CENTENNIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Kresge Foundation, one of the nation's oldest and largest private philanthropies with an endowment of $4 billion, marked 100 years of strategic philanthropy in 2024. To observe this special occasion, Kresge hosted an array of commemorative events and community activations that celebrated the foundation's longstanding philanthropic legacy.

A CENTURY OF IMPACT

The Kresge Foundation has awarded $5.1 billion in grants since its founding, together with another $500 million dollars in social investments. Kresge has invested in every state of the union, as well as in Washington, D.C., two U.S. territories, and eighteen countries, but has taken particular pride in having invested more than $1 billion in our hometown of Detroit.

Sebastian S. Kresge established the foundation in June 1924 "for the benefit of mankind," and he contributed more than $60 million to endow the institution before his death in 1969. For some 80 years, the foundation concentrated its grantmaking on building the capacity of nonprofit organizations by investing in their capital campaigns. Over the last 20 years, we have

shifted our emphasis to focus on strengthening the building blocks of opportunity for low-income people in America's cities. Using a full array of grants, loans, and other financial tools, we have taken direct aim at dismantling structural and systemic barriers to equality and justice, investing more than $160 million annually.

Our experiences in Detroit have both contributed integrally to the city's revitalization over the last decade and served to define how we approach the challenges of the other cities in which we work, including Memphis, New Orleans, Fresno, and many others. Our work in place — both in Detroit and through our American Cities program — is, moreover, shaped by the expertise, networks, and social investment and grantmaking strategies of five discipline-based programs: Arts and Culture (positioning culture and creativity as drivers of more just communities); Environment (helping cities with equitable climate resilience strategies); Higher Education (addressing attainment and closing equity gaps); Health, (fortifying the public health system); and Human Services (increasing social economic mobility).

MARKING THE CENTENNIAL

A centennial provides a vantage point to examine the past as well as to refine, and perhaps reimagine, a path forward. Reaching this anniversary allowed us, as a foundation, a chance to appreciate our history — our accomplishments, milestones, and even some of our unrealized aspirations — and to think intently not just about what we've done in the past but also how our past informs our work ahead; to think not just about what we do, but how we do it. This retrospection also involved honoring the intertwined history of Detroit, the city with which Kresge has grown and evolved.

Throughout the year, we focused on four channels of activity: celebrating and reflecting on our history; creating significant communications products that promote our long history of and future plans for sector leadership; fortifying and expanding our city-based thought leadership through a series of national convenings; and affirming long-standing and emergent programmatic strategies by lifting up our grantees and celebrating their work.

We did just what we set out to do, which was to use our centennial year to advance what we do and what we have learned from it, to step back and reflect, and to find joy in the privilege of making a difference.

A summary of the various communications tools and engagements we employed to activate the foundation's anniversary year objectives to reflect, to celebrate and to contribute to the field.

COMMUNICATIONS & BRANDING

Kresge's Communications Team shaped and executed a complex and multifaceted suite of strategies to highlight through social and other media channels key milestones in the foundation's history, to create products that capture what we believe we have learned and continue to learn, and to support events that have brought together partners to contemplate a vision for the future of cities.

BRANDING

The Communications Team kicked off the centennial year in January by launching a refreshed and modernized visual identity and digital presence, including the introduction of a centennial-specific logo to theme our 2024 activities. This logo was also featured on QLINE streetcar wraps throughout the summer and fall.

We also updated our foundation tagline to include equity: "Expanding equity and opportunity in America's cities," to better reflect our organizational values and work. Including equity in our tagline explicitly addresses the question of for whom we seek to be in service: Those for whom enduring structural impediments to opportunity and justice have been blocked from full and robust participation in America's economic, civic, and democratic systems.

