



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2018

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**Hudson-Webber Foundation announces over \$2.2 million in grants to
community-focused initiatives**

DETROIT - Hudson-Webber Foundation announced today more than \$2.2 million in grants for projects that create access and opportunities for Detroiters to attain quality jobs and housing, and support safe, thriving neighborhoods and vibrant inclusive public spaces. These grants reflect Hudson-Webber's focus on projects that seek to achieve broad-based and enduring prosperity in the city.

The organizations approved for grants this fall are the Michigan Nonprofit Association, the Detroit Justice Center, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the United Community Housing Coalition, the Belle Isle Conservancy, the Downtown Detroit Partnership and 16 organizations in the arts and culture sector.

"At Hudson-Webber Foundation, we seek to identify and support strategies that intentionally connect people and communities to opportunity," said Melanca Clark, president and CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation. "We are inspired by our grantee partners who are engaging in efforts that help ensure that Detroiters are full participants in the economic progress of the city."

The announcement of these grants follows the convening of the first of its kind Michigan Safety & Justice Roundtable, hosted by Hudson-Webber in partnership with the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Michigan League for Public Policy. Held in Detroit on Sept. 6 and 7, the two-day forum brought together leaders and decision-makers from across the state to discuss ways to advance fair and equitable youth and adult justice system approaches that promote positive youth development, effectively address crime and promote safety in Michigan's communities.

"Efforts to ensure Detroit's recovery is inclusive and enduring have been hindered because so many Detroiters have had contact with the criminal justice system, affecting their ability to access employment, housing and other opportunities," said Clark. "The foundation's new grants

to the Detroit Justice Center and the Council of State Governments directly address this challenge.”

The Detroit Justice Center is receiving \$125,000 to provide legal services to assist Detroiters who have had justice system contact. The grant will support the growing nonprofit legal practice, which opened its doors in April 2018, as it helps people overcome barriers to employment and opportunity while engaging the greater community in redesigning a more equitable justice system.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center has been awarded a \$15,000 grant to provide research and technical assistance to advance the campaign to advance “Clean Slate” policies in Michigan. Recognized in several states as a proven method of removing barriers to employment and full community participation, Clean Slate policies involve the automatic sealing of minor criminal records following demonstration of rehabilitation. Part of a multi-state advocacy effort, the CGS is working in collaboration with Safe and Just Michigan to engage Michigan communities, and to perform preliminary research on key questions that will shape the formulation of Clean Slate policies for the state.

The foundation’s new grants also include investments in the areas of community and economic development, built environment, arts and culture, and policy and research.

Community and Economic Development

- The United Community Housing Coalition is receiving a three-year \$300,000 grant to prevent, reduce and mitigate the negative effects from tax foreclosures - one of the most significant contributing factors to blight and instability in the city, - through outreach and counseling services, case management, legal support and relocation assistance.

Built Environment

- The Belle Isle Conservancy has been awarded a \$750,000 grant to create a new public garden on a 1.5-acre site on Belle Isle. The garden will be designed by Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf, one of the most renowned garden designers in the world, with past projects that include the High Line in New York, and Lurie Garden in Chicago. Integral to the project is a volunteer component that will engage Detroit gardeners, block clubs and youth.
- Long-time foundation partner, Detroit Downtown Partnership, is receiving a three-year \$450,000 grant to develop programs and initiatives designed to create a clean, safe, inviting and inclusive Downtown Detroit.

Arts & Culture

- Sixteen arts and culture organizations received a share of \$550,000 for operating support. These organizations are: Arab American National Museum, Charles H. Wright Museum, CultureSource, Detroit Artists Market, Detroit Historical Society, Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation, Detroit Public Theatre, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Zoological Society, the Heidelberg Project, Michigan Opera Theatre, Michigan Science Center, Motown Historical Society, Mosaic Youth Theater, Pewabic Society, and the Sphinx Organization.

Policy & Research

- The Michigan Nonprofit Center has been awarded a three-year, \$75,000 grant to support their campaign to mobilize the nonprofit sector to support efforts to perform a fair and accurate census count in Detroit, which will ensure that Detroit and Michigan receive their fair share of federal funding for critical services and programs based on census figures. The Michigan Nonprofits Count Campaign was created to overcome the challenges of collecting accurate census data in low-income communities, which are routinely undercounted across the state.

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

Previous grantees in 2018 include the Detroit Public Safety Foundation, the Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC), Jefferson East Inc., Midtown Detroit Inc., the College for Creative Studies (Design Core Detroit), Michigan Future Inc. and the Council of Michigan Foundations.

ABOUT The Hudson-Webber Foundation

The Hudson-Webber Foundation 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 Company. The foundation is governed by a 17-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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