Little Mekong Night Market in St. Paul, Minnesota, brings the community together through arts and culture.

nation’s fruits and vegetables, Fresno is among the poorest, most food-insecure cities in the country.

Those problems are especially acute in Fresno’s urban-industrial Blackstone corridor, flanked by strip malls, car lots and fast-food restaurants. Blackstone is rich in diversity, with sizable Latinx, Laotian, Hmong, African American and Native American populations. But the neighborhood’s food offerings don’t reflect those traditions.

Fresno Metro Ministry — a multicultural, multifaith community organization that has served the city for nearly 50 years — received a FreshLo grant for its What’s Cooking Fresno? incubator project. Fresno Metro Ministry surveyed residents and found aspiring chefs and food entrepreneurs who faced barriers to achieving their dreams. The Fresno team worked with the chefs to organize pop-up festivals with themed dishes from various cultures.

Fresno Metro Ministry also employs what Executive Director Keith Bergthold calls “software” and “hardware.” The “software” is a recently launched, eight-month training program for food entrepreneurs that teaches interpersonal skills, leadership and management, culinary and technical skills and marketing.

Meanwhile, Fresno Metro Ministry is partnering with the local housing authority to create the “hardware” — a planned mixed-use, transit-oriented development with affordable housing, an incubator kitchen, food kiosks and community space.

“We want to fill the space with art and music, to make it a place of culture,” says Chanel Ruiz-Mendez, Fresno Metro Ministry’s deputy director, “a place where you can listen to music and try different foods.”

### Nurturing Entrepreneurs

Across the country in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Elijah’s Promise received a FreshLo grant to build community with a public market — the Mercado Esperanza. The monthly market celebrates entrepreneurial spirit, culinary and cultural heritage and the artistic soul of New Brunswick’s Esperanza neighborhood.

Elijah’s Promise has long understood the community-building power of food. Since 1989, the group has operated a soup kitchen in New Brunswick, where a third of residents live in poverty and almost two-thirds struggle to meet daily living expenses. Over the years, the group evolved into a comprehensive food systems agency with social services, culinary job training, urban agriculture and food entrepreneurship programs.

The “What’s Cooking Fresno?” incubator project offers opportunity for food entrepreneurs and aspiring chefs.



For its FreshLo grant, Elijah’s Promise partnered with other established community groups — New Brunswick Tomorrow and coLAB Arts — to increase the project’s success in outreach and Creative Placemaking.

They discovered that many residents had side hustles selling food, clothing and crafts and wanted a market for those products. As in Fresno, aspiring food vendors faced daunting barriers. And members of the Esperanza neighborhood’s large Oaxacan community longed for their children to experience the vibrant markets they had grown up with in Mexico.

And so Mercado Esperanza was launched. The first step was to create a council of local residents that worked to develop a plan for a flexible community market where residents gather, shop, sell, dance, perform and otherwise express creativity and entrepreneurship. In addition, the project works to connect aspiring food vendors to commercial kitchen space, liability insurance and bulk purchasing plans.

The Mercado’s collaborative approach is encouraged by FreshLo’s sector-crossing emphasis on food, health, economic development, equity and Creative Placemaking. And often the journey is just as important as the final destination.

“Sometimes the integrated activity manifests as a product — such as the transformation of a blighted neighborhood,” says Regina Smith, managing director of Kresge’s Arts & Culture Program. “But that’s not the end-all. The process of working with residents — and placing beneficiaries at the center of decision-making — is equally important.”

# Changing the Infrastructure from the Bottom Up

## ‘NAME IT AS THE CENTER’: BRINGING RACIAL EQUITY TO THE TABLE

The building and expansion of American cities in the 20th century was truly one of the great marvels of the modern age.

Just a few decades after horse-drawn wagons brought pioneers to the farthest, least-settled reaches of the still-young United States, those settlers’ grandchildren had designed and built what are now some of the world’s great centers of commerce and culture.

Today, most of us live in or near these great American cities, driving to and from home and work along massive highways or moving around on buses and trains.

But with progress came inequity. We now recognize that the benefits of urban planning and expansion have not been equally shared.

People living in low-income ZIP codes — disproportionately communities of color — historically have been shut out of planning and often do not directly benefit from new infrastructure as

it’s built. Instead, new interstate highways, rail lines and other large-scale projects often divide communities and further limit their access to opportunity, resulting in outcomes that can include poor health, unemployment and limits to economic advancement.

“Historically, it’s much easier to build highways and other infrastructure through neighborhoods where people of color live,” says Chris Kabel, deputy director of The Kresge Foundation’s Health Program.



Atlanta artist Fahamu Pecou in front of his mural, “Rise Above,” at MARTA’s King Memorial Station. WonderRoot’s En Route project creates meaningful, aesthetically imaginative, high-quality, text-based murals at Atlanta train stations that explore issues of access, mobility and public transportation.

As observers estimate that \$3.6 trillion of infrastructure investment is needed in the U.S. before 2020, a bold national initiative, funded in part by Kresge and integrating five of its program and practice areas, seeks to change the trajectory.

Focusing on Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; Denver, Colorado; Memphis, Tennessee; and the San Francisco Bay Area, the Strong, Prosperous and Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC) is investing \$90 million over three years. Each locality will receive \$1 million in combined grant and technical assistance funds over the next three years to support their infrastructure efforts. Collectively, SPARCC sites will have access to about \$70 million in financing capital and \$14 million in additional program support.

The goal is to ensure that the cities' new infrastructure investments benefit all residents — not just a privileged few.

"With SPARCC, we're trying to flip the script and ensure that people with low incomes and people of color are at the table," Kabel

says, "shaping these infrastructure decisions so there's more equity in terms of who pays and who benefits."

**Bold Way Forward**

The SPARCC initiative took more than two years to develop. What began with a collaboration among Enterprise Community Partners, Low Income Investment Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco expanded to include five prominent foundations, including Kresge.

Soon, with the foundations' financial backing, the SPARCC team identified a core mission to help regions invest in infrastructure and transportation projects that improve racial equity, community health and climate resilience. Never before had



Soccer in the Streets is expanding a program that engages a diverse cross section of youth in Atlanta. Center, WonderRoot works to inspire local artists and communities to spark social change.



Odetta MacLeish-White is managing director at the TransFormation Alliance, a community partnership in Atlanta working to change how transit and community development investments shape quality of life.



a national development initiative of this magnitude boldly called out racial equity as a central priority.

“It became really clear that it was important for us to name it, and name it as the center,” says Brian Prater of the Low Income Investment Fund. “There was power in that, and we wanted people to know we value that.”

The approach that emerged hinged largely on leveraging regional, multidisciplinary networks in each of the six cities — what SPARCC’s founders call “collaborative tables.” They include participants from a diverse collection of nonprofits, foundations and businesses. These networks would seize on “catalytic moments” in their regions to identify and influence infrastructure spending to benefit all residents.

Solutions would be locally driven and community powered, with those residents most affected by proposed infrastructure projects — or least likely to benefit — at the table to participate in the decision-making process for their own neighborhoods.

Infrastructure and transportation in cities intersect with many indicators — from health to culture to ecology. SPARCC was designed so that stakeholders in each region could work

collaboratively toward solutions rather than independently. For instance, representatives from five Kresge teams — Arts & Culture, Environment, Health, American Cities and Social Investments — have been involved in its design and implementation.

“Most organizations structure their programs very vertically — you can only talk about the environmental challenge or you can only talk about the health challenge,” Kabel says. “It became obvious that SPARCC, as it was being designed, was something that could yield multiple benefits — not just in one field or sector, but across many.

“That’s why we have leadership from multiple programs involved in its creation.”

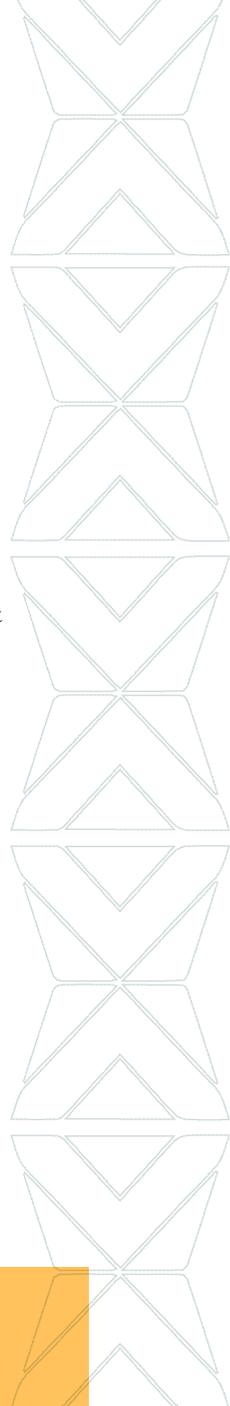
### Traction in Atlanta

For years, Atlanta nonprofits Southface Energy Institute and WonderRoot worked in different circles — silos, some would say. Southface focused on promoting sustainable development, alternative energy and green building that could respond locally to challenges presented by climate change. WonderRoot was hard at work inspiring local artists and communities to spark social change in a metropolitan area of almost six million people.

Their paths had never crossed until both were at the same table for a meeting of the TransFormation Alliance. That’s the SPARCC-

“These are dialogues and discussions that we are not accustomed to having. This is not the norm.”

—Brandon Jones, WonderRoot



supported community partnership working to change how transit and community development investments shape the future and offer all residents opportunities for a high quality of life. In the months that followed, WonderRoot and Southface joined forces on an innovative project to explore climate and cultural resilience in Atlanta’s Lee Street corridor. WonderRoot hired a staff member to engage community members in assessing the culture, arts and built landscape of their neighborhood.

