



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 26, 2023

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jennifer Foster / 586-212-3122
Joseph Howse / 248-431-6716
Catalyst Media Factory
jennifer@catalystmediafactory.com
joseph@catalystmediafactory.com

**HUDSON-WEBBER FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDS \$2.9 MILLION
IN NEW GRANTS TO EIGHT LOCAL DETROIT NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

New funding promotes racial equity, ignites economic growth and development, creates an inviting and inclusive downtown Detroit and advances the Joe Louis Greenway Project

DETROIT – The Board of Trustees of the **Hudson-Webber Foundation** (HWF) today awarded new grants totaling \$2.9 million to eight select organizations responsible for driving positive change and leading empowering programs and initiatives that directly impact residents throughout metro Detroit.

Organizations receiving funding are **Downtown Detroit Partnership, Invest Detroit, Develop Detroit, City of Detroit: Project Clean Slate, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, Force Detroit, Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration and New Detroit**. The funding enables new and ongoing projects to address the evolving needs of Detroit communities, while also enhancing the impact of the Foundation’s traditional funding strategies.

“The Foundation is proud to provide funding to empower change-makers driving positive impact across our vibrant city,” said Jennifer Hudson Parke, board chair of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. “We believe in the adaptability and impact of these projects, which resonate with our mission to foster Safe and Just Communities, drive Community and Economic Development and enhance Built Environments.”

The list of grants approved at the Trustee’s September 2023 meeting are:

Community & Economic Development

- [Downtown Detroit Partnership](#) (DDP) has been awarded \$250,000 in operating support for its continued stewardship of the downtown, which includes the advancement of its Business Improvement Zone, a \$4.8 million special assessment district administered by the DDP and comprised of 580 commercial parcels. The funding also allows the DDP to continue to develop a comprehensive strategy around space and long-term funding for its high-quality parks and public spaces, including Campus Martius Park, Cadillac Square, Capitol Park, Grand Circus Park, Beacon Park and the Woodward Esplanade. It also will support DDP and its planning partners to advance urban design, traffic management and infrastructure planning in Downtown Detroit.
- [Invest Detroit](#) has been awarded a combined total of \$925,000. A \$775,000 operating grant was allocated for general operations, critical to implementing the lending and investment programs that fulfill the organization’s mission to catalyze economic growth in underserved communities across Detroit and the region. Invest Detroit is a mission-driven lender, investor and partner that supports business and real estate projects that will ignite economic growth in Detroit. Additionally, \$150,000 has been committed to support Invest Detroit’s early planning phase work to advance a community and neighborhood development initiative aimed at producing inclusive economic development in areas around the Joe Louis Greenway.

Built Environment

- [Develop Detroit](#) has been awarded \$300,000 in operating support for its efforts to increase its affordable housing portfolio through additional rental units, building and renovating of single-family houses and further cultivation of shared equity models.

Safe & Just Communities

- [City of Detroit: Project Clean Slate](#) has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation to support Project Clean Slate, the City of Detroit's expungement initiative, to hire an automatic expungement specialist and to produce a report on the initiative's impact and lessons learned. Project Clean Slate is a free expungement program for Detroit residents, with the goal of helping residents clear their criminal records that will allow them to create better opportunities for employment, education and housing.
- [Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network](#) (DWIHN) has been awarded \$150,000 to deepen its collaboration with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office on a public Jail Data Dashboard to further integrate, analyze and publicly share data on overlapping consumers to increase diversion and reduce recidivism through greater service coordination and provision. DWIHN and its partners developed the Jail Data Dashboard to bring awareness and a better understanding of the jail population, why individuals are jailed and how outcomes can be improved to decrease the jail population through diversion and improved recidivism.
- [Force Detroit](#) has been awarded \$750,000 to support the neighborhood-based Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Strategy. With seed support, Force Detroit seeks to increase its capacity to serve as an intermediary for the city's emerging CVI field, while also engaging in ongoing organizing and advocacy work. CVI approaches violence as a public health epidemic, curable with evidence-informed, community-driven solutions that minimize criminalization and expand economic opportunity. With capacity-building support from local foundations, including HWF, Force Detroit has become recognized for its effectiveness as an intermediary, promoting Detroit's ability to build safety in neighborhoods.
- [Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration](#) (MI-CEMI) has been awarded \$200,000 to continue its work as a non-partisan alliance of more than 50 organizations that seeks to create and restore healthy communities by addressing mass incarceration. MI-CEMI, representing non-profit, faith-based, advocacy, grassroots and service organizations, is the only statewide membership coalition of organizations and constituencies dedicated to justice reform and is thus an important platform for advancing coordinated strategies for addressing the systemic challenges that perpetuate mass incarceration.

Policy & Research

- [New Detroit](#) has been awarded \$150,000 in general operating support for core operations and to advance the mission of achieving racial understanding and racial equity in Detroit. The nation's first urban coalition dedicated to race relations, New Detroit has reaffirmed itself as a leader in addressing the advancement of racial equity in Detroit.

###

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 \$190 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.