

HUDSON WEBBER FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

For media inquiries, contact:
Nat Synowiec
Van Dyke Horn Public Relations
O: 313.872.2202
C: 248.525.5375

Hudson-Webber announces over \$1.5 million in new grants to support programs for justice and safety, 2020 census outreach and evidence-based research into economic equity

DETROIT – The Hudson-Webber Foundation has announced thirteen grants totaling \$1,607,000, supporting projects that reflect the Detroit-based foundation’s commitment to improving the lives of all Detroiters through arts and culture programs, built environment, policy and research, community and economic development, and building safe and just communities.

The organizations approved to receive support by the foundation’s board of trustees in December 2019 and March 2020 are: the Live6 Alliance, Southwest Detroit Business Association, the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, Detroit Future City, the GroundTruth Project, Force Detroit, Detroit-LISC, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Michigan Center for Youth Justice, Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center, the Center for Michigan, The Citizens Research Council, the Michigan League for Public Policy and Michigan Future.

Hudson-Webber Foundation’s most recent investments include support for development of a new research center focused on economic equity across the city; programs working to reduce incarceration rates, including development of an opioid abuse diversion program; façade improvement initiatives in Northwest and Southwest Detroit; financial support for the City of Detroit’s 2020 Census outreach campaign; an outreach and marketing plan for the DIA; and operating grants to organizations that advance polices that are aligned with the desired outcomes of the Foundation’s mission.

“Our funding strategy seeks to increase opportunity and prosperity in the city, and these grants reflect our emphasis on helping to increase the capacity of organizations to deploy a range of tools that help ensure that neighborhood level efforts and concerns inform broader city and state policy goals,” said Melanca Clark, Hudson-Webber Foundation’s president and CEO. “We are also supporting efforts that recognize the urgency of setting and holding ourselves accountable to ambitious benchmarks that lead us toward the shared goal of building a more equitable future for all Detroiters.”

The list of grantees approved in December 2019 and March 2020 includes:

Built Environment

- [Live6 Alliance](#) and [Southwest Detroit Business Association \(SDBA\)](#) have each been awarded \$75,000 grants for façade improvements throughout Detroit. Live6 will create a program to improve the McNichols and Livernois retail corridors in Northwest Detroit. While SDBA will create a design and façade improvement program in Southwest Detroit, primarily working with small, minority and immigrant-owned businesses.

Community and Economic Development

- [Detroit Future City \(DFC\)](#) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant to support the creation of the Center for Equity, Engagement, and Research, which will provide evidence-based research into economic equity in Detroit, develop indicators to measure long-term impact of policies, and create greater community engagement and inclusion.
- [The Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation \(Detroit LISC\)](#) has been awarded a \$600,000 grant to support general operations to enable implementation of an economic development agenda to revitalize neighborhoods and support small business development and job creation in Detroit.

Safe and Just Communities

- [GroundTruth Project](#) has been awarded a \$57,000 grant to support a staff reporter position at the Detroit Free Press focused on covering systematic challenges affecting returning citizens and their families, and to create customized distribution efforts and listening sessions for target audiences.
- [Force Detroit](#) has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to support creation of the Ceasefire Learning Community in Detroit, bringing together the city's police leadership, national experts, and the Live Free Detroit Coalition to create strategies and recommendations to reduce gun violence without increasing incarceration rates.
- [Michigan Center for Youth Justice](#) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to support the completion of strategic planning processes to develop community-based solutions for Michigan's justice-involved youth.
- [Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center](#) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant to provide funds for the Detroit Police Department's (DPD) LEAD Opioid Abuse Diversion Program pilot, which will work to connect individuals to treatment, housing, and mental health services.

Arts and Culture

- [Detroit Institute of Arts \(DIA\)](#) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to support the creation of a regional multi-media marketing and outreach plan that will focus on generating new visitors and awareness about the DIA through broad communications.

Policy & Research

- [Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation \(DESC\)](#) has been awarded a \$75,000 grant to support community outreach and communications operations for the City of Detroit's 2020 Census Campaign, aiming to achieve at least a 70% self-response rate in the city.

Hudson-Webber's board of trustees also announced core policy grants for general operating funds for four organizations that are focused on achieving inclusive and shared prosperity for Detroiters:

- [Center for Michigan](#) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to further advance its mission to encourage greater understanding and involvement in policy issues among the state's citizens and to make sure their voices are regularly heard.
- [The Citizens Research Council](#) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to continue producing high-quality nonpartisan analyses of the most important policy questions facing Michigan, including education, healthcare, public finance and economic development.
- [Michigan League for Public Policy](#), which has recently deployed community engagement staff in Detroit to help better connect community members to state government decision-makers through training and tools, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to advance their economic opportunity policy agenda.
- [Michigan Future Inc.](#) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to support research, communications and advocacy that advances a statewide agenda with the goal of rising incomes for all Michigan residents.

ABOUT the Hudson-Webber Foundation

The 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 Company. The foundation is governed by a 15-member board of trustees, with assets of approximately \$175 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.

###