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**Hudson-Webber Foundation awards \$2 million in new grants to advance the work of local organizations focused on economic and racial equity, community engagement through the arts**

DETROIT – Hudson-Webber Foundation’s Board of Trustees approved new grants totaling \$2 million at their fall meetings, empowering organizations whose missions align with the Foundation’s focus on ensuring economic stability for Detroit’s small businesses, contribute to the development of new and enhanced built environment and infrastructure projects, and enable community-focused organizations to advance conversations and public forums that foster equity and opportunity for all Detroiters.

The grants approved by the Board of Trustees this fall also contribute to the work of Detroit’s arts and cultural institutions, and to the implementation of the Charles H. Wright Museum’s long-term strategic planning process. The Foundation also provided support for the Michigan Opera Theatre’s September 2021 production of “Blue,” the first MOT opera to be directed by a woman of color, as well as a series of community conversations on questions of racial equity and the role of policing that are explored in the opera.

The Foundation has also partnered with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to create the Community Policing Innovations Initiative, a program launched earlier this year committed to collaborative police reform in southeast Michigan. Funders of the initiative include the Ballmer Group, the JAMS Foundation and Oakland County. A new round of investments in technical assistance was [announced in mid-October](#).

The list of organizations approved this fall to receive new and continuing support from Hudson-Webber includes: the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Council of Michigan Foundations, the Downtown Detroit Partnership, the Eastern Market Partnership, Live6 Alliance, Michigan Opera Theatre, New Detroit, Inc., and the Southwest Detroit Business Association.

"The Foundation is privileged to continue our partnerships with this incredible set of organizations and leaders," said Melanca Clark, president and CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation. "We are proud to build



on their demonstrated and sustained commitment to advancing our shared vision for equitable economic revitalization and vitality for all Detroiters.”

The list of grants includes:

### **Arts & Culture**

- [The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History](#) has been awarded \$200,000 over two years as they implement a multi-faceted strategy to address the museum’s long-term sustainability. The grant will support efforts to secure long-term operational funding, progress on necessary building updates, and enable the museum’s leadership to build long-term resilience.
- [Michigan Opera Theatre](#) has been awarded \$50,000 to support the September 2021 production of “Blue” at the Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre. Inspired by the writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates and interviews with everyday people, “Blue” was directed by Keneza Schaal, the first woman of color to direct an MOT opera production in the company’s known history. The performance was paired with a [series of community conversations](#) to foster dialogue and engagement with local organizations and the creative team behind the production.

### **Built Environment**

- [The Downtown Detroit Partnership](#) has been awarded two grants: A \$300,000 operating support grant over two years to advance the recovery and growth of Downtown Detroit as a vibrant, safe, and inclusive community; and a \$150,000 project grant over two years to create and implement a behavioral-mental health augmentation service pilot. The pilot will enable DDP to provide and broker non-law enforcement supports for people patronizing Downtown Detroit’s public spaces who are experiencing homelessness, mental health and/or addiction issues.
- [The Southwest Detroit Business Association](#) has been awarded \$200,000 over two years to implement its Small Business Technical Assistance and Commercial District Revitalization Program to increase capacity and support to predominantly low-income immigrant businesses, growing equitable and inclusive economic opportunities for new and established Southwest Detroit businesses.

### **Community & Economic Development**

- [The Eastern Market Partnership](#) has been awarded \$300,000 over two years, to support general operations in furtherance of comprehensive community and economic development efforts



within the Eastern Market District. The Foundation's provision of general operating support will enable EMP to support job growth and access for Detroiters through business development and entrepreneurship, advance its community-driven development goals in the continued development efforts within the district, and continue to improve and manage the market as a critical city asset.

- [Live6 Alliance](#) has been awarded \$200,000 over two years to expand its economic development, business support, and public safety initiatives to ensure equitable opportunity and financial wellbeing in the Livernois/6 Mile neighborhoods in Detroit.

### **Policy & Research**

- [The Council of Michigan Foundations](#) has been awarded \$30,000 to engage Public Policy Associates (PPA) in providing continued strategic consulting, thought partnership, and research support to the Michigan State Budget Office's Federal working group.
- [New Detroit, Inc.](#) has been awarded \$150,000 over two years to provide general operating support to advance their mission to achieve racial equity in Detroit, including renewed initiatives to develop a race equity summit in 2022, expand its Multicultural Leadership Program, and continue its Town Hall series.

### **Safe & Just Communities**

- [The Detroit Justice Center](#) has been awarded \$300,000 over two years to provide general operating support to assist Detroiters with justice system contact, and to overcome barriers to opportunity while engaging the community in transforming the criminal legal system in Detroit and beyond.

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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 \$200 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](http://www.hudson-webber.org).