Southface Executive Director Alex Trachtenberg says the question the Lee Street process aims to answer is twofold: “How do we implement Creative Placemaking that tells the story of the place and gives it an identity and is done in an aesthetically pleasing way, but also communicates that this is an area that needs intervention in the form of green infrastructure?”

The genius of the TransFormation Alliance is its ability to bring unlikely partners to the table to think about how their work intersects, says Brandon Jones, head of Creative Placemaking at WonderRoot.

“These are dialogues and discussions that we are not accustomed to having,” he adds. “This is not the norm.”

Unused parcels around transit stations are transformed into soccer fields in Atlanta to attract youths through sports.



A significant portion of the TransFormation Alliance’s work in Atlanta focuses on equitable development around transit stations. WonderRoot’s En Route project creates meaningful, aesthetically imaginative murals at train stations that explore issues of access, mobility and public transportation.

Alliance member Soccer in the Streets is expanding Station Soccer, a program that installs soccer fields on unused parcels in and

around transit stations and engages a diverse cross section of youth through sport. The alliance also works to strengthen local policy around development and transportation, has developed a tool for evaluating the needs of communities around transit stations, and is launching a six-module course that teaches residents how to advocate for better transportation.

Odetta MacLeish-White, who was hired as managing director for the TransFormation Alliance in October 2017, says each of these initiatives flows from an ecosystem rooted in individual education and community solidarity. That, she says, flows into infrastructure planning.

“How do we get people involved not just in saying what they want,” she asks, “but in decision-making?”

Learning how to make bottom-up infrastructure development work here in Atlanta — and in the other five SPARCC sites — promises to be a model for other communities around the country.





## vantage points

The managing directors of Kresge's program and practice teams share their insights about strategy, priorities, accomplishments and what they view to be the most pressing challenges going forward. 2017 foundation grants and investments can also be found here.

## Laying the Foundation for Higher Dividends



By Benjamin S. Kennedy  
Managing Director  
American Cities Practice

Throughout our nation's history, cities have served as the epicenters and vanguards of social and economic change in the United States.

We strongly believe that America's urban centers have potential to be accelerators of opportunity for people with low incomes, providing residents with access to jobs, education, housing, human-serving systems, city services and quality public spaces.

We are also of the belief that our investment approach — working with local partners and Kresge counterparts with disciplines different from our own — only propels us closer to promoting positive change for cities and the people who live in them.

Kresge's American Cities Practice is committed to supporting positive transformation in our cities and we center our grantmaking around achieving this vision.

One can see this ethos at work in the achievements we made in 2017:

- ▶ Deepening Kresge's multiteam engagements and investments in Memphis, including initiating a grantmaking application portal process for projects that yielded a dozen grant recommendations from four Kresge program teams;
- ▶ Threading together climate change activities of multiple foundations in New Orleans, an effort closely coordinated with Kresge's Environment Program;
- ▶ Stewarding the second year of the Reimagining the Civic Commons project in Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, Akron and Memphis, which is a \$40 million national initiative that seeks to reinvent public spaces in those cities. Kresge's Arts &

Culture and Detroit program teams also contribute to this work;

- ▶ Strengthening our ties to Kresge's Detroit Program in the recognition that our practice is grounded in our Detroit experiences and that the Detroit team is increasingly drawn into larger national conversations structured by us; and
- ▶ Crystalizing the objectives, partnership structure and workplan of the second iteration of our Drawing on Detroit platform. The project pulls together the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, the Urban Institute, Living Cities and Kresge into a multiyear process that will connect municipal leaders, philanthropy and national policy organizations in local and regional conversations designed to identify the tools of greatest value in promoting inclusive economic growth. This initiative builds on our earlier efforts to share the lessons we have learned from Detroit with cities across the country.

In its inaugural year in 2016, the American Cities Practice cohered around a cross-team, cross-discipline mode of working. This past year we saw that foundational work pays higher dividends as evidenced by the high-impact community development and practice work of our grantee partners.

## 2017 American Cities Practice Grants

Expanding opportunity by promoting effective and inclusive community development practice in American cities.

**Grants: 23** **Total Committed: \$5,197,126**

**BLDG Memphis**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$50,000

**The Brookings Institution**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$559,000

**Community Foundation of Greater Memphis**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$500,000

**Community Foundation of Greater Memphis\***  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$70,000

**Forward Communities**  
Raleigh, N.C.  
\$63,000

**Foundation for Louisiana**  
Baton Rouge, La.  
\$100,000

**Greater Milwaukee Committee**  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
\$250,000

**Historic Broad Avenue Arts Association**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$120,000

**In Our Backyards, Inc.**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
\$42,300

**Innovate Memphis**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$1,200,000

**Knowledge Quest\***  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$150,000

**Leadership Memphis**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$225,000

**Memphis Chamber Foundation**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$50,000

**Memphis Medical District Collaborative**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$75,000

**National Civil Rights Museum**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$50,000

**Riverfront Development Corp.**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$175,000

### Innovate Memphis

Innovate Memphis is part of the larger, national Reimagining the Civic Commons — a three-year, \$40 million multifunder initiative to revitalize public assets in Memphis as well as Akron, Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia. Reimagining the Civic Commons is the first comprehensive demonstration to prove that a connected set of civic assets can connect people of all backgrounds and yield increased and more equitably shared prosperity for cities and neighborhoods.



### Foundation for Louisiana

The Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation District is an inclusive revitalization project designed to promote economic and social opportunity for low-income New Orleans residents living in adjacent neighborhoods.

**Riverfront Development Corp.**  
 Memphis, Tenn.  
 \$85,000

**U3 Advisors, Inc.**  
 Philadelphia, Pa.  
 \$111,111

**University of Detroit Mercy**  
 Detroit, Mich.  
 \$39,715

**Urban Institute**  
 Washington, D.C.  
 \$1,000,000

**Urban Institute**  
 Washington, D.C.  
 \$60,000

**Wisconsin Council on Children and Families**  
 Madison, Wis.  
 \$150,000

**The Works, Inc.**  
 Memphis, Tenn.  
 \$72,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

**Urban Institute**

Analyzing more than three decades of data, the Urban Institute examined the relationship between economic health, economic inclusion and racial inclusion in America's largest cities — creating a robust report, an interactive tool and a set of case studies that examine how U.S. cities can overcome economic distress in a manner that provides opportunity for all residents.



## Doubling Down on the Arts

Our Arts & Culture grantees threw themselves into the task of driving positive change in their communities throughout 2017, making progress toward the fusion of arts, culture and community-engaged design into local decision-making processes.

There were plenty of reasons 2017 could have been the year when arts and culture sector actors withdrew into a defensive crouch — among them, the erosion of civil civic discourse; constant threats to eliminate critical funding sources; and a federal government that is hostile or indifferent to the social justice and equity values so crucial to artists and their communities.

Yet the sector stood strong. Our allies and partners forged ahead with renewed vigor on the vital work of Creative Placemaking on streets, blocks and neighborhoods from Los Angeles to Philadelphia, and from New Orleans to Minneapolis. It was a resounding acknowledgement of the imperative to focus even more intently on leveraging arts and culture as a tool to enliven neighborhoods, more tightly bind the social fabric of community and empower residents with agency and purpose.

Kresge's Arts & Culture team is incredibly proud of our partners' dogged work that increasingly establishes "preconditions for change" on the streets of our great American cities: physical transformation of neighborhoods, a community narrative shifting toward the authentic and positive and a stronger sense of agency and social bonds between and among neighbors and institutions.

Our team partnered closely with those doing Creative Placemaking work on the ground, providing the resources, tools and support necessary to expand opportunity and build vibrancy in resurgent communities.



By Regina R. Smith  
Managing Director  
Arts & Culture Program

We also:

- ▶ Worked in close partnership with ArtPlace America to strengthen a network of national Creative Placemaking practitioners;
- ▶ Commissioned a series of case studies and reports highlighting innovative approaches to Creative Placemaking;
- ▶ Convened IO national intermediaries to assess how to better embed Creative Placemaking in their operations and networks;
- ▶ Helped launch an exploration of how to infuse Creative Placemaking in community anchor institutions (cultural, medical, academic);
- ▶ Worked with Kresge's Health Program to select 23 implementation partners for the Fresh, Local & Equitable (FreshLo) initiative; and
- ▶ Made new investments in Detroit, exploring closer alignment with the Detroit team's neighborhood capacity-building initiative.

If there was any doubt that our community partners would rise to the challenges presented by a chaotic political and societal landscape, they were erased as 2017 progressed. We watched with pride and a touch of awe as they doubled down on the vital, affirming work of arts, culture and community-engaged design in their neighborhoods. To them we simply say, "Thank You!"

## 2017 Arts & Culture Program Grants

Seeking to build strong, healthy cities by promoting the integration of arts and culture in community revitalization.

