



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Hudson-Webber Foundation supports community and economic development initiatives, public policy research, and engagement through the arts in Detroit with over \$1 million in new grants**

DETROIT – Hudson-Webber Foundation’s Board of Trustees approved grants totaling over \$1 million at their December meeting, supporting new programs that bring together stakeholders and public policy researchers to create collaborative, community-based frameworks that empower entrepreneurship, enrich and unify the city’s network of public spaces, develop and deploy new social impact and economic mobility models, and engage Detroiters in design conversations that improve their quality of life.

The Hudson-Webber grants include two gifts to Detroit arts and culture institutions in honor of Mary Webber Parker, daughter of Richard Webber, and generous supporter of the Hudson-Webber Foundation, who passed away in August 2021. To honor her contributions, legacy and interest in arts and culture programming for the benefit of Detroit, gifts of \$25,000 each will be made in her name to the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The Board of Trustees also approved core operating funds for three organizations that work to conduct and connect their public policy research efforts with Detroiters, especially in the areas of state-level legislation and fiscal policy, and their effect on public finance, education, locally focused journalism, healthcare and community and economic development issues.

The list of organizations approved to receive new and continuing support from Hudson-Webber at the December 2021 meeting includes: Black Leaders Detroit, Design Core Detroit, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Parks Coalition, Greenlight Fund Detroit, the Citizens Research Council, the Center for Michigan and the Michigan League for Public Policy.

“The pandemic continues to wreak havoc in our community, and has laid bare and exacerbated racial and economic disparities across a host of domains, including health, employment, and small business,” said Melanca Clark, president and CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation. “We are honored to support partners advancing vital policy work to achieve long-term systemic change, as well as collaborative and innovative programs to address the complex challenges that confront our city in the months and years ahead.”



Hudson-Webber Foundation's December 2021 grants include:

### **Community and Economic Development**

- [Black Leaders Detroit](#) has been awarded \$100,000 over two years in operating support to support Black Leaders Detroit's organizational capacity to deploy financing and funding for Black-led small businesses and entrepreneurs. BLD's model will aggregate capital from diverse sources, including a developing membership base, to provide grants and loans to small businesses that have struggled to access traditional financing. BLD will also provide direct technical supports, and broker relationships with other resource providers in the small business ecosystem.
- [GreenLight Fund Detroit](#) has been awarded \$250,000 over five years to support the launch of the GreenLight Detroit Fund II, which will work with local stakeholders to identify and bring to Detroit new social innovation models to advance social impact and economic mobility for Detroiters. The GreenLight Fund model is designed to facilitate local expertise and engagement to identify systemic barriers to economic mobility, and then address those gaps with innovative programs that can be scaled for greater impact.

### **Built Environment**

- [The Detroit Parks Coalition](#) has been awarded \$150,000 over two years to support the organization's launch as a unified voice, advocate, and assistance provider for parks in Detroit. The DPC will play an important role in attracting and expanding new resources for parks, and in aggregating and dispersing park improvement and programming dollars in a manner that raises the quality of Detroit parks and that will benefit the parks system overall.

### **Policy and Research**

- [The Citizens Research Council](#) has been awarded \$100,000 over two years for core operating support. The CRC produces high-quality nonpartisan analyses of the most important policy questions facing Michigan, with particular emphasis on policymaking, municipal finance, and government accountability. In 2020, CRC launched a Detroit Bureau focusing solely on research on these issues in the city.
- [The Center for Michigan](#) has been awarded \$100,000 over two years for core operating support. This grant is to support the Center's public service civic journalism and engagement programs through BridgeMichigan and BridgeDetroit, launched in 2020. Both publications rely heavily on reader and resident engagement to inform and prioritize issues of focus for the Center's journalism, which has led to the fast growth of readership of both initiatives.



- [The Michigan League for Public Policy](#) has been awarded \$50,000 over two years for core operating support. This grant will support the League's work to help engage Detroiters in the state budget and public policy processes to promote decisions that will benefit Detroiters, particularly those with low incomes and people of color, leading to opportunity and shared prosperity.

#### **COVID-19 Relief Efforts**

- [Design Core Detroit](#) has been awarded \$250,000 over two years to support a City of Design Challenge program, focused on building social cohesion and community re-engagement through Detroit's COVID-19 recovery. The City of Design Challenge is a program that invites designers, residents, policymakers, community-based organizations, and others to collaborate around ideas that make life better for more people in Detroit and cities everywhere. The process utilizes an engagement process to develop community programs and tools.

#### **Arts and Culture**

- [The Detroit Symphony Orchestra](#) and the [Detroit Institute of Arts](#) will each receive a gift of \$25,000 in honor of Mary Webber Parker, daughter of Richard Webber, and generous supporter of the Hudson-Webber Foundation and arts and culture programming in Detroit.

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## Want to join us?

The Hudson-Webber Foundation is looking for a **Vice President of Finance and Administration** to join our team. The Foundation is looking for a dynamic individual that will be responsible for the Foundation's financial operations, oversight of investment management, and administration of the Foundation's information technology, human resources, and insurance coverage. For more about this position, view the [job posting](#).

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).