



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2023

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Hudson-Webber Foundation announces \$2.49 million in new grants to advance justice reform, strengthen equitable economic development, and support community building efforts in Detroit

DETROIT – Hudson-Webber Foundation’s Board of Trustees has approved eight new grants totaling \$2,495,000 for investments that will fund research and policy development for economic equity initiatives, enable the implementation of community-based violence intervention and justice reform, and support philanthropic-public collaboration across the state of Michigan.

The roster of grantees approved to receive new and continuing support in Hudson-Webber’s Spring 2023 grant cycle includes: The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan- Michigan Justice Fund, The Council of Michigan Foundations, Detroit Future City, Detroit Public Theatre, Force Detroit, Inc., LISC, Sidewalk Detroit, and the Urban Land Institute of Michigan.

Among the Foundation’s largest ongoing investments is a \$1.2 million operating grant for the Michigan Justice Fund, to which Hudson-Webber’s leadership has contributed substantial financial and strategic support since its initial exploration and planning stages in 2019. Officially launching in 2020, the MJF has attracted an active and robust group of partners and funders, including 15 national and local foundations, and established its mission to advance equitable justice policy and support transformational change throughout the state through a collaborative visioning process, drawing on the expertise and support of practitioners and justice-impacted leaders. To date, the Fund has deployed \$9.7 million in grants to 56 different organizations, touching all 83 counties in Michigan.

“The Michigan Justice Fund is proving to be a vital vehicle for funders to collaboratively resource grassroots organizations and innovative initiatives that advance economic mobility for justice-impacted populations across Michigan,” said Melanca Clark, President and CEO of the Hudson-Webber Foundation, and Steering Committee Chair of the Fund. “We’re thrilled to renew our support for this essential work.”

Also among the eight grants approved in March 2023, the Board of Trustees issued a \$50,000 grant to the Urban Land Institute of Michigan to honor the work of Sue Mosey, executive Director of Midtown Detroit, Inc. Under Mosey’s leadership, Midtown Detroit has stewarded real estate development, small business attraction and retention, infrastructure improvement, and community programming for over 35 years,



and she has been a valued partner of the Hudson-Webber Foundation on a variety of successful projects. The Foundation's grant, in accordance with Mosey's wishes, will support ULI Michigan projects that support collaborative urban planning, economic inclusion, and leadership opportunities for under-represented populations such as women, BIPOC, and individuals with disabilities.

"So much of the work supported through this slate of grants is built upon the meeting of many hands and the input of many voices," added Clark. "We're glad to resource organizations that work in partnership with the residents they serve, advancing critical priorities with and for Detroiters."

The list of grants approved at the board's March 2023 meeting includes:

Community & Economic Development

- [Detroit Future City](#) has been awarded a \$375,000 grant, to be paid over three years, to support sustained and expanded research and engagement efforts of DFC's Center for Equity, Engagement, and Research (CEER.) Over the next two years, the Center will continue to expand its research and engagement to learn and inform others about the drivers of economic equity and neighborhood resiliency in Detroit, to identify the strategies that are effective in reducing inequities, and implement strategies to strengthen community engagement around these issues.
- [Local Initiatives Support Corporation \(LISC Detroit\)](#) has been awarded a \$350,000 grant, paid over two years, to support the implementation of a comprehensive equity-based economic development agenda, and to develop local talent, revitalize neighborhoods and support small businesses. Among other strategies, LISC Detroit will advance their efforts toward implementation of community-centered economic inclusion frameworks; developing equitable mobility solutions; and financing mixed-use real estate development.

Policy & Research

- [The Council of Michigan Foundations \(CMF\)](#) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant, to be paid over three years, to support the Governor's Office of the Foundation Liaison (OFL) to promote philanthropic-public collaboration at the state level. CMF is the fiscal sponsor for the OFL, created in 2003, as a nonpartisan effort to foster partnerships between state government agencies and philanthropic organizations that are likely to result in policy and programmatic reforms to improve the lives of children and families in Michigan.

Safe & Just Communities

- [Force Detroit, Inc.](#) has been awarded a \$300,000 grant, paid over three years, to support the continued development of Force Detroit’s capacity to serve as an intermediary for the city's emerging community violence intervention field. With sustained support, Force Detroit will build its core organizational capacity, create and leverage safety networks, conduct impact evaluation, and advocate for policy changes that address neighborhood safety in Detroit.
- [The Michigan Justice Fund](#) has been awarded a \$1,200,000 grant, paid over three years, to create a thriving enabling environment in Michigan necessary to advance justice reform initiatives. Launched in 2020 by the [Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan](#), sustained support for the MJF will focus on advancing their efforts to strengthen the advocacy ecosystem, advance the economic mobility of directly impacted people, and leverage public spending to benefit individuals and communities impacted by systems of mass incarceration.

Leadership & DEI

- [Urban Land Institute of Michigan \(ULI Michigan\)](#) has been awarded \$50,000 to support their Leadership, Equity and Inclusion program, with the Foundation’s support focused on three of ULI Michigan’s focus areas: The Pathways to Inclusion Initiative, the UrbanPlan project, and the Women’s Leadership Initiative. Hudson-Webber’s Board of Trustees has awarded this grant in recognition of [Midtown Detroit, Inc.](#)’s Executive Director Sue Mosey for her outstanding contributions to Detroit and the Midtown neighborhood over the last 35 years.

Arts & Culture

- [Detroit Public Theatre](#) has been awarded a \$20,000 grant to support the production and performance of “The Peculiar Patriot,” a play that “attempts to trace the migration of systemic injustice from the plantation to the prison yard.” The performance is a one-person show that translates mass incarceration data and impacts into storytelling, and incorporates public engagement elements including a post-show community dialogue, reduced ticket prices, and a free community performance.
- [Sidewalk Detroit](#) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to support Sidewalk Detroit’s International Artist Registry Program. The program will launch with commissions for two world-class artists, [Jordan Weber](#) and [Yinka Lori](#), who will engage with community members to co-create immersive and interactive works in partnership with the [Joy-Southfield Community Development Corporation](#), and the [Canfield Consortium](#).



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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 13-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.