**Grants: 41** **Total Committed: \$21,228,100**

**Americans for the Arts, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$150,000

**ArtPlace America**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
\$5,000,000

**Artspace Projects, Inc.**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$1,200,000

**AS220**  
Providence, R.I.  
\$500,000

**Asian Economic Development Association\***  
St. Paul, Minn.  
\$200,000

**Athens Land Trust\***  
Athens, Ga.  
\$200,000

**Building Bridges Across the River**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$600,000

**The Carnegie Hall Corp.\***  
New York, N.Y.  
\$50,000

**Center for Community Progress\***  
Flint, Mich.  
\$894,000

**Center for Great Neighborhoods of Covington**  
Covington, Ky.  
\$380,000

**Center for Great Neighborhoods of Covington\***  
Covington, Ky.  
\$200,000

**Center for Urban Pedagogy**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
\$250,000

**Chinatown Community Development Center**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$400,000

**City of Minneapolis**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$1,125,000

**City of Providence\***  
Providence, R.I.  
\$200,000

**Community Arts Stabilization Trust**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$390,000

**Community Science, Inc.**  
Gaithersburg, Md.  
\$42,000

**Design Future\***  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
\$50,000

**Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.**  
Columbia, Md.  
\$100,000

**Esperanza Community Housing Corp.**  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
\$250,000

**Focus: HOPE\***  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$200,000

**Fresno Metro Ministry\***  
Fresno, Calif.  
\$200,000

**Grantmakers in the Arts**  
Bronx, N.Y.  
\$90,000

**Green Opportunities, Inc.\***  
Asheville, N.C.  
\$200,000

**Inner-City Muslim Action Network\***  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$200,000

**Klondike Smokey City CDC**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$50,000

**Local Initiatives Support Corp. - National Office**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$1,500,000

**Memphis Library Foundation**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$132,100

**Mixed Blood Theatre**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$750,000

**New Museum of Contemporary Art**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$150,000

**Northeastern University**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$200,000

**Philadelphia Mural Arts Advocates**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$375,000

**Pillsbury United Communities**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$850,000

**PolicyLink**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$200,000

**Rebuild Foundation**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$1,200,000

**Riverworks Development Corp.\***  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
\$200,000

**Springboard for the Arts**  
St. Paul, Minn.  
\$675,000

**St. Clair Superior Development Corp.\***  
Cleveland, Ohio  
\$500,000

**Village of Arts and Humanities**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$375,000

**Voice of Calvary Ministries\***  
Jackson, Miss.  
\$200,000

**World Business Chicago**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$800,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

### Rebuild Foundation

Kresge supports the Rebuild Foundation's artist-driven community development and Creative Placemaking activities on Chicago's South Side. Shown here, Rebuild's Stony Island Arts Bank, a hybrid gallery, media archive, library and community center.



## Looking Straight Ahead on the Path to Prosperity

While our national discourse may be hostile, rancorous and fractious, the story at the local level is often inspiring.

Case in point? Detroit.

Three years after resolving the largest-ever municipal bankruptcy in the U.S., diverse stakeholders continue to build on the turnaround's momentum. Detroiters' intrepid spirit is reflected in new construction, in the renovation of buildings once fated for demolition, in new art galleries, retail outlets and eateries. Have no doubt, Detroit is rising.

But the job of expanding opportunity is just beginning. There is a growing recognition that a genuine, sustainable and fair comeback depends on improving opportunity and quality of life across the city and especially in neighborhoods. That's where the path to prosperity for Detroiters begins — or should. Research confirms that a neighborhood can launch children and families on a trajectory of success — or trap them in profound inequality. For too long, the latter has often been the reality in Detroit.

That's why we positioned neighborhoods as the center of our work in 2016. And it's why, in 2017, the first full year of our neighborhood focus, we dared to think big.

With Kresge's Social Investment Practice, we've worked to stabilize a financial crisis at Marygrove College and support its reinvention. We're looking to additional partners to jointly envision a cradle-to-career campus — the city's first and among the nation's few.

We've advanced an initiative of three-year general operating support grants to community development organizations on the frontlines of revitalization. Collaborating with Kresge's Education



By Wendy Lewis Jackson and  
Benjamin S. Kennedy  
*Managing Directors  
Detroit Program*

Program has led to investments in Detroit Drives Degrees, an initiative to increase the regional percentage of individuals with college degrees and high-skill credentials.

Our collaboration with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to provide high-quality early childhood programs resulted in the unveiling of the Hope Starts Here Detroit Early Childhood Framework, seeded with a \$50 million combined commitment.

Our partnership with Kresge's American Cities Practice, the city of Detroit, and other philanthropies culminated in groundbreakings for the new 2.5-acre Ella Fitzgerald Park and the nearby HomeBase, which will provide office and community-center space for the Live6 Alliance and other organizations serving northwestern Detroit.

Our gaze is fixed straight ahead. This next chapter in Detroit's revitalization hinges on those who stayed during the city's most difficult times, working in trust and partnership with newer arrivals. Together we'll reimagine an equitable city. This is where we'll build on the spark that's been started and expand opportunity in what we know can again be a great American city.

# Kresge Arts in Detroit

## SUPPORTING THE CREATIVE ECONOMY BY INVESTING IN ARTISTS

Artists are the heartbeat of community for Kresge's Detroit Program.

"We support arts institutions, and we support arts projects," says Detroit Program Managing Director Benjamin Kennedy. "But individual artists play an outsized role in our collective imagination. Support for artists as artists just makes good sense."



Kresge Arts in Detroit (KAID), administered by the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, presents awards for artists in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. From 2008 to 2017, the foundation — through KAID — recognized nine Kresge Eminent Artists with grants of \$50,000 each for lifetimes of excellence. Nine classes of Kresge Fellows — 162 in all — also received grants of \$25,000. Since 2015, Kresge has also annually recognized two emerging, risk-taking artists with Gilda Award grants of \$5,000. Collectively, it has meant \$4.5 million for the creative economy by way of the artists themselves.

The 2017 Eminent Artist award recognized harpist Patricia Terry-Ross for achievements as an educator, classical performer and studio musician (particularly for Motown Records). Nine fellows were recognized each in literary and visual arts, and a Gilda Awardee was named in each discipline. In addition to cash awards, fellows receive a year of professional practice support from Creative Many Michigan. They are also invited to attend an intensive professional development retreat presented by New York-based Creative Capital.



"From arts criticism to young adult fiction, sculpture to performance art and beyond, the fellows and Gilda Awardees we honored in 2017 exemplify the thought-provoking, high-quality creative work that is a hallmark of Detroit's creative sector," says Christina deRoos, director of Kresge Arts in Detroit. "Along with our Eminent Artists, they are strengthening Detroit's position as a major center for arts and culture."

The 2017 Kresge Artist Fellows (left) and 2017 Kresge Eminent Artist Patricia Terry-Ross (above).

## 2017 Detroit Program Grants

Collaborating with civic, nonprofit and business partners to foster long-term, equitable opportunity in our hometown.

**Grants: 116** **Total Committed: \$32,801,453**

**Allied Media Projects**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$150,000

**American Symphony Orchestra League**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$25,000

**ARISE Detroit!**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$50,000

**Arts League of Michigan, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$30,000

**Auntie Na's House**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$150,000

**Bing Youth Institute**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$30,000

**Bridging Communities, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**The Brightmoor Alliance**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$100,000

**The Brightmoor Alliance**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Campaign for Black Male Achievement**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$30,000

**Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Chalkbeat**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$75,000

**Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$25,000

**City Connect Detroit**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$25,000

**Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance, CDC**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**College for Creative Studies**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$2,427,300

**Community Development Advocates Detroit**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$300,000

**Community Development Advocates Detroit**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$63,000

**Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$1,250,000

**Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$5,000

**Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$13,000

**Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$350,000

**Community Reinvestment Fund**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$250,000

**Congress of Communities**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$90,000

**Corktown Economic Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$75,000

**Creative Many Michigan**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$296,000

**Culture Lab Detroit\***  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$50,000

**Data Driven Detroit**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$300,000

**Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Detroit Creative Corridor Center**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$450,000

**Detroit Economic Growth Association**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$150,000

**Detroit Economic Growth Association**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$175,000

### Congress of Communities

Congress of Communities serves Southwest Detroit by providing youth empowerment and development programs, issue advocacy and connections between community members and city services.



**Detroit Outdoors**

Detroit Outdoors, a collaboration between the City of Detroit's Parks and Recreation Department, Sierra Club and YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit, is reopening a long-abandoned campground in Detroit's Rouge Park for area youth.



**Detroit Economic Growth Association**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$350,000

**Detroit Economic Growth Association**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$65,000

**Detroit Educational Television**  
Wixom, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Detroit Employment Solutions Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$300,000

**Detroit Hispanic Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Detroit Historical Society**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$200,000

**Detroit Strategic Framework, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$1,400,000

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$1,000,000

**Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Development Centers, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$50,000

**Downtown Detroit Partnership, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Early Childhood Funder's Collaborative**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$54,406

**Eastside Community Network**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$130,000

**Eastside Community Network**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**EcoWorks**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$125,000

**Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.**  
Columbia, Md.  
\$300,000

**Focus: HOPE**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**GenesisHOPE Community Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$90,000

**German Marshall Fund of the United States**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$375,000

**Global Detroit\***  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$150,000

**Grandmont Rosedale Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$135,000

**Grandmont Rosedale Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**The Heat and Warmth Fund**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$16,306

**Heritage Works**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$130,000

**Heritage Works**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$25,300

**High Scope Educational Research Foundation**  
Ypsilanti, Mich.  
\$25,000

**IFF**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$200,000

**IFF - Detroit**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$846,000

**Invest Detroit Foundation**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$500,000

**Invest Detroit Foundation**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$450,000

**Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$30,000

**Joy-Southfield Community Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**LifeBUILDERS**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$75,000

**LifeBUILDERS**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Live6 Alliance**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$70,000

**Local Initiatives Support Corp. - Detroit**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$700,000

**Mack Avenue Community Church**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$2,000,000

**ARISE Detroit!**

ARISE Detroit! connects people and groups with volunteer opportunities in programs that serve youth, families and neighborhoods. Shown here, ARISE Detroit!'s annual Neighborhoods Day includes cleanup projects, picnics, health fairs, concerts, youth activities and more.



