



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 5, 2022

For media inquiries, contact:

Nat Synowiec

98Forward Communications

nat@98forward.com

C: 248.525.5375

Hudson-Webber Foundation awards \$1.79 million to support neighborhood-based research, engagement and development initiatives, advancement of Joe Louis Greenway project and mobile COVID-19 resources for Detroit students

DETROIT – Hudson-Webber Foundation’s Board of Trustees has approved new grants totaling over \$1.79 million, empowering organizations and partnerships whose missions align with the Foundation’s focus on advancing equity and opportunity for all Detroiters.

The majority of the initiatives advanced by the Foundation’s latest grant cycle represent investments in inclusive community development projects, anchored by neighborhood-based engagement with residents, robust data-collection efforts, and increased support for operating funds and capacity building that empower organizations to move to the next stage of fulfilling their long-term strategies.

Following the Board of Trustee’s June 2022 meeting, the list of organizations receiving new and continuing support from Hudson-Webber includes: Detroit Future City, Detroit Public Safety Foundation, Detroit Public Schools Community District, East Warren Development Corporation, GenesisHOPE, Invest Detroit, the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership, Michigan Nonprofit Association, Renaissance of Hope and United Way of Southeastern Michigan.

“We’re thrilled to provide support to the Joe Louis Greenway, a project that will bring significant, multi-faceted investment into the city’s neighborhoods,” said Melanca Clark, president and CEO of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. “This grant, together with our other investments in this grant cycle, build upon existing partnerships and create new ones to support equitable economic recovery for Detroiters, and strengthen the infrastructure needed to ensure that the significant public sector dollars targeted for the city are transformational and advance equitable outcomes.”

Continuing to address the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation has also awarded funding for the ‘Summer on the Block’ community health initiative, this year’s iteration of the successful 2021 effort to bring pandemic-related education and resources to ten Detroit neighborhoods. This summer, the mobile program will be operated in partnership with the Detroit Public Schools Community District and United Way of Southeastern Michigan.



The list of grants approved at the board's June 2022 meeting includes:

Community & Economic Development

- [East Warren Development Corporation](#) has been awarded \$150,000 over two years to provide operating support for the organization's stewardship of community development, small business, and resident engagement efforts in its target neighborhoods, including neighborhood stabilization and rehabbing of vacant homes; developing parks and greenways; streetscape improvements along the East Warren commercial corridor; renovation and new construction of multifamily and mixed-use buildings.
- [GenesisHOPE CDC](#) has been awarded \$150,000 over two years to increase capacity to conduct community planning, engagement, and a feasibility study of the Inclusive Growth Neighborhood Investment Project. Working closely with neighborhood residents and stakeholders, GenesisHOPE will work to create an inclusive project that aligns with the priorities and wishes of residents to preserve affordability and accessibility, improve the quality of housing in the neighborhood, and explore the feasibility of collective equity and wealth-building models that would benefit existing low-income residents.
- [Renaissance of Hope](#) has been awarded \$250,000 over two years to support organizational capacity and community engagement to implement a neighborhood master plan supporting housing, economic development, and open space activation to strengthen the neighborhood alongside the construction of the Joe Louis Greenway. Since Spring 2021, Renaissance of Hope has been engaging the community and other stakeholders in the area near the intersection of Grand River and Livernois to develop a neighborhood plan to improve conditions, increase quality housing opportunities, and bring needed social and economic resources for residents.

Policy & Research

- [Detroit Future City](#) has been awarded \$79,200 to conduct a research study on place-based philanthropic and investment strategies to advance equitable economic development in Detroit.
- [Invest Detroit](#) has been awarded \$40,000 to conduct research and analysis to inform the creation of a more fair and equitable property tax structure that promotes economic growth for the city of Detroit



- [Michigan Nonprofit Association](#) has been awarded \$150,000 over two years) to support the continued pilot testing and implementation of the Neighborhood Vitality Index in Detroit. This grant advances the work of the NVI Task Force, a diverse stakeholder group, working together to create the NVI's indicators, instruments and reporting tools, designed to provide a robust and comprehensive neighborhood-level benchmarking and measurement system to understand progress, gaps, and needs related to furthering shared prosperity in Detroit.

Built Environment

- The Joe Louis Greenway Partnership has been awarded two grants totaling \$500,000:
 - \$300,000 over two years to support startup operations for the Partnership, including the appointment of a permanent director and dedicated staff, developing programming, securing funding, and building the Partnership's identity as an independent, nonprofit steward for the Greenway over the long term.
 - \$200,000 to support strategic acquisition of property to complete key segments of the Greenway.

Safe & Just Communities

- [Detroit Public Safety Foundation \(DPSF\)](#) has been awarded \$300,000 over two years to provide support to the Detroit Police Department to develop SWORN (Skills, Workforce, Oversight, Risk, and Needs), a comprehensive officer risk-assessment tool. The SWORN platform will produce data that will support and inform the department's efforts to reduce the risk of civil rights violations, increase department responsibility for resident interactions, and increase officer and department accountability.

COVID-19 Response

- [United Way for Southeastern Michigan \(UWSEM\)](#) has been awarded \$172,800 to support the Detroit Public Schools Community District's 'Summer on the Block' program, which will launch a canvassing campaign and sponsor weekly neighborhood events over the summer, providing ongoing vaccine access, resources and information to students and families while school is out of session.

###



ABOUT 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 \$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.