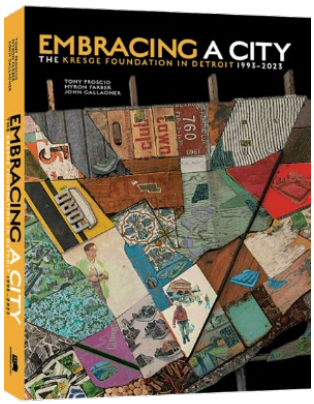
The tagline played regularly on National Public Radio sponsorship spots throughout the year and will continue through 2026. Our on-air message is: "This program is brought to you by The Kresge Foundation. Established one hundred years ago, The Kresge Foundation works to expand equity and opportunity in cities across America. A century of impact, a future of opportunity. More at Kresge dot org."

The team also launched a new centennial section of our website, Kresge.org/100, to elevate the history and origins of our founder Sebastian, the S.S. Kresge Co. retail business and his namesake foundation. Over the course of the year, the site was populated weekly with new content illustrating Kresge's past and its ongoing impact.

Introduced by the centennial logo, animated by the sun rising over the Detroit skyline, the centennial website contained stories tracing the life of Sebastian Spering Kresge; the founding of the family business; the launch of the foundation; the growth of our grantmaking; our support of capital building campaigns across the country; the evolution of each of our program teams; the history of our engagement in Detroit; and other aspects of our history.

These stories, together with scores of others (for example, the impact of our "green building program" or our 75-year commitment to HBCUs), populated our weekly newsletter and social media feeds throughout the year, helping spread the word to the more than 25,000 newsletter subscribers (and thousands more social media followers). The new site also included an interactive timeline, a "By the Numbers" section, and an area that invites the public to share their personal stories about the foundation and the S.S. Kresge stores.

EMBRACING A CITY BOOK LAUNCH



In April, we re-published and launched an updated edition of *Embracing a City: The Kresge Foundation in Detroit 1993-2023*. The book chronicles 30 years of the foundation's unlikely partnerships, unique collaborations, varied financial tools, and bold bets, as told by veteran journalists Tony Proscio and Myron Farber. Former Kresge trustee (and former and President Emeritus of Columbia University) Lee Bollinger provided the foreword.

We were set to distribute the original version of the book when the COVID pandemic hit; we determined that sending it to people's offices at that point wasn't a good idea. As we contemplated our centennial at COVID's end, though, we thought we might update the book and distribute it during our centennial year. We asked Proscio to write a new chapter on Marygrove, commissioned a new, more visually accessible design, and contracted with veteran Detroit Free Press reporter John Gallagher (who had written his own history of Detroit in 2010) to bring each of the chapters up to date. We began distributing the book, now encompassing a thirty-year span of work, in April.

FILM

The team oversaw the production of a twelve-minute film tracing the foundation's history. Titled "An American Philanthropy: Kresge's 100 Years of Service," the film debuted at the Detroit Historical Museum exhibit in May, was screened at our DIA celebration in June, and features interviews with more than a dozen partners, leaders, staff, trustees and Kresge family representatives.

The Communications Team also commissioned the creation of two "hype" videos for the June and September convenings, respectively: A wondrous centennial-themed film narrated by Detroit Poet Laureate and Kresge Artist Fellow jessica Care moore, entitled "Wild Seeds," in which Care moore's words are set against a backdrop of beautiful Detroit scenes compiled by filmmaker Stephen McGee; and "Roots of Transformation," emphasizing the role of community members in all resurgent cities including Detroit, Memphis, New Orleans and Fresno.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Centennial Annual Report, available in both digital and print format, was launched in September. Titled "A Century of Impact, A Future of Opportunity," the 158-page pop-up book includes 100 stories of impact tracing the foundation's origins, the 80+ years of capital challenge grantmaking, and the shift to today's work expanding equity and opportunity in

America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, and community development nationally and in our four focus cities. In the print version, readers discovered a unique experience: four pop-ups that bring to life iconic landmarks from the cities of Detroit, Memphis, New Orleans and Fresno. These symbolize Kresge's deep-rooted commitment to these cities and highlight the cultural and historical richness that defines them.