**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$400,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$980,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$200,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$400,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$600,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$600,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$1,000,000

**Michigan Advocacy Program\***  
Ann Arbor, Mich.  
\$600,000

**Michigan Community Resources**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Michigan Community Resources**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$50,000

**Midtown Detroit, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$900,000

**Midtown Detroit, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$470,000

**National Trust for Historic Preservation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$120,000

**Eastside Community Network**

Eastside Community Network plans to turn this vacant lot in Detroit into a rain garden with the help of students from nearby Alexander Hamilton School and other community members.



**The Nature Conservancy - Michigan Chapter\***  
Lansing, Mich.  
\$250,000

**New Detroit, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$10,000

**Oakland Avenue Artists Coalition**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Oakland Schools**  
Waterford, Mich.  
\$30,000

**Osborn Neighborhood Alliance**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$90,000

**Osborn Neighborhood Alliance**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Ponyride**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$20,000

**Power House Productions**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$130,000

**Prevention Michigan**  
Lansing, Mich.  
\$450,000

**Race Forward\***  
New York, N.Y.  
\$100,000

**Sierra Club Foundation**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$200,000

**Southwest Detroit Business Association, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$135,000

**Southwest Detroit Business Association, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$250,000

**Southwest Housing Solutions**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**Starfish Family Services, Inc.**  
Inkster, Mich.  
\$50,000

**Starfish Family Services, Inc.**  
Inkster, Mich.  
\$5,000

**Transportation Riders United**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$15,000

**U SNAP BAC Non-Profit Housing Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$150,000

**U SNAP BAC Non-Profit Housing Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$95,000

**U3 Advisors, Inc.**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$180,000

**University of California at Berkeley**  
Berkeley, Calif.  
\$42,000

**University of Detroit Mercy**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$125,000

**University of Detroit Mercy**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$2,200,000

**University of Detroit Mercy**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$15,000

**Urban Institute**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$84,641

**Urban Neighborhood Initiatives, Inc.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$180,000

**The Villages of Detroit**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$90,000

**Wayne State University**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$1,300,000

**Woodbridge Neighborhood Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Woodbridge Neighborhood Development Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$90,000

**Young Nation**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$68,500

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

## Dismantling Barriers, But More Work to Do

The U.S. college access and success field has matured. We have a strong cohort of go-to solutions that dismantle barriers to student success, such as improving remedial math and English courses, redesigning advising practices and clarifying pathways to graduation.

Now we need to expand effective reforms while reviewing chronically underexamined obstacles to student success, including off-campus issues like hunger and housing. A 2017 Kresge-supported study from the Wisconsin Hope Center found 14 percent of community college students are homeless; two-thirds are food insecure.

Still, real change — progress — is happening. In early 2018, the National Center for Education Statistics reported that the number of low-income students going to college now stands at 65 percent. That's up from 50 percent just five years ago, and is now on par with middle-income student college enrollment.

Clearly, low-income students and families know they must go to college to succeed. What we need to ensure now is that those newly enrolled students complete their college degree programs.

In 2017, the Kresge Education team doubled down in several areas. We supported Strong Start to Finish, joining The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates to promote more effective developmental math interventions and pathways.

We tapped our partner, Institute for Higher Education Policy, to launch Degrees When Due, a combination of two previously funded initiatives (Project Win-Win and Credit When It's Due) that combine reverse transfer and degree reclamation efforts.



By William F.L. Moses  
Managing Director  
Education Program

We invested, through AGB Investment Strategies, in a cohort of historically black colleges and universities to ensure they build sustainable paths toward the future. This marked our team's second program-related investment in partnership with Kresge's Social Investment Practice team — and we hope to make more. This is why we also partnered with The Lumina Foundation last spring to publish a landscape analysis on impact investing in higher education.

We also celebrated the success of cities that raised FAFSA completion rates through the FAFSA Completion Challenge. Working with our partner, the National College Access Network, 22 cities in the challenge raised FAFSA completion rates by nearly 5 percentage points, and eight won small grants to continue their work. And we were inspired by stories from some of the students who received student financial aid through FAFSA at *FAFSAsories.org*.

In South Africa, we brought together 200 success-minded university leaders at the Siyaphumelela ("We Succeed") student success conference in Johannesburg. And in our hometown of Detroit, we supported Detroit Drives Degrees, an effort of the Detroit Regional Chamber to increase college attainment in the region.

But this is no time to rest. While national statistics indicate progress in getting more low-income students into college, not all is well. In addition to the risk of low-income students failing and dropping out, equity gaps remain for many students of color.

There's more work to do. That's where you'll find us, and our partners, in 2018.

## 2017 Education Program Grants

Promoting postsecondary access and success for low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students.

**Grants: 76** **Total Committed: \$21,116,064**

**Achieving the Dream**  
Silver Spring, Md.  
\$35,000

**Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group**  
Warrenton, Va.  
\$160,000

**American Indian College Fund**  
Denver, Colo.  
\$450,000

**Arizona State University Foundation**  
Tempe, Ariz.  
\$1,000,000

**Arkansas Community Colleges**  
Little Rock, Ark.  
\$250,000

**Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$190,000

**The Aspen Institute, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$500,000

**Association for the Study of Higher Education**  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
\$10,000

**Association of Community College Trustees**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$30,000

**Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$575,000

**Association of Public and Land-grant Universities**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$249,090

**Association of Public and Land-grant Universities**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$200,000

**Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching**  
Stanford, Calif.  
\$300,000

**Center for Michigan\***  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$450,000

**Civic Nation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$375,000

**Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities**  
Towson, Md.  
\$10,000

**CollegeSpring**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$50,000

**Colorado Department of Higher Education**  
Denver, Colo.  
\$175,000

**Community Growth Educational Foundation, Inc.**  
Alexandria, Va.  
\$600,000

**Complete College America**  
Indianapolis, Ind.  
\$220,000

**Con Mi MADRE**  
Austin, Texas  
\$25,000

**Council for Adult and Experiential Learning**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$65,000

**Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation\***  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$450,000

**Durban University of Technology**  
Durban, South Africa  
\$100,000

**E3 Alliance**  
Austin, Texas  
\$50,000

**EdSource**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$150,000

**Education Commission of the States**  
Denver, Colo.  
\$1,750,000

**Education Writers Association**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$30,000

**Excelencia in Education, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$750,000

**Excelsior College**  
Albany, N.Y.  
\$300,000

**Families in Schools**  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
\$100,000

**Foundation for California Community Colleges**  
Sacramento, Calif.  
\$324,990

**Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Institute**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$100,000

### Inyathelo

Inyathelo (South African Institute of Advancement) works with eight South African universities to help build their advancement capacity and increase private fundraising revenue.



**Gateway to College National Network**  
Portland, Ore.  
\$375,000

**Goddard-Riverside Community Center**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$100,000

**Grantmakers for Education**  
Portland, Ore.  
\$20,000

**iMentor**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$125,000

**Indiana University**  
Bloomington, Ind.  
\$100,000

**Institute for College Access and Success, Inc.**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$500,000

**Institute for Higher Education Policy**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$1,500,000

**Inyathelo**  
Cape Town, South Africa  
\$857,734

**Leadership Memphis**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$25,000

**Macomb Community College Foundation**  
Warren, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Michigan College Access Network**  
Lansing, Mich.  
\$260,000

**Michigan Community College Association**  
Lansing, Mich.  
\$750,000

**National College Access Network, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$850,000

**National College Advising Corps, Inc.**  
Chapel Hill, N.C.  
\$50,000

**National Student Clearinghouse**  
Herndon, Va.  
\$100,000

**Nelson Mandela University**  
Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
\$100,000

**New America Foundation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$420,000

**New America Foundation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$20,000

**Oakland University**  
Rochester, Mich.  
\$100,000

**Oakland University**  
Rochester, Mich.  
\$75,000

**Paul Quinn College**  
Dallas, Texas  
\$250,000

**Postsecondary National Policy Institute**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$180,000

**Results for America**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$150,000

### Detroit Drives Degrees

A three-year grant supports the Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation's Detroit Drives Degrees initiative. This comprehensive student success campaign is designed to boost education attainment among underrepresented students.



**Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$781,250

**State Higher Education Executive Officers Association**  
Boulder, Colo.  
\$10,000

**Student African American Brotherhood**  
Toledo, Ohio  
\$150,000

**Teachers College, Columbia University**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$55,000

**Temple University\***  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$550,000

**Three Frame Media**  
Santa Monica, Calif.  
\$150,000

**Universities South Africa**  
Pretoria, South Africa  
\$50,000

**University of Cape Town**  
Rondebosch, South Africa  
\$275,000

**University of Michigan**  
Ann Arbor, Mich.  
\$98,000

**University of Notre Dame Du Lac**  
Notre Dame, Ind.  
\$275,000

**University of Pretoria**  
Hatfield, South Africa  
\$325,000

**University of Pretoria**  
Hatfield, South Africa  
\$100,000

**The University of Texas at Austin**  
Austin, Texas  
\$95,000

**University of the Free State**  
Bloemfontein, South Africa  
\$100,000

**University of the Witwatersrand**  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
\$100,000

**University of Virginia**  
Charlottesville, Va.  
\$45,000

**University System of Maryland**  
Adelphi, Md.  
\$150,000

**Wayne State University**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$275,000

**Young Invincibles**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$200,000

**YouthBuild USA, Inc.\***  
Somerville, Mass.  
\$300,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

## Making Progress in the Face of Challenges

Three of the five costliest hurricanes ever to hit the U.S. — Harvey, Irma and Maria — occurred in 2017, causing tragic losses in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Wildfires devastated vast acreage in the American South and West with profound consequences for entire communities and regions. And global warming trends continued; 2017 joined 2014, 2015 and 2016 as one of the Earth's four hottest years since recordkeeping began in 1880.

