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**HUDSON-WEBBER FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNOUNCES  
\$2.3 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS TO EIGHT LOCAL DETROIT NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY-FOCUSED INITIATIVES**

*New grants support community access to Detroit's stellar public spaces and increase funding for key statewide policy partners to advance inclusive growth and well-being for all Detroiters*

**DETROIT** – The Board of Trustees of the Hudson-Webber Foundation (HWF) awarded new grants totaling \$2.3 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 **Black Leaders Detroit, Center for Michigan, Citizens Research Council, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Justice Center, Detroit Parks Coalition, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy** and the **Michigan League for Public Policy**. 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 honored to support these exceptional partners who are at the forefront of impactful projects that directly benefit our community," said Jennifer Hudson Parke, board chair of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. "These grants not only support the innovative projects addressing the evolving needs of Detroit communities, but they also reinforce our commitment to our foundational key mission areas: Arts & Culture, Built Environment, Community & Economic Development, and Safe & Just Communities."

The list of grants approved at the Trustee's December 2023 meeting are:

**Arts & Culture**

- [Detroit Institute of Arts](#) (DIA) has been awarded \$500,000 that will contribute to unrestricted operating endowment support in recognition of Eugene (Gene) and Mary Anne Gargaro. For 20 years, Gene served as the Board Chair of the DIA where his strong leadership charted a path through turbulent financial times and positioned the DIA to play a central role for the Grand Bargain and the ultimate independence of the DIA.

**Built Environment**

- [Detroit Parks Coalition](#) (DPC) has been awarded \$200,000 that will enhance and improve collaborative work to help connect Detroiters to beautiful and healthy natural areas, parks and public spaces. DPC is a diverse group of park leaders and community members who have come together to expand resources and support healthy, equitable and vibrant parks and public spaces.

- [Detroit Riverfront Conservancy](#) (DRFC) has been awarded \$600,000 to continue to support its operation of building and maintaining Detroit’s riverfront and connecting greenways as a beautiful, exciting, safe, accessible and world-class resource for all the city and region’s residents. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023, DRFC was established with a vision and founding promise to transform Detroit’s riverfront—the face of Detroit—into a gathering place for all. HWF has provided a total of \$2,312,565 in grant support to DRFC since 2000.

## **Community & Economic Development**

- The HWF Board of Trustees has approved a \$100,000 general operating grant to [Black Leaders Detroit](#) (BLD) to support the organization’s capacity to extend financing and funding for Black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs. BLD brings a new approach to serving Detroit’s Black businesses, which relies on deep community engagement and the development of products that best serve these businesses. The organization also provides direct technical support and broker relationships with other resource providers in the small business ecosystem.

## **Safe & Just Communities**

- [Detroit Justice Center](#) (DJC) has been awarded \$450,000 to improve the lives of Detroiters impacted by incarceration and to promote economic and racial equity in Detroit and beyond. The Foundation’s support will provide stability for DJC, allowing the organization to continue to deepen its work of reduce the prevalence of individuals and families impacted by justice-involvement, reduce barriers that hinder Detroiters ability to access jobs and promote policies that reduce unnecessary incarceration, while strengthening its organizational capacity in the long term.

Hudson-Webber’s Board of Trustees also announced core policy grants for general operating funds for three organizations that are focused on achieving inclusive and shared prosperity for Detroiters:

- [Center for Michigan](#) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to further advance its mission. A nonpartisan, nonprofit “think-and-do” tank founded in 2006, the Center for Michigan aims to make Michigan a better place by encouraging greater involvement in policy issues among Michigan residents and assuring credible, statistically valid public priorities reach the halls of power. The Center has executed large-scale public engagement programs (involving more than 75,000 diverse statewide residents) for more than a decade.
- [The Citizens Research Council](#) (CRC) has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to continue producing high-quality nonpartisan analyses of the most important policy questions facing Michigan, including education, healthcare, public finance and economic development. The CRC is Michigan’s oldest public affairs research organization with a mission to promote the development of informed public policy at all levels of Michigan government through the delivery of factual and unbiased analysis of the most critical issues pertinent to state and local government. The Foundation has provided nearly \$1.4 million of support for general program needs and specific research projects to CRC.
- [Michigan League for Public Policy](#) (MLPP), which has recently deployed community engagement staff in Detroit to help better connect community members to state government decision-makers through training and tools, has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to advance its economic opportunity policy agenda. MLPP is a nonpartisan policy institute dedicated to economic opportunity for all in Michigan. It is the only state-level organization that addresses poverty in a comprehensive manner and analyzes the impact of state and federal budgets and policies on people of color and residents with low incomes. For over 100 years, MLPP has focused on a wide range of issues that affect the state’s most vulnerable residents, including education, healthcare, food assistance, housing, tax policy, state budget, racial equity and immigration.

**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 Arts & Culture, Built Environment, Community & Economic Development and Safe & Just Communities. To learn more about the Hudson-Webber Foundation, visit [www.hudson-webber.org](http://www.hudson-webber.org).*