The annual report also includes letters from Kresge leadership. Board Chair Cecilia Muñoz wrote about our progress toward equity and the challenges that remain. President and CEO Rip Rapson explored the six roles that philanthropy can play in city transformation. And Cynthia Kresge, former trustee and great-granddaughter of Sebastian Kresge, gives a poignant account of her great-grandfather's entrepreneurial spirit and his desire to make the world a better place than he found it.

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXHIBITION

On May 1, 2024, together with the Detroit Historical Museum, we unveiled an exhibition showcasing Kresge's century-long legacy, offering the community an opportunity to learn about Kresge's history and its impact on cities. The installation included an immersive journey through the foundation's history featuring artifacts, photographs, and interactive displays emphasizing key initiatives and partnerships that have defined Kresge's impact over the years, including investments in community development, higher education, health, human services and the arts. It also included interactive timelines for the company and for the foundation, a reproduction of a Kresge store lunch counter (complete with historic menus), a vignette with the original office desk of Sebastian Kresge, and features on each of our current program areas.

In addition to the exhibition, the iconic Kresge & Wilson store in the museum's "Streets of Old Detroit" exhibit was updated and filled with new items from across five decades of the archetypal Five & Dime. During the run of the exhibition, the museum added authentic toys and holiday-themed merchandise to the Kresge & Wilson 5 & 10 store, including a new-in-box Kmart branded child's mess kit and canteen donated by the Kresge family.

The Kresge Foundation centennial exhibit was to remain on view through January 2025. The exhibit delighted thousands of museum visitors during the year and contributed to very strong museum attendance over the summer which was up 54% over 2023. Attendance on Kresge Second Sundays, which provided free public admission, was particularly strong with approximately 400 admissions to the museum on those special free days.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Kresge and the museum hosted several public seminars that attracted hundreds of guests, including a book release event for *Embracing A City* hosted by John Gallagher in conversation with community development specialists in Detroit; a signature Juneteenth panel discussion exploring the role of lunch counters in the civil rights movement hosted by historian Ken Coleman; a bus tour to former S.S. Kresge Co. retail spots coupled with an overview of the foundation's impact in Detroit; and a panel discussion about Black-owned retail businesses in in the city.

Trustees and family members visited the S.S. Kresge. Co. store during their sneak peek of the foundation exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum.

We are working with the museum to create a "virtual exhibit" of the Kresge installation. The video will include a guided tour of the exhibit and Kresge 5&10 store, as well as potential interviews with those who participated in the exhibit's curation. Virtual exhibits are a new method for the museum to give an indefinite lifespan to temporary, physical exhibits. They also contribute to the museum's efforts to be more accessible and inclusive to visitors regardless of their geographic location. Kresge will have full access to the virtual tour, and we can use it in various ways, including for staff and trustee onboarding.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The January launch of our branding and centennial year activities, as well as the museum exhibition, convenings and centennial celebration each garnered media attention from the likes of the Detroit Free Press, HOUR Detroit, Model D, D Business, WDET-FM, Michigan Public Radio, Forbes and Smart Cities. In total, nearly two dozen print, broadcast and digital media stories were logged. Rip Rapson was also featured in an episode of the Business of Giving podcast.

Forbes

How This 100-Year-Old Foundation Helped Save Detroit

Michael Sheldrick Contributor
Global Citizen Contributor Group

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Lions enamored with draft pick's potential SPORTS, 1C

100 years of Kresge explored in Historical Museum exhibit

Duante Beddingfield
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The centennial of Michigan's influential Kresge Foundation is celebrated in the Detroit Historical Museum's newest exhibition, "Kresge at 100: A Century of Impact, a Future of Opportunity," opening Saturday, May 4.