Even as evidence of climate change increased, the federal administration systematically dismantled policies and agreements intended to place the nation and world on a safer, more climate-friendly path. The president announced his intent to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate accord. The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency acted to repeal the Clean Power Plan. Climate change data and toolkits began to disappear from federal websites.

Against this challenging backdrop, The Kresge Foundation's Board of Trustees reaffirmed in 2017 the Environment Program's charge to help cities implement climate-resilience approaches grounded in equity.

Despite an unfavorable federal context, the foundation recognized the:

- ▶ Continued urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change;
- ▶ Profound social justice implications of climate change and our responsibility to bring an equity lens to the work;
- ▶ Private-sector momentum and investment toward a clean energy economy;



By Lois R. DeBacker  
Managing Director  
Environment Program

- ▶ Leadership of cities and some states that provided an opportunity for continued progress; and
- ▶ Growing base of community leaders engaged on climate change locally.

Therefore, in 2017, we continued to support:

- ▶ Organizations influencing public-led processes important to climate resilience in their home cities and regions;
- ▶ National networks of community, nonprofit, municipal and utility leaders active in climate change and urban sustainability efforts;
- ▶ Organizations with expertise in technical issues and racial equity that shared their knowledge with other grantees; and
- ▶ Innovators testing new approaches to finance green infrastructure and resilient power systems in low-income communities, working in close partnership with the foundation's Social Investment Practice.

We began to build a new body of work focused on Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS). We also invested in efforts to defend the nation's bedrock environmental policies, including strengthening representation of equity-focused organizations in the Clean Water for All and Climate Action campaigns, and the People's Climate March.

We were inspired by the determination, intelligence and persistence of our grantees and heartened by their accomplishments during the year. Progress is our only choice!

## 2017 Environment Program Grants

Helping cities implement comprehensive climate-resilience approaches grounded in equity.

**Grants: 62** **Total Committed: \$17,271,657**

**2030, Inc. / Architecture 2030**  
Santa Fe, N.M.  
\$600,000

**Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments\***  
Mt. Rainier, Md.  
\$193,725

**American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$300,000

**American Rivers, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$196,217

**American Society of Adaptation Professionals**  
Montpelier, Vt.  
\$600,000

**Anthropocene Alliance**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$350,000

**Biodiversity Funders Group**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$97,500

**Carpe Diem West**  
Sausalito, Calif.  
\$150,000

**Center for American Progress**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$480,000

**Center for Earth Energy and Democracy**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$300,000

**Center for Planning Excellence, Inc.**  
Baton Rouge, La.  
\$250,000

**Center for Social Inclusion, Inc.**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$25,000

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.\***  
Annapolis, Md.  
\$370,000

**Clean Energy Group, Inc.**  
Montpelier, Vt.  
\$75,000

**Climate Access**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$150,000

**Climate Central, Inc.**  
Princeton, N.J.  
\$600,000

**Communities for a Better Environment**  
Huntington Park, Calif.  
\$5,000

**Community Wealth Partners**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$550,000

**Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc.**  
New Orleans, La.  
\$100,000

**Earth Economics**  
Tacoma, Wash.  
\$540,000

**EcoAdapt**  
Bainbridge Island, Wash.  
\$100,000

**EcoDistricts\***  
Portland, Ore.  
\$400,000

**Fair Share Housing Center, Inc.**  
Cherry Hill, N.J.  
\$403,990

**Fair Share Housing Center, Inc.**  
Cherry Hill, N.J.  
\$30,000

**Fresh Coast Capital\***  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$500,000

**Freshwater Future**  
Petoskey, Mich.  
\$50,000

**Global Green USA\***  
Santa Monica, Calif.  
\$350,000

**Global Philanthropy Partnership**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$1,000,000

**Global Philanthropy Partnership**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$450,000

**Global Philanthropy Partnership**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$50,000

**GreenLatinos**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$50,000

**Groundwork New Orleans**  
New Orleans, La.  
\$100,000

**Gulf Restoration Network**  
New Orleans, La.  
\$245,000

**Carpe Diem West**  
Carpe Diem West's efforts advance improved water resource policies and practices, while ensuring a more sustainable future for the American West.



**One Voice**

One Voice works to give voice to marginalized and vulnerable communities across the South by democratizing public policy through research, training, education and organizing.



**Hip Hop Caucus**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$50,000

**Innovation Network for Communities**  
Tamworth, N.H.  
\$89,200

**Institute for Sustainable Communities**  
Montpelier, Vt.  
\$500,000

**Institute for Sustainable Communities**  
Montpelier, Vt.  
\$250,000

**Island Press - Center for Resource Economics**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$700,000

**Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation**  
New Orleans, La.  
\$180,000

**Local Clean Energy Alliance**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$50,000

**Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy**  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
\$20,000

**Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development**  
New Orleans, La.  
\$40,000

**Movement Strategy Center**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$600,000

**NAACP**  
Baltimore, Md.  
\$550,000

**National Council for Science & Environment**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$49,985

**National Wildlife Federation**  
Reston, Va.  
\$100,000

**New York City Energy Efficiency Corp.**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$100,000

**One Voice**  
Jackson, Miss.  
\$150,000

**PaceNation**  
Pleasantville, N.Y.  
\$180,000

**Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$100,000

**Partnership for Southern Equity**  
Atlanta, Ga.  
\$300,000

**The Partnership Project, Inc.\***  
Washington, D.C.  
\$425,000

**People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc.\***  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
\$350,000

**PolicyLink**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$250,000

**Public Health Institute**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$282,040

**Race Forward**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$1,225,000

**Re:Focus Partners**  
San Diego, Calif.  
\$220,000

**Share Our Strength**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$50,000

**The Solutions Project**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$25,000

**ULI Foundation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$600,000

**US Water Alliance**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$24,000

**Van Alen Institute\***  
New York, N.Y.  
\$150,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

**Earth Economics**

Earth Economics is accelerating green infrastructure and climate resilience projects across the U.S. by providing planning, financing and national policy support to local agencies and community organizations.



## Good Health and Well-Being — for Everyone

2017 was a year that motivated our team to continue to think creatively about how we can create opportunities for all people to achieve well-being. During that time, we were proud to work alongside grantees and partners who embraced creativity and innovation despite the challenges and factors that contributed to uncertainty in our field.

The ongoing changes in the health system, including deeper integration between the health and human services sectors, requires new leaders at multiple levels, and across multiple sectors. That is why the Kresge Health team continues to invest in leadership and human capital development.

Through our Emerging Leaders in Public Health initiative, we were proud to select 20 new leadership teams in 2017 to participate in our second cohort; after the third cohort is selected in mid-2018, the initiative will have supported 100 public health leaders who are working to develop new roles for public health departments in their communities.

Additionally, initiatives that we have been supporting over the past few years continue to grow and demonstrate incredible progress in communities and neighborhoods across the nation. For example, The BUILD Health Challenge awarded grants to 19 community collaborations that aim to transform health in low-income communities. The challenge, funded by Kresge and 11 other organizations, supports a growing network of health partners and funders who approach health and wellness through innovative, community-led interventions.



By David D. Fukuzawa  
*Managing Director  
Health Program*

Over the last 10 years, the Health Program has focused on advancing innovations in population health within our health systems and addressing the social determinants of health. This focus to make sure people have access to economic opportunities and resources that support health — safe, affordable housing; fresh food; clean air; and primary care — provides a platform for the health sector to engage in cross-disciplinary approaches.

Throughout 2017, we spent time reflecting on our collaborations with our many grantees and partners to determine where we are most effective as a team and how we can help communities across the country create equity-focused systems of health. Multisector collaborations are essential to achieving this goal.

Last fall, we introduced three new strategic focus areas that will guide our work as we move forward. We will continue to support efforts to integrate health and human services, catalyze institutional investments in community health and improve health conditions driven by locally determined solutions.

On behalf of the Health Program, I hope you will enjoy learning more about the incredible and impactful work of our partners.

## 2017 Health Program Grants

Helping to build equity-focused systems of health that create opportunities for all people to achieve well-being.

