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Hudson-Webber Foundation announces over \$1.3 million in grants, includes support for SER-Metro to connect youth training with neighborhood revitalization project

Detroit – Hudson-Webber Foundation announced today more than \$1.3 million in grants to nine organizations, including an investment in SER Metro-Detroit for an innovative program that connects Detroiters with hands-on construction training while advancing neighborhood development projects. This round of grants reflects the foundation’s focus on investing in sustainable, broad-based prosperity in the Detroit through creating access and opportunities for residents to attain quality jobs, housing, and safe, thriving neighborhoods.

The other eight organizations approved for grants include: the Detroit Public Safety Foundation, the Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC), the Downtown Detroit Partnership, Jefferson East Inc., Midtown Detroit Inc., the College for Creative Studies, Michigan Future Inc. and the Council of Michigan Foundations.

Hudson-Webber Foundation grants approximately \$7 million annually in the areas of community and economic development, arts and culture, built environment, and safe and just communities, with an interest in policy and advocacy activities.

The foundation’s new grants contain a \$650,000 investment in community and economic development.

SER Metro-Detroit received a \$250,000 grant to connect neighborhood investment to construction career pathways. The grant will support the rehabilitation of 49 units of mixed-income housing in Southwest Detroit in partnership with Shelborne Development while cultivating a qualified and adaptable workforce.

“The increasing pipeline of development in the city represents an exciting opportunity for Detroit residents to get quality jobs in the construction trades. We know there are barriers to accessing these jobs that we need to address to fully take advantage of this opportunity,” said Melanca Clark, President & CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation. “We are thrilled to support SER Metro’s creative approach to connecting their students with construction internships, working on projects right in their own community.”

Additionally, LISC received a \$400,000 grant to support affordable housing, economic development and neighborhood revitalization in Detroit through the Equitable Impact Investment Fund.

Hudson-Webber Foundation committed \$300,000 in grants for policy and research to support activities aimed at moving local, state and federal policy, as well as aligning public-sector resources to improve the quality of life in Detroit. These include \$200,000 to the Council of Michigan Foundations and \$100,000 to Michigan Future, Inc.

The Foundation continues to invest in the built environment to support the growth of small business activity in Detroit neighborhoods. A \$220,000 grant was made to Midtown Detroit Inc. to continue investment into the small business environment in Midtown and New Center. The Foundation also made a \$25,000 grant to Design Core Detroit, a program of College for Creative Studies, to improve access to and awareness of professional design services for neighborhood small business. This supports Design Core Detroit's larger strategy of positioning design industries to advance inclusive economic growth in Detroit.

There are also three grants totaling \$150,000 in support of place-based safety interventions, including \$50,000 to the Detroit Public Safety Foundation to support the expansion of the Ceasefire violence prevention program to additional precincts. Other investments were made in Jefferson East, Inc. and Downtown Detroit Partnership to support community driven safety and security programming.

Hudson-Webber Foundation's origins date back to 1939 with major contributions from Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Webber, other members of the Webber family and the J.L. Hudson Co. The foundation is governed by a 15-member board of trustees, with assets of approximately \$180 million and has contributed over \$200 million to improve the quality of life in Detroit. The mission areas of the foundation include support of community and economic development, built environment, safe and just communities, and arts and culture.

To learn more about the Hudson-Webber Foundation, visit www.hudson-webber.org.

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