The exhibition is spread across two separate galleries of the museum's lower level, including Wrigley Hall, a wing built in the 1960s with support from the Kresge Foundation. The main exhibit highlights (two separate (yet intertwined) timelines: Kresge's five-and-dime store and lunch counter, so successful that it eventually grew into retail behemoth K-Mart; and programs launched and supported by the Kresge Foundation, created from the retail company's great financial success.

Though the foundation initially spread its attention and grant funding around the country, supporting a number of issues and causes, in the latter half of the 20th century, its

See KRESGE EXHIBIT, Page 9A

The Kresge Foundation president and CEO Rip Rapson talks about the history of the foundation as part of the Kresge at 100 exhibition at the Detroit Historical Museum in Detroit on Thursday.

CONVENINGS

In honor of its centennial and seeking to fortify and expand its cities-focused thought leadership, The Kresge Foundation hosted a series of national symposia and convenings organized around the foundation's priorities and focus areas. The gathering of thought leaders and community organization representatives from various geographies and disciplines explored how urban communities and their residents can position themselves for a more healthy, sustainable and equitable future.

Focusing on what we have learned from our work in cities and drawing on the experiences of grantees, nonprofit and public sector partners, and national organizations focused on urban practice and policy, we used each convening to identify themes that would build to our national convening in September.

APRIL 4: INTEGRATIVE PRACTICE: THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Hosted by Urban Institute & The Kresge Foundation

Kresge partnered with the Urban Institute at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. to draw together three dozen practitioners, scholars, and both national and place-based organizations working at the intersection of climate, health equity and community development to explore incorporating climate change strategy more fully into community development practice in neighborhoods. The gathering framed three themes: the construction of connections between climate action and community development; the fortification of structures and processes of distributive leadership; and the imperative of reparative community development, which we built on and further interrogated in events throughout the remainder of the year.

MAY 21 & 22: THRIVING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

Hosted by U.S. Department of Transportation & The Kresge Foundation

In May, we convened 50 representatives of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and local organizations working on public infrastructure issues to explore how multi-sector partnerships can address the environmental health and racial equity implications of transportation infrastructure.

The first day of the roundtable focused on the environmental and community development challenges facing communities in the industrial shadows of Detroit's Ambassador Bridge. The second day explored the possibilities of realizing the full reparative and community building potential of the I-375 Reconstruction project.

MAY 28-31: MACKINAC POLICY CONFERENCE

The 2,000-person Mackinac Policy Conference in June was certainly not The Kresge Foundation's convening, but Kresge trustee Suzanne Shank's service as conference chair reinforced our significant presence. Former Senior Presidential Adviser to President Barack Obama and current President of the Obama Foundation, Valerie Jarrett, joined us for two sessions. The first panel, led by Stephen Henderson with Kresge's Wendy Lewis Jackson and Anika Goss of Detroit Future City, discussed the importance of place-based strategies to build healthy and vibrant communities. The second was a main stage conversation between Jarrett, Shank and Rip Rapson about the importance of cross-sectoral partnerships in building Michigan's future.

JUNE 11: DETROIT & THE AMERICAN CITY: A VISION FOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Hosted by Kresge's Detroit Program

On June 11, 2024, the 100th anniversary of the foundation's founding, we convened 300 nonprofit leaders, urban planners, policymakers, and community advocates to explore the future of American cities, with Detroit serving as a case study. The discussions looked to the past to inform a reimagination of the future, celebrated Detroit's culture, and explored how to invest in access to opportunity for all — collectively painting a picture of joy and healing for Detroit's future.

Kresge's Wendy Lewis Jackson and Michigan Lieutenant Gov. Garlin Gilchrist.

Kresge President and CEO Rip Rapson delivered a keynote address on how philanthropy has played a role in the arc of Detroit's renewal. Then the convening hosted a series of panels divided into seven modules of presentation and discussion, including:

- **Detroit's importance to the State of Michigan**: Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist in conversation with Lewis Jackson discussed the centrality of the city to Michigan's future.