**Grants: 67** **Total Committed: \$18,734,844**

**AARP Foundation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$111,625

**Binghamton Development Corp.\***  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$200,000

**Boston Public Health Commission**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$124,992

**Cameron County Department of Health and Human Services**  
San Benito, Texas  
\$124,938

**Center for Active Design**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$50,000

**The Center for Community Self-Help**  
Durham, N.C.  
\$500,000

**Center for Good Food Purchasing**  
Berkeley, Calif.  
\$400,000

**Center for Public Integrity**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$500,000

**Children's HealthWatch**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$500,000

**City of Manchester Health Department**  
Manchester, N.H.  
\$125,000

**City of Minneapolis - Health Department**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$125,000

**City of Pasadena Public Health Department**  
Pasadena, Calif.  
\$125,000

**Convergence Center for Policy Resolution**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$120,000

**Corporation for Supportive Housing**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$225,000

**Crater Health District**  
Petersburg, Va.  
\$122,500

**DAISA Enterprises\***  
South Hadley, Mass.  
\$3,146,544

**Douglas County Health Department**  
Omaha, Neb.  
\$124,859

**Dream of Wild Health\***  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$200,000

**DuPage County Health Department**  
Wheaton, Ill.  
\$125,000

**Elijah's Promise, Inc.\***  
New Brunswick, N.J.  
\$200,000

**Environmental Health Watch\***  
Cleveland, Ohio  
\$200,000

**Essential Hospitals Institute**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$250,000

**Fair Food Network**  
Ann Arbor, Mich.  
\$450,000

**Fannie E. Rippel Foundation**  
Morristown, N.J.  
\$50,000

**Fenton Communications, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$200,000

**Florida Department of Health - Volusia County**  
Daytona Beach, Fla.  
\$125,000

**George Washington University**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$249,073

**George Washington University**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$799,983

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs\***  
Atlanta, Ga.  
\$391,962

**Harris County Public Health**  
Houston, Texas  
\$125,000

**Health and Environmental Funders Network**  
Rockville, Md.  
\$15,000

**Healthy Building Network**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$250,000

**HousingNOLA**  
New Orleans, La.  
\$75,000

### George Washington University/ Building Community Resilience

The Building Community Resilience initiative seeks to close the gap between clinical care and community-based resources for children who have experienced trauma. Kresge's grant supports a new partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials to develop relationships with local health departments to support child, family and community well-being. Building Community Resilience partnered with the Washington, D.C., mayor's office to bring together 40 individuals on the front lines to discuss barriers that negatively affect residents.



**City of Manchester Health Department**

As participants in the second cohort of Kresge's Emerging Leaders in Public Health initiative to equip local public health officers with knowledge and leadership skills, Timothy Soucy and Anna Thomas of Manchester, New Hampshire, received a grant and are developing a role of Chief Health Strategist. The position will mobilize key cross-sector partners to achieve collective impact on health issues in the city.



**Rhode Island Department of Health**  
Providence, R.I.  
\$125,000

**RiverStone Health Foundation\***  
Billings, Mont.  
\$200,000

**Sankofa Community Development Corp.\***  
New Orleans, La.  
\$200,000

**Seattle and King County Department of Public Health**  
Seattle, Wash.  
\$124,717

**Southeastern Michigan Health Association**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$80,000

**Southwest District Health**  
Caldwell, Idaho  
\$124,087

**Spokane Regional Health District**  
Spokane, Wash.  
\$123,330

**Stewards of Change\***  
Centerport, N.Y.  
\$1,196,323

**Tides Foundation**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$1,000,000

**Trust for America's Health**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$249,750

**Trustees of Tufts College**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$100,000

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
Chapel Hill, N.C.  
\$110,000

**Yuma County Public Health Services District**  
Yuma, Ariz.  
\$116,828

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

**Ingham County Health Department**  
Lansing, Mich.  
\$125,000

**La Crosse County Health Department**  
La Crosse, Wis.  
\$124,957

**La Mujer Obrera\***  
El Paso, Texas  
\$200,000

**Lane County Public Health**  
Eugene, Ore.  
\$123,376

**Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department**  
Lawrence, Kan.  
\$125,000

**Le Bonheur Children's Hospital Foundation**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$400,000

**McComb-Veazey Neighborhood\***  
Lafayette, La.  
\$200,000

**Montbello Organizing Committee\***  
Denver, Colo.  
\$200,000

**Neighborhood Preservation, Inc.**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$150,000

**New Venture Fund\***  
Washington, D.C.  
\$1,000,000

**Nonprofit Finance Fund**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$60,000

**Oklahoma City-County Health Department**  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
\$125,000

**Partnership for Community Action\***  
Albuquerque, N.M.  
\$200,000

**Placeful Company, Inc.\***  
New York, N.Y.  
\$200,000

**Planting Justice\***  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$200,000

**PolicyLink\***  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$700,000

**Prevention Institute**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$50,000

**Public Health Institute**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$70,000

**Public Health Institute**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$100,000

**Public Health Institute**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$100,000

**Rainier Beach Action Coalition\***  
Seattle, Wash.  
\$200,000

## Collaborating to Support Ecosystems and Policies

The work of our Human Services grantees to advance and accelerate social and economic mobility makes a difference for children, youth and families in America's cities.

As the social safety net continues to be threatened by efforts to dismantle it, the important work grantees do is essential to creating equitable opportunity for people with low incomes.

The Human Services team has had the great privilege of working alongside Raquel Hatter this year, who joined our program as deputy director in early 2017 and brought with her more than 25 years of experience supporting adults, children and families as both a practitioner and administrator in the field of human services. We have been thrilled to share her expertise and insight with you.

Human services organizations across our country continue to work creatively to advance social and economic mobility for individuals and families. This is why we were proud to launch the Next Generation of Human Services Organizations initiative this year recognizing 13 leading human services organizations for innovative approaches that positively influence social and economic mobility for their clients.

The two-year program offers the organizations both a leadership model to give their teams room to grow and grant support to continue their work developing new service models that are person-centered, data-driven and collaborative.

Additionally, we spent time this past year gathering fellow funders, public and private human services providers and experts



By David D. Fukuzawa and Raquel T. Hatter  
*Managing Director and Deputy Director  
Human Services Program*

in our field to explore how we can work together to best support both human services ecosystems in cities as well as policies that advance and accelerate social and economic mobility. These discussions were vigorous and informative and helped us continue to think strategically about how we can continue to support this changing field.

Strategic thinking also took us to the future. This year we worked alongside the Institute for Alternative Futures to consider the preferred path for human services to take by the year 2035. We partnered with three states, two counties, three cities and leaders from human services organizations to think through the challenges and opportunities the sector will face. We look forward to sharing these resources with you in 2018.

Also, our team continued to grow throughout the year with the addition of Senior Program Officer Joelle-Jude Fontaine in fall 2017. A welcome addition, Joelle-Jude is providing expertise and guidance to grantees of our Next Generation of Human Services Organizations initiative. Additionally, Sandra McAlister Ambrozy now serves as a senior fellow in the foundation's executive office and we will continue to enjoy her partnership in her new role of expanding support for civil legal aid.

## 2017 Human Services Program Grants

Supporting the advancement of human services to accelerate social and economic mobility for people with low income.

**Grants: 39** **Total Committed: \$18,444,750**

**Alliance for Strong Families and Communities**  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
\$1,500,000

**American Public Human Services Association**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$104,750

**The Aspen Institute, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$1,100,000

**Asset Funders Network**  
Evanston, Ill.  
\$25,000

**Carnegie Mellon University**  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$300,000

**Catalyst Miami**  
Miami, Fla.  
\$500,000

**Center for Law and Social Policy\***  
Washington, D.C.  
\$1,500,000

**Center for Urban Families, Inc.**  
Baltimore, Md.  
\$500,000

**The Center for Victims of Torture**  
St. Paul, Minn.  
\$75,000

**Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$1,000,000

**Community Solutions International, Inc.\***  
New York, N.Y.  
\$750,000

**Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc.**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$500,000

**Council for a Strong America**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$100,000

**Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$500,000

**First Place for Youth**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$200,000

**The Forum for Youth Investment**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$665,000

**Funders Together to End Homelessness**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$50,000

**Grantmakers for Income Security Taskforce**  
Durham, N.C.  
\$50,000

**Juma Ventures**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$500,000

**Larkin Street Services**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$200,000

**Latin American Youth Center**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$500,000

**LIFT**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$500,000

**More Than Words, Inc.**  
Waltham, Mass.  
\$500,000

**National Association of Counties Research Foundation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$500,000

**National Center for State Courts\***  
Williamsburg, Va.  
\$300,000

**National Human Services Assembly**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$625,000

### UTEC, Inc.

UTEC, Inc. was selected as part of the Next Generation of Human Services initiative, which is a network of 13 leading human services organizations. This grant supports UTEC's comprehensive service model for young adults with serious past criminal involvement, including two-generation programming for proven-risk young parents and their children.



**Alliance for Strong Families and Communities**

The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities is working to revolutionize operations of the nonprofit sector and advance the sector's shared vision of a healthy and equitable society by executing innovative projects in health and human services integration, equity and educational success.



**National League of Cities Institute, Inc.**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$600,000

**New Door Ventures**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$500,000

**Preble Street**  
Portland, Maine  
\$50,000

**Preble Street**  
Portland, Maine  
\$200,000

**Project for Pride in Living, Inc.**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$500,000

**Results for America**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$250,000

**Seachange Capital Partners, Inc.**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$300,000

**Strive Together**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
\$750,000

**United Teen Equality Center**  
Lowell, Mass.  
\$500,000

**United Way of the Mid-South**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$300,000

**Urban Strategies, Inc.\***  
St. Louis, Mo.  
\$450,000

**Yale University**  
New Haven, Conn.  
\$500,000

**Youth Policy Institute**  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
\$500,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

**Center for Law and Social Policy**

The Center for Law and Social Policy is strengthening state Medicaid, mental health and human services policies and fostering greater integration between these systems. The goal is to improve access to effective mental health services for families experiencing maternal depression and for youth and young adults with mental health needs.



## Complex Deals Aim to Bring Opportunity to Real People

Around the holidays, a mother and her children moved into a new home. They were the first family to occupy a newly created Section 8 housing unit in a blue-ribbon school district near Minneapolis.

