



We position culture and creativity as drivers of more just communities.

As a program, the Arts & Culture Program's vision is that society values creativity widely as an integral resource for healthy and sustainable communities, enabling people to live abundant and self-determined lives.

Our program does not support the traditional arts and culture sector and its institutions, or the arts in Detroit. Instead, we are specifically focused nationally on the role that culture and creativity play in advancing a set of preconditions for enduring change – such as resident agency, social cohesion, community centered narratives, and collective action – and how, combined, they can support community wellbeing and power-building.

Through three interconnected focus areas designed to support both proven and emergent cross-sector initiatives, we aim to sustain the preconditions and an enabling environment for creative community development processes, thereby better serving residents and community-based partners in cities.

We Invest Through Three Focus Areas:

Advance Creative Strategies in Place: We invest in creative practices that strengthen resident agency, social cohesion, and community-centered narratives, promoting collective action for equitable and long-term change in neighborhoods.

Invest in People Mobilizing for Change: We support the care and strengthen networks of creative practitioners, cultural strategists, and community leaders who are centering community voice and agency in cross-sector, local, and national initiatives.

Strengthen Cross-Sector Partnerships: We aim to create an enabling environment that connects creative practices and drives systemic change, while recognizing that the challenges faced by communities of color are too large to solve on our own. This framework enables us to partner seamlessly with other Kresge programs and foundations.

We invest in efforts that...

Position creative practices (e.g., arts, cultural strategy and design) as central elements of inclusive and sustainable development, planning and justice-focused initiatives.

Harness creative practices to advance resident (including youth) agency, social cohesion, community-centered narratives and collective action for self-determination and racial justice.

Support the leadership, resilience and well-being of community and creative practitioners working to advance equity and justice.

Apply an asset-based and equity-centered approach when working in communities impacted by systemic inequities.

Advance cross-sectoral practices and principles that enable a robust ecosystem of partners and practitioners to thrive and realize systems change.

We provide both direct and indirect support to cohorts of community-based organizations, intermediaries and through the following current initiatives:



Culture of Justice 2.0 supports artists, organizers, community-based organizations, and residents – as ecosystem partners – working at the intersections of creativity and multiple justice-related issues, to foster cultural and community resilience.

Climate Change, Health & Equity 2.0, a cross-team Kresge partnership, mobilizes equitable climate action among healthcare institutions, health practitioners, and community and cultural advocates in ways that reflect the needs and priorities of low-income communities in America’s cities.



The Culture & Community Power Fund, funded by the arts and culture programs of the Barr, William Penn, and Kresge foundations, positions culture as fundamental to how communities shape their futures and build power.

Equitable Food-Oriented Development, a cross-team Kresge partnership and national initiative, centers Black-, Indigenous-, and People of Color-led food and agriculture projects and enterprises as vehicles for self-determination, shared power, cultural expression, and community asset-building.



We are not currently accepting unsolicited applications or new partners for the above initiatives.

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