- **Culture**: Actress, playwright and Detroit native Dominique Morriseau spoke about how the city's culture and heritage shapes our future. Dominique has written nine plays, including the "Detroit Project" trilogy: the first play focuses on the racial tensions of 1967, the second explores the decision of a blues musician to sell his beloved jazz club, and the third follows a group of auto workers facing possible layoffs.

- **Repair**: A panel with Anika Goss (Detroit Future City), Andre Perry (the Brookings Institution) and Raquel Hatter (Kresge's Human Services Program) explored why and how acknowledging historic racial injustice and harm is necessary to build an equitable and just future.

- **Economic Equity**: Angela Glover Blackwell, the founder of PolicyLink and one of the nation's most inspirational and respected commentators and advocates for racial justice and equity, talked about the centrality of economic equity to the future of the nation's children.

- **Wealth:** A panel of Detroit community leaders, including Danielle Atkinson, director of Mothering Justice, and Angie Reyes, director of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, reflected on Angela Blackwell's comments from the perspective of Detroit.

- **Climate and Health:** A panel including Tepfirah Rushdan, Detroit Sustainability Director, and Donele Wilkins, Green Door Initiative, discussed the intersections between environment, health and community development in the city.

- **Closing:** The symposium closed on an inspirational note with reflections from the filmmaker, producer, and writer dream hampton and the cinematic production designer Hannah Beachler. A recipient of a Kresge Artist Fellowship, hampton was the executive producer of *Surviving R. Kelly*, a series about the decades of sexual abuse allegations against R. Kelly, which led to his eventual prosecution. Hannah, known for her Afrofuturistic design direction in *The Black Panther* and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,* is the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Production Design.

AUGUST 1 & 2: STRENGTHENING WHOLE CHILD COMMUNITIES: RAISING THE BAR FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

Hosted by U.S. Department of Education & The Kresge Foundation

Held on the Marygrove campus, the symposium represented a collaboration among numerous public and private entities invested in education, led by the U.S. Department of Education, Kresge, the Ballmer Group, the Raikes Foundation and the Stuart Foundation. The event brought together policymakers, practitioners, advocates, philanthropy leaders, youth, and community-based organizations to reaffirm the importance of public education as a driver of opportunity and socioeconomic mobility for children and youth from low-income backgrounds, their families, and their communities. The USDOE has cited Marygrove's unique combination of preschool, K-12, and postsecondary programming as a model of the power of cradle-to-career public education for our country.

SEPTEMBER 10-12: OUR URBAN FUTURE: THE NEXT ERA OF MAKING CHANGE IN AMERICA'S CITIES

Hosted by Kresge's American Cities Program

Held at The Icon in Detroit's East Riverfront, the summit brought together hundreds of grantee partners and field leaders to discuss lessons Kresge and our partners have learned about expanding opportunity in American cities, our aspirations for the future, and potential paths forward.

The summit welcomed nearly 400 place-based philanthropic, nonprofit, and government leaders from more than a dozen U.S. cities, together with representatives of national nonprofits, thought leaders, philanthropy, government, and academia for two days of panels, keynotes, breakouts, networking, and Detroit site visits. It was augmented by a small number of roll-up-the-sleeves working sessions, and enhancements such as professional development workshops intended to show appreciation for and help to recharge the batteries of grantee leaders.

The summit continued to explore the themes sounded in June and featured an array of urban changemakers who are leading racial repair and healing, climate adaptation and resilience, and economic mobility and abundance in their cities. Speakers included some of the country's foremost hands-on urban development practitioners to exchange ideas, extend their networks and replenish themselves while collectively advancing the direction of place- and people-based work. Discussions paid special attention the arc of urban practice in American cities; paradigm shifts necessary to accomplish racial repair, climate action, and economic justice; the business of capital flows; practical tools and approaches; and the role of philanthropy and community leadership in bringing about change.

Saxophonist De'Sean Jones and his group Urban Art Orchestra perform at the closing session of "Our Urban Future."