Under most circumstances, an apartment in that neighborhood would be financially out of reach for the family, save for an innovative program of the National Housing Trust (NHT). Backed by a \$6 million Kresge program-related investment that closed in 2017, NHT buys and renovates apartments in middle-income neighborhoods and makes 20 percent of the units available to Section 8 voucher holders.

Why? Because research shows when low-income children move into high-opportunity neighborhoods, their life outcomes flip.

Sometimes in social investing, it's hard to connect the dots between complex deals and personal impact. But eventually, as purpose-driven capital moves from financial entities into communities, it brings opportunity to real people.

That's the focus of Kresge's Social Investment Practice — to influence the financial systems that support all community development and ensure more capital reaches the people and places that need it most. To do that, in 2017, our team:

- ▶ Approved 22 total transactions;
- ▶ Approved six guarantees, totaling \$29 million;
- ▶ Added to our cohort of Kresge Community Finance partners with nine more approved investments totaling \$16 million;
- ▶ Committed more than \$52 million to social investments;



By Kimberlee R. Cornett  
Managing Director  
Social Investment Practice

- ▶ Completed capital scans with our Environment and Education teams that led to new investments with both program areas; and
- ▶ Debuted the “Mission, Money & Markets” blog where our team and partners from the field share lessons learned.

We also saw \$7.6 million in principal and interest repayments flow back into the foundation. That's a lot of capital we can recycle for other charitable purposes.

And there's plenty of need to direct those resources toward. People across the country require affordable housing, small business funding and access to healthy food and health centers more than ever. Meanwhile, the community development finance system that makes many of these programs possible is increasingly at risk as a result of federal policy changes.

I don't know the name of that mother, or her full story. She undoubtedly has no idea of the role Kresge might have played in her life. That's OK. I just hope she's thriving. That her children are enjoying their new school. That their community has opened its arms to her family. And that Kresge can keep investing dollars to make more stories like this possible.



## 2017 Social Investment Practice – Investments

Leveraging the foundation’s assets to support markets not well served by the private financial sector.

**Investments: 22** **Total Committed: \$51,650,000**

**AGB Institutional Strategies**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$1,500,000

**Aura Mortgage Advisors**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$3,000,000

**Capital Impact Partners**  
Arlington, Va.  
\$1,000,000

**Colorado Housing Finance Authority**  
Denver, Colo.  
\$2,000,000

**Community Reinvestment Fund**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
\$1,200,000

**Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement**  
Kapolei, Hawaii  
\$500,000

**Detroit Development Fund**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$600,000

**Eastern Market Corp.**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$750,000

**Enterprise Community Loan Fund**  
Columbia, Md.  
\$2,500,000

### Aura Mortgage Advisors

A Kresge guarantee supported SUN's application to the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program, which unlocked \$100 million of long-term, fixed-rate financing to scale the program. It also encouraged the BGP to adjust its structure and underwriting criteria to permit a wider range of projects for financing.



**Low Income Investment Fund**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$2,500,000

**Forward Community Investments**  
Madison, Wis.  
\$1,000,000

**Fresh Coast Capital**  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$750,000

**Marygrove College**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$500,000

**Maycomb Capital**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$10,000,000

**Memphis Edge**  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$1,000,000

**National Federation for Community Development Credit Unions**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$1,000,000

**National Housing Trust**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$2,500,000

**Nonprofit Finance Fund**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$3,000,000

**Prudential Financial**  
Newark, N.J.  
\$10,000,000

**Saint Paul Port Authority**  
St. Paul, Minn.  
\$3,000,000

**Self-Help Ventures Fund**  
Durham, N.C.  
\$3,000,000

**Social Finance**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$350,000

## 2017 Social Investment Practice – Grants

The Kresge Foundation is able to offer a range of support including grants, loans, equity and guarantees.

**Grants: 25** **Total Committed: \$1,978,000**

**Aeris Insight, Inc.**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$30,000

**Boston Community Loan Fund\***  
Roxbury, Mass.  
\$150,000

**Capital Impact Partners\***  
Arlington, Va.  
\$100,000

**Connecticut Green Bank\***  
Rocky Hill, Conn.  
\$150,000

**Conservation Law Foundation, Inc.**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$50,000

**Cooperative Fund of New England\***  
Amherst, Mass.  
\$50,000

**Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement\***  
Kapolei, Hawaii  
\$25,000

**Council of Development Finance Agencies**  
Columbus, Ohio  
\$50,000

**Council of Development Finance Agencies**  
Columbus, Ohio  
\$25,000

**Economic Development Growth Engine for Memphis and Shelby County\***  
Memphis, Tenn.  
\$50,000

**Enterprise Community Loan Fund\***  
Columbia, Md.  
\$150,000

**Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.**  
Columbia, Md.  
\$20,000

**Forward Community Investments\***  
Madison, Wis.  
\$50,000

**Global Impact Investing Network**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$33,000

**Global Impact Investing Network**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$15,000

**Low Income Investment Fund**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$50,000

**Mission Investors Exchange**  
Seattle, Wash.  
\$130,000

**Memphis EDGE**

The Economic Development Growth Engine provides and coordinates public resources through incentive programs to foster public-private partnerships. This loan will be used to partially fund a loan pool to finance a mixed-use real estate development, small business capital and a multi-family housing development.



**National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, Inc.\***  
New York, N.Y.  
\$50,000

**National Housing Trust Community Development Fund\***  
Washington, D.C.  
\$125,000

**Nonprofit Finance Fund\***  
Memphis, N.Y.  
\$150,000

**Opportunity Finance Network**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$50,000

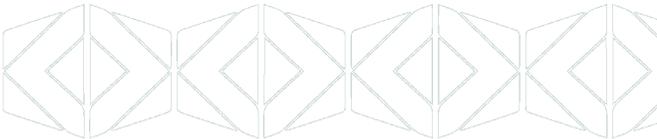
**Opportunity Finance Network**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$25,000

**The Reinvestment Fund, Inc.\***  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$150,000

**Saint Paul Port Authority\***  
St. Paul, Minn.  
\$150,000

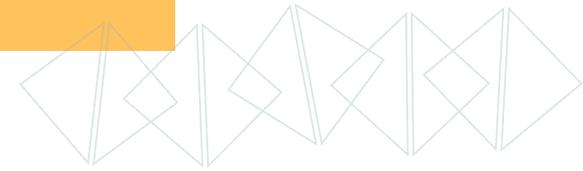
**Self-Help Ventures Fund\***  
Durham, N.C.  
\$150,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*



## 2017 Presidential Discretion Grants

**Grants: 16 Total Committed: \$1,475,000**



**American Academy of Arts and Sciences**  
Cambridge, Mass.  
\$100,000

**Cambridge in America**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$50,000

**Columbia University in the City of New York**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$250,000

**Duke University**  
Durham, N.C.  
\$50,000

**Eisenhower Foundation**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$25,000

**Empowered by Light**  
Larkspur, Calif.  
\$100,000

**Excellent Schools Detroit**  
Detroit, Mich.  
\$50,000

**GreenFaith**  
Highland Park, N.J.  
\$100,000

**History Making Productions**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
\$200,000

**Japanese American National Museum**  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
\$100,000

**New Venture Fund**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$50,000

**pfc Social Impact Advisors**  
St. Paul, Minn.  
\$100,000

**South Carolina Community Bank**  
Columbia, S.C.  
\$50,000

**U.S.-Japan Council**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$100,000

**University of California at Berkeley**  
Berkeley, Calif.  
\$50,000

**University of Southern California**  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
\$100,000



**Japanese American National Museum**

Volunteer docents lead a school tour of the “Common Ground: The Heart of Community” exhibition chronicling 130 years of Japanese American history at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California.





## 2017 Special Initiatives/Other Grants

**Grants: 25 Total Committed: \$2,285,000**

**Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$30,000

**Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Actions\***  
Indianapolis, Ind.  
\$50,000

**Association of Black Foundation Executives, Inc.**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$90,000

**The Barack Obama Foundation\***  
Chicago, Ill.  
\$250,000

**Center for Community Change**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$50,000

**Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$50,000

**Colorado Housing and Finance Authority\***  
Denver, Colo.  
\$50,000

**Community Wealth Partners**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$150,000

**Council on Foundations, Inc.**  
Arlington, Va.  
\$75,000

**Foundation Center**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$150,000

**Fund the People**  
Beacon, N.Y.  
\$125,000

**Grand Valley State University**  
Allendale, Mich.  
\$150,000

**Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees**  
Sebastopol, Calif.  
\$15,000

**Grantmakers for Effective Organizations**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$20,000

**Hispanics in Philanthropy**  
Oakland, Calif.  
\$5,000

**Home by Hand, Inc.**  
New Orleans, La.  
\$50,000

**Independent Sector**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$450,000

**Interaction Institute for Social Change**  
Boston, Mass.  
\$110,000

**Leadership Learning Community**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$60,000

**National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$75,000

**PEAK Grantmaking**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$30,000

**Poverty & Race Research Action Council**  
Washington, D.C.  
\$50,000

**Presidio Trust**  
San Francisco, Calif.  
\$100,000

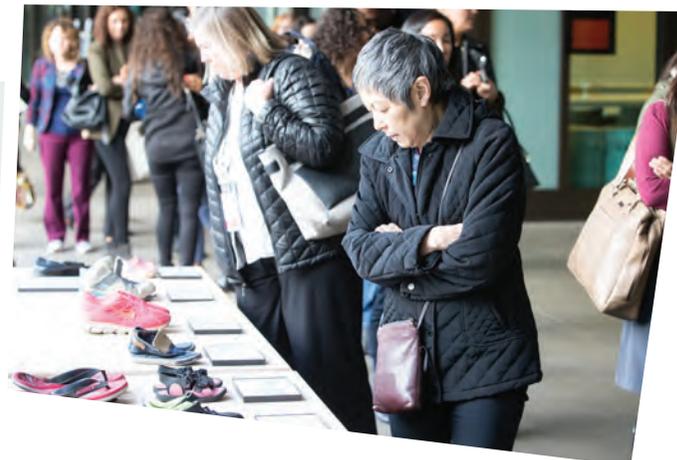
**ProInspire\***  
Arlington, Va.  
\$50,000

**Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors**  
New York, N.Y.  
\$50,000

*\*Denotes cross-team grant*

### Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees

A convening held by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees included a “Traveling Soles” exhibit featuring shoes that belonged to refugees who crossed borders escaping violence or searching for a better life — and the very human stories behind them.





