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HUDSON-WEBBER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT AND CEO MELANCA CLARK

Through a social justice and equity lens, Clark helped drive investments into Detroit's neighborhoods to afford all Detroiters opportunities for prosperity

DETROIT – The Trustees of the Hudson-Webber Foundation today announced Melanca Clark will depart from her role as president and CEO of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. She will remain with the Foundation while the Board engages in a search and leadership transition to ensure a smooth process, as she relocates to Boston with her family.

“It’s been an absolute privilege to work with our board, staff, and committed and dynamic partners to help move this incredible city forward,” said Clark. “We expanded our investments to the city’s neighborhoods and into new models of leadership and leaders, to help ensure that all residents benefit from the city’s growth and are shaping their own future. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this extraordinary journey.”

Clark joined the Foundation in August 2016 from Washington, D.C., where she served in a variety of roles in the Obama Administration, including at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) as Chief of Staff of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS office) and the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

She leaves behind a powerful legacy supported by signature accomplishments that have helped to cultivate and support strong community advocates, simultaneously strengthened the Hudson-Webber Foundation and facilitated greater national attention by foundations with respect to Detroit initiatives.

Clark upheld the grant-making organization’s longstanding pillars of giving – community and economic development, built environment, arts and culture and safe and just communities – and served as a trailblazer by leveraging her professional background to form collaborative partnerships with advocates, practitioners and public sector stakeholders to drive decision-making and strategy to help achieve desired outcomes at scale.

“While we are sad to see her go, the Board of Trustees will be forever grateful for Melanca’s inspirational leadership and stewardship of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. She is a lovely, gracious person and a friend to so many people throughout the metro Detroit region,” said Jennifer Hudson Parke, Board Chair. “When Melanca began her tenure, she launched a robust strategic planning process through a social justice and equity lens that has set the agenda for our organization for years to come.”



Under Clark's transformative leadership, the Foundation has contributed more than \$40 million in grants to nonprofit organizations moving the city of Detroit forward. **Highlights** include:

- **Overseeing the implementation of an equity-focused** strategy with a focus on investments addressing racial inequity and structural barriers to opportunity. Over the past six years, the Foundation has moved significant resources to advance equitable neighborhood reinvestment and worked with partners to address critical social and economic, and community issues facing Detroiters including housing stability and affordability, small business development and job access, the tax foreclosure crisis and mass incarceration.
- **Spearheading the Michigan Justice Fund (MJF)**, a funders collaborative that makes investments to stem the flow of individuals into the criminal justice system, support the investment of public dollars to community-driven alternatives to incarceration and ensure that those who are returning home after incarceration receive the support they need to flourish. The MJF is comprised of 15 Michigan-based and national funders that have contributed more than \$20 million to advance criminal legal reform and the economic mobility of individuals with criminal convictions in Michigan.
- **Launching the Community Policing Innovations Initiative with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** after the tragic murder of George Floyd, to work with communities to address issues in police practices, systems and services. The goal of the initiative is to provide the guidance and support necessary for local communities in partnership with local law enforcement, to develop community-driven, substantive and pragmatic changes in the way that policing and public safety services are provided. The Community Policing Innovations Initiative is chaired by Barbara McQuade, Professor, University of Michigan Law School and former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. McQuade also serves on the boards of the Hudson-Webber Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Clark also serves as Chair of the Council of Michigan Foundations, Steering Committee Chair of the Michigan Justice Fund and on the boards of the Center for Employment Opportunities, Downtown Detroit Partnership, Michigan Futures, Inc., the Michigan Center for Youth Justice, Basblue and the advisory board of LISC Detroit.

The Foundation Board of Trustees will select a firm to conduct a national candidate search.

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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 14-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.