Arts and culture were deeply situated throughout the convening as important and engaged modes of resistance that can support community change. Vibrant jazz, gospel, and spoken-word performances — from Tariq Gardner, Straight Ahead, Urban Art Orchestra, and Granville and the Freedom Singers featuring St. Courts — punctuated the sessions, reminding participants that pleasure, beauty, and joy are key elements of justice work.

Kresge sponsored teams of partners from each focus city to travel together to attend the Our Urban Future national summit, so they might make national connections, build stronger ties, and bring mutual ideas back home.

OCTOBER 30: WHAT IF WE GET IT RIGHT?

Hosted by Urban Consulate & Kresge's Detroit Program

The final centennial-themed convening of the year took place on October 30 in Detroit's Garden Theater. Through a partnership with the Urban Consulate of Detroit, the evening conversation, entitled "What If We Get It Right?" featured a vibrant discussion on climate equity between writer-climate scientist Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and writer-activist adrienne maree brown (both of whom have recent books), facilitated by Detroit journalist and community advocate Orlando P. Bailey. The conversation called on all of us to find our role in advancing the movement for environmental justice through the lens of interdependence and collective effort.

Johnson is a scientist, policy expert, writer and teacher helping to create a positive climate future. She co-founded and leads the Urban Ocean Lab, a think tank for coastal cities, and is the author of the New York Times bestselling book, “What If We Get It Right?: Visions of Climate Future.” brown, who describes herself as “growing a garden of healing ideas,” leads a multidisciplinary practice in movement facilitation, somatics, science fiction scholarship and doula work. She also is an author with several title credits including the New York Times bestseller, Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good and is a 2013 Kresge Arts in Detroit fellow in literary arts.

Moderator Orlando Bailey with authors Johnson and brown.

A REFLECTION

America’s cities are home to committed urban changemakers. Over the next decade, these changemakers will need to simultaneously address three essential challenges: racial repair and healing, climate adaptation and resilience, and economic mobility and abundance.

Kresge’s centennial convenings were not intended as an endpoint, but instead as a point of departure for our work in 2025 and beyond. The convenings created space for partners to share the joys, successes and challenges of their work with each other and with partners across the country. It also provided a platform for cross-learning — partners co-created solutions that build on the Detroit experience to inform not only what needs to occur, but how it should be done, in other communities to ensure a reparative, restorative approach to place-based investments.

Moving forward, we will pursue opportunities to share what we learned with our municipal and philanthropic partners and consider these learnings internally as we refine and fortify our grantmaking and investment strategies. We expect the experience will suggest new topics and methods for convening our grantees and colleagues in the years ahead.

CELEBRATION

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Our grand centennial celebration, "Kresge at 100: Celebrating The Kresge Foundation's Century of Impact and Future of Opportunity," occurred the evening of June 11 and gathered over 550 friends, neighbors, partners, grantees, dignitaries, staff, retirees, and three generations of Kresge family members at The Detroit Institute of Arts for a feast of surprise salutations, culinary delights, jubilant libations and serendipitous performances.

President Barak Obama and Rip Rapson

The event began in the Detroit Film Theater with a program emceed by storyteller and television personality Satori Shakoor, including the premiere of the Kresge documentary film