## trustees & staff

Kresge's Board of Trustees and staff are dedicated to ensuring that the foundation meets its goals to advance its mission.



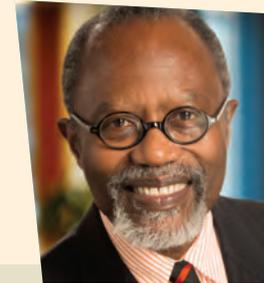
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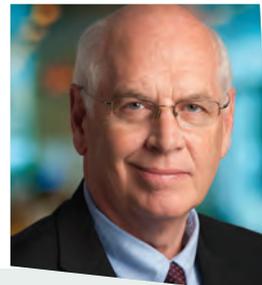
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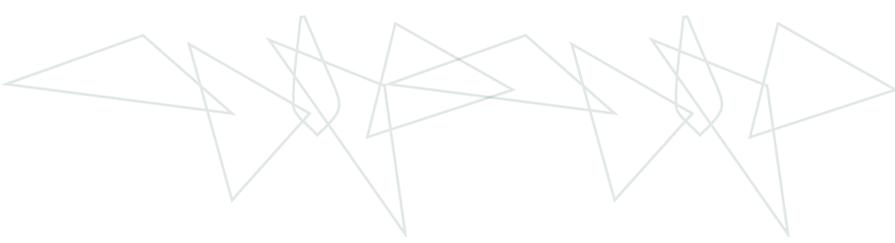


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American Cities Practice

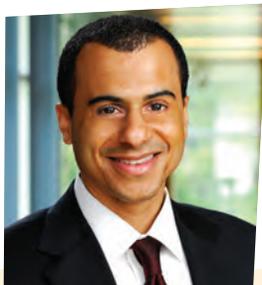
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Detroit Program



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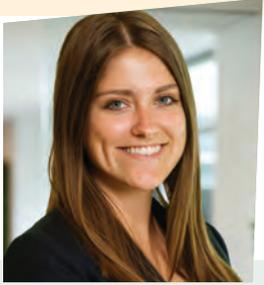
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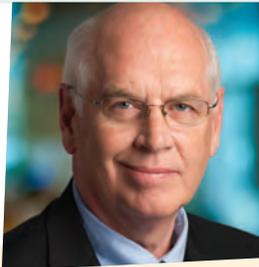
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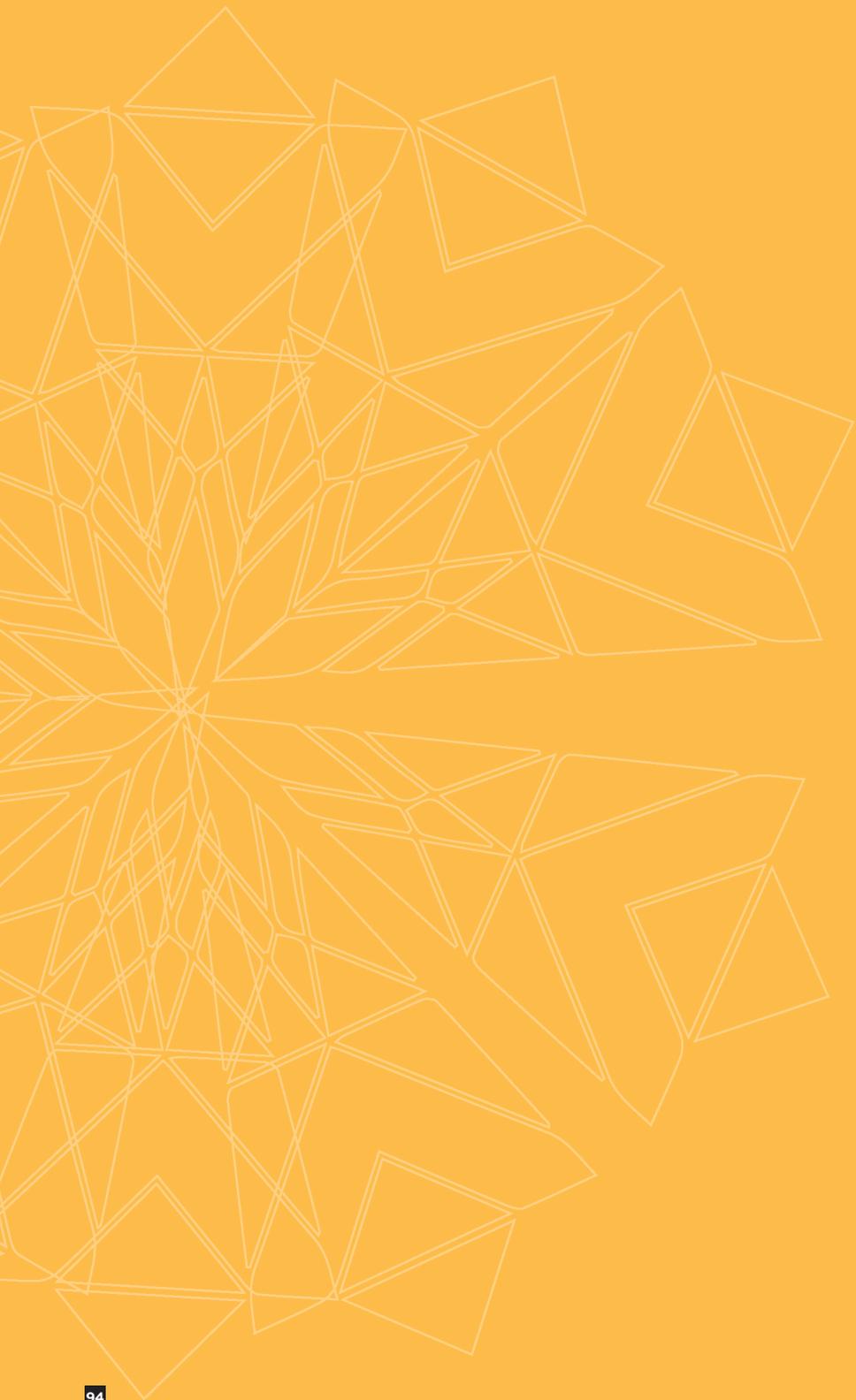
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# ‘Becoming the Best Versions of Themselves’

## CHANGING THE TRAJECTORY FOR BOYS AND MEN OF COLOR

Kresge’s Director of Program Operations and Information Management, Marcus McGrew, recognizes firsthand the importance of creating opportunity for boys and young men of color. After he began tutoring a young man, he recalls, “I was stunned to learn that his experiences, by and large, were contained to his neighborhood.”

Encounters like these are what drive McGrew to lead Kresge’s Boys and Men of Color (BMOC) Work Group. It was established in 2013 after Kresge joined what has grown to be 41 other foundations participating today as members of The Executives’ Alliance to Expand Opportunity for Boys and Men of Color.

The Alliance is a coalition of national, regional and community philanthropic partners committed to leveraging the sector’s role in improving the life trajectory of boys and young men of color. Its mission ultimately is to promote asset-based narratives that recognize and lift up boys and young men of color as architects of their own liberation.

“Society often perceives that boys and men of color cause their own problems, without regard to the dysfunctional systems that have continued to fail these men for decades and centuries,” McGrew says.

Members from nearly every Kresge department participate in Kresge’s BMOC working group, which meets to explore issues and make funding decisions. Funded partners include:

- ▶ The National CARES Mentoring Movement, a unique mentoring program that addresses the root causes of trauma with mentees.
- ▶ The annual Create Justice convening, supported in part by

Kresge’s Arts & Culture Program. This partnership between Carnegie Hall and the Network for Incarcerated Youth explores ways in which the arts can prevent recidivism.

- ▶ Campaign for Black Male Achievement, Bing Youth Institute and D.L.I.V.E (Detroit Life is Valuable Everyday), a violence intervention program. Kresge supported all three in 2017.

To date, the work group has awarded operating support and other grants totaling \$400,000 to organizations supporting boys and men of color. General operating support helps to advance sustainable operations for nonprofits — particularly grassroots, community-based organizations. It provides them with the discretion to use financial support in ways they need most.

As a man of color, McGrew knows that he is no different from the boys and men the work group is aiming to help.

“The ultimate future outcome for this work is self-sufficiency and for these men to grow into the best versions of themselves,” he says. “With that comes a lot of work to dismantle systems that perpetuate injustice, inequity and inequality. That is the real work.”

Aligning with Kresge’s mission to expand opportunity for people with low incomes in America’s cities, the work group’s focus is to help build capacity of groups long committed to the work.

“The desire is to invest in these types of organizations and to help them build their capacity,” he explains, “so they can be around for the long haul to keep serving this population we care so deeply about.”







THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

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