



We collaborate with cross sectoral partners to promote and expand long-term, equitable opportunity in Kresge’s hometown by centering the priorities of its residents.

We place our highest priority on neighborhood-based, resident-led organizations, seeking to join with them in strategies for tomorrow’s transformations. It is imperative that the city’s resurgence be broadly inclusive of neighborhoods and their residents, the city’s heart and soul.

WE DO SO BY INVESTING OUR RESOURCES IN THESE AREAS:

Early Childhood Development/Hope Starts Here

We are reimagining the city’s neighborhoods by putting essential building blocks in place that will support the healthy development of young children. We do this in alignment with Hope Starts Here (HSH), an initiative launched in partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, focused on helping create a Detroit where children are born healthy, well-prepared for kindergarten, and on track for success by third grade and beyond.

Nonprofit Capacity Building and Leadership Development

We aim to build a more inclusive Detroit by elevating talented leaders outside traditional power structures and providing residents and nonprofit leaders of color opportunities and resources to shape their city.

Equitable Community Development

We support activities and investments for transformative changes that improve the conditions and prospects of Detroiters. We particularly seek to bolster – through project grants, operating support and social investing – a range of community development organizations that authentically engage community on neighborhood-level change, as well as the community development systems and intermediaries that support them.

Coordinated Investments and Technical Assistance

Our Detroit Program works to provide coordinated investments (such as grants and social investments) to neighborhood stewards that implement catalytic projects across Detroit neighborhoods. Stewards connect these layered resources to amplify the strengths and enhance the unique character of the community. Today, we seek to extend and adapt these lessons in Livernois-McNichols (Live6), Southwest Detroit, New Center and the North End, and Jefferson Chalmers.



Arts and Culture Ecosystem

We support metro Detroit arts and culture at multiple levels, including operating support to organizations of various sizes, support for neighborhood-based Creative Placemaking efforts and projects in the city of Detroit, as well as unrestricted financial support for individual creators. We actively promote the power of arts and culture to preserve and enhance identity, connectedness and opportunity.

Transformative Project/Marygrove Cradle-to-Career Campus

The creation of a cradle-to-career P-20 educational continuum on the Marygrove Conservancy campus in Northwest Detroit puts quality education at the center of the surrounding neighborhood’s revitalization. With \$52 million in grants plus \$139 million in financing to date, and entailing an array of partners, the campus is anticipated to serve more than 1,000 students at full capacity.

KEY INITIATIVES

Commitment to Racial Equity

Challenges in Detroit are not only about current issues. They stem, as in all parts of the United States, from a deep and complex legacy of structural racism and bias. This legacy manifests itself in how our society has invested – and disinvested – in communities. For all Detroiters to thrive, we must address the root causes of the city’s challenges. This view leads the Detroit Program team to embrace these principles in approaching our community: listening first to learn; being humble, respectful and inclusive; challenging power narratives, our own included; and acting with intention.



Kresge Arts in Detroit

We believe that arts and culture are integral to community revitalization. Through the Kresge Arts in Detroit initiative – administered on Kresge’s behalf by the Kresge Arts in Detroit office of the College for Creative Studies – we annually recognize Kresge Eminent Artists, Kresge Artist Fellows and Gilda Awardees. Launched in 2008, Kresge Arts in Detroit has awarded \$9 million to 380 artists in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties as of June 2024.



Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit Plus

Through this evolving initiative we support transformative projects to tap the vision and creativity of residents to improve quality of life in their neighborhoods in Detroit – and beginning in 2021 – Highland Park and Hamtramck. Since its launch in 2014 as Kresge Innovative Projects: Detroit, the initiative – a partnership among Kresge, Michigan Community Resources and Co.act Detroit – has distributed \$15 million through 193 grants for planning and implementing projects.



Live6 Alliance

The Live6 Alliance is the community steward for the Livernois-McNichols neighborhood, which encompasses higher-education anchors, reviving commercial areas and a range of neighborhoods. Working from Neighborhood HomeBase – a renovated networking space for residents, neighborhood groups, nonprofits and city government – the Live6 Alliance works toward revitalization that honors the area’s history.

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3215 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan
248-643-9630
kresge.org