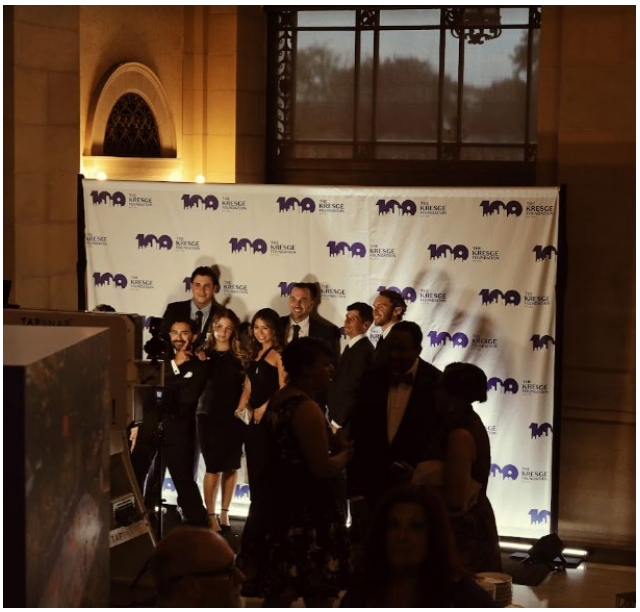
and an eclectic array of performances by Detroit's "Queen of the Blues" Thornetta Davis, the nationally renowned Detroit Youth Choir, and the traditional New Orleans-style Gabriel Brass Band. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and Board Chair Cecilia Muñoz gave formal remarks before a surprise appearance by President Barack Obama.

The audience was clearly caught by surprise (at least those who were uncertain why security was quite so rigorous) when Chair Muñoz introduced the 44th President of the United States.

The President's far-ranging and extended fireside chat with Rip Rapson touched on the way cities can drive economic and social progress, the roles his Administration played in Detroit's recovery, the power of philanthropy in building leadership among young people, Kresge's contributions over the last century, America at this moment, and the nature of public service and what he hopes will be his legacy.

To the philanthropic community, Obama had a message: Keep taking risks commensurate with the issues of the day. At Kresge, we believe that philanthropy is at its best when it shape-shifts, when it responds to changing circumstances by taking risks, when it uses all the tools in its toolbox and applies them while maintaining a strong ground wire into community. When asked to reflect on that premise, Obama's reply was simple and affirmational: "Keep on doing what you're doing."

"What you just described is how philanthropy should operate," Obama said. "And what I think has been exciting about Kresge is it hasn't always played it safe because it does have to adapt to new circumstances and new opportunities. I think that too often philanthropies are cautious. In some cases, this is out of good motives — we want to be good stewards of the money that's been bequeathed to us. We want to make sure that it's not wasted. But over time, [a model of giving can] become stale. It becomes brittle. It funds the same things over and over again. What Kresge has been willing to do is to say, 'we'll take some calculated risks, and we're going to use these resources to jumpstart people coming together to change their surroundings.' We need more of that."



Kresge has had innumerable seminal chapters in our storied history. But hosting President Obama clearly ranks among our institution's deepest honors. Because he

thinks so carefully and cares so deeply about American cities and their role in our civic fabric, our democracy, and our economy, we could not have chosen a more ideal guest. He helped ensure that the celebration was not only a valorization of our history, but also a recommitment to unearthing and activating the power and promise of the nation's cities as vehicles of equity, opportunity, and justice.

The Gabriel Brass Band leads guests to The DIA's Great Hall.

Left: Hadassah GreenSky

Right: jessica Care moore and King Moore

In addition to the stage program, guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres honoring Kresge lunch counters of yore; were entertained by a selection of two dozen of Detroit's most renowned performers (including a cactus-playing electronica artist, a pair of African drummers, a modern dance trio, a jazz ensemble, a native Anishinaabe dancer and powwow, and Detroit's Poet Laureate in a spoken word performance); watched beautiful films on our work; marched in a New Orleans-style Second Line parade; dined on delicious fare at tables festooned with Kresge regalia; were surrounded by artist-designed, locally-sourced botanical sculptures; and went home with a commemorative program of the event, an original broadside poem by 2011 Eminent Artist Bill Harris, a copy of Embracing A City, and various Kresge-themed snacks, all wrapped in a reusable, no-waste Japanese Furoshiki gift wrap. The evening was filmed by Detroit PBS and televised as a primetime special on June 21. The video can be viewed on the Detroit PBS YouTube channel.

Field Notes
For the Second One Hundred

In the face
of the unabating Sisyphean chore
still before you,
pursue the elusive solutions to dis-
mantling bone deep
inequities and disparities teeming
just beyond the sway of grants,
loans, and masterplans. Resist
the pitfalls, dead ends, doubts.

Still
be the staunch counterbalance
to the daunting appeal
to differences and divisions.

Still
be the bridge back
to the lofty, century-old intention,
the precept relearned at every turn.

Quote, ". . . promote
the well-being of mankind."

Bill Harris

Commemorative poem by Bill Harris

OTHER CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

COMMEMORATIVE PIN

Kresge commissioned the Detroit-based sustainable jewelry designer Rebel Nell to create a pin for Kresge staff, trustees and family members to commemorate the foundation's centennial year. Known for repurposing fallen graffiti into unique jewelry, Rebel Nell created the Kresge pin from repurposed material from locations supported by The Kresge Foundation, including Detroit RiverWalk, the Dequindre Cut, Eastern Market, Campus Martius, Marygrove College and the Live6 Neighborhood.

HONORARY FLAG INSTALLMENT

On June 11, American and State of Michigan flags were flown over the U.S. and Lansing capitols, respectively, in honor of Kresge's 100th anniversary. The flags, along with framed proclamations from local, state and federal dignitaries, have been installed as a gallery on the lower level of the Troy headquarters. A set of flags has also been presented to the Kresge family.

Above: (from left); U.S. flag flown over the United States Capitol on June 11, 2024; State of Michigan flag flown over Lansing capitol on June 11, 2024.

Left: (from left) State of Michigan tribute, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer; 118th Congress Congressional record entry for the Senate: "In Recognition of The Kresge Foundation;" Proclamation from Office of Wayne County Director Warren Evans; Proclamation from U.S. House of Representatives Haley Stevens; Tribute from U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow; City of Detroit Proclamation from Mayor Mike Duggan.

COMMEMORATIVE QUILT

Barbara Platt Kresge, wife of Scott Kresge, current Kresge Trustee and great-grandson of Sebastian Kresge, created a beautiful commemorative quilt to honor the foundation's centennial. It will be framed and exhibited along with other centennial-related items in a permanent display in the foundation's headquarters.

TIME CAPSULE

The internal Centennial Committee has proposed to create a display of centennial-related publications (invitations, program booklets, annual report, t-shirts, pins, all manner of centennial-branded items) for viewing in the foundation's headquarters. The Committee also plans to create a time-capsule and will explore opportunities to involve all staff and trustees in the memorialization of the anniversary.

A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

As we close out our centennial year, we are proud to celebrate the remarkable and enduring legacy of work that the foundation has supported over the past 100 years. This milestone also invited us to imagine what the next 100 years might hold and how our legacy might look from that future vantage point. We find ourselves in a precarious and unfathomably consequential moment in history. Communities across the U.S. are experiencing the shocks and stresses of our changing climate. Michigan's manufacturing and agriculture industries are major contributors. We recognize that the severity of climate change, and communities' efforts to prepare for its effects will shape the success and durability of the work we support across our programs. As we

recommit to expand equity and opportunity in cities across America, we also commit to elevate and integrate more deeply issues of climate change into all aspects of the foundation's work.

To that end, The Kresge Foundation has committed to integrate climate action throughout our grantmaking and operations. Therefore, we applied environmental sustainability measures to each centennial initiative. Where possible, we attempted to offset the carbon intensity of all events including by investing in carbon offsets, using sustainable materials and processing, presenting seasonal menus of locally sourced food and limiting animal proteins, and utilizing low-VOC inks and recycled papers for publishing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Every member of The Kresge Foundation staff contributed to the success of our centennial initiatives. We are also grateful to the many individuals, organizations and communities who made our centennial activities possible including hundreds of speakers, performers, artists, vendors and contractors. We salute our staff Centennial Committee members, with support from The Anniversary Company, who conceived, strategized and planned this year-long collection of events that honored the foundation's work and legacy, and set the path for Kresge's next 100 years.