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**HUDSON-WEBBER FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDS  
\$2.6 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS TO 10 LOCAL DETROIT NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY-FOCUSED INITIATIVES**

*New grants support community access to Detroit's stellar public spaces, increase engagement to the city's rich and vibrant arts scene and expand economic development opportunities for all Detroiters*

**DETROIT** – The Board of Trustees of the Hudson-Webber Foundation (HWF) awarded new grants totaling \$2.6 million to 10 select organizations responsible for driving positive change and leading empowering programs and initiatives that directly impact residents throughout metro Detroit.

Organizations receiving funding are **Belle Isle Conservancy, CHN Housing Partners, Children's Foundation, Detroit Cultural Center Initiative, Detroit Sound Conservancy, Down Payment Assistance Program, Joe Louis Greenway Partnership, Michigan Future, Inc., Michigan's Thanksgiving Parade** and the **Museum of Contemporary Art 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 Hudson-Webber Foundation is deeply honored to support these exceptional partners, who are leading impactful projects that directly benefit our community. Our investment in these organizations underscores our unwavering commitment to driving positive change in Detroit," said Donald Rencher, president and CEO of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. "These organizations embody the very best of Detroit, each demonstrating a steadfast dedication to enhancing the lives of our residents. By collaborating with these organizations, we are investing in initiatives that address critical needs, foster community development and promote a growing and inclusive Detroit."

The Board of Trustees has announced a \$405,000 grant to [The Parade Company](#) to support one of Detroit's favorite holiday events, America's Thanksgiving Parade. This investment in one of Detroit's most cherished celebrations will enhance the positive national narrative that the city has been enjoying recently.

Detroit's Thanksgiving Day parade tradition began 100 years ago in 1924 by the J. L. Hudson Company department store. The parade Hudson's founded a century ago shares the title of being the second oldest Thanksgiving Day parade in the United States with the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

For countless generations of Michigan families, the holiday season didn't officially begin until "the real Santa Claus" stepped off the parade's final float and onto the Woodward marquee of Hudson's downtown Detroit flagship department store, accepting the key to both the city and the hearts of good children everywhere. This

beloved tradition, only briefly suspended during World War II due to material shortages, was sponsored by Hudson's until 1979. Today, America's Thanksgiving Day Parade continues to bring joy and unity to the city of Detroit and surrounding communities, making it a symbol of the region's enduring spirit and festive cheer.

Additional grants approved at the Trustee's June 2024 meeting are:

### Arts & Culture

- The [Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit](#) (MOCAD) has been awarded \$100,000 to increase engagement with and representation of Detroit's diverse population, predominantly the BIPOC community. HWF's support will allow MOCAD to invite a broader audience to engage with contemporary art through diverse experiences and extend the impact of MOCAD's community involvement initiatives through targeted outreach programs aimed at engaging underserved communities in Detroit. It also will enrich MOCAD's educational offerings through evaluation and feedback of their workshops and boost public attendance and engagement at exhibition openings by spotlighting both emerging and established artists.
- The [Detroit Sound Conservancy](#) (DSC) has been awarded \$100,000 to support the acquisition, planning and development of the lots adjacent to The Blue Bird Inn. HWF's support will help the DSC create a community space for recreation, leisure and community gatherings, fostering social connection and unity. The DSC, which documents and collects artifacts from Detroit's musical history, purchased The Blue Bird Inn in 2018, known as a vital nerve center for homegrown jazz and visiting artists during the heyday of bebop, and will ultimately redevelop the site into a community center and music hotspot.

### Built Environment

- The HWF Board of Trustees has approved a \$300,000 general operating grant to the [Belle Isle Conservancy](#) (BIC). The Belle Isle Conservancy aims to uplift Belle Isle Park as a dynamic center of community life and economic activity, contributing to Detroit's broader economic landscape and establishing the park as a cornerstone of city life. Increasing access to Belle Isle means greater outcomes in physical and social/emotional wellbeing for Detroiters and investing in world class public spaces also has demonstrated positive economic impacts for the city and region.
- [The Joe Louis Greenway Partnership](#) has been awarded \$600,000 to support general operations and advance its vision for reunifying and reenergizing Detroit's diverse communities, many of which have been separated by freeways. Support from HWF allows the Partnership to grow the organizations staffing, implement programming, secure gap and long-term operational funding and build the partnership's identity as an independent, nonprofit steward for the Joe Louis Greenway.
- The HWF Board of Trustees has approved a \$500,000 program grant to the City of Detroit to provide implementation capacity and pooled funds for the City of Detroit [Down Payment Assistance Program](#) (DPA), which will be operated by National Faith Homebuyers. The DPA program offers affordable homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income residents and significantly reduces their monthly housing expenses. The DPA program offers grants up to \$25,000 per recipient, not to exceed 50% of the overall home purchase price. DPA grants can be used for principal reduction, interest rate buy-downs and closing costs, all designed to make homeownership more accessible for low- to moderate-income Detroit residents.

At the Spring 2024 meeting, the Hudson-Webber Board of Trustees approved the following grants:

## **Built Environment**

- The HWF Board of Trustees has approved a \$200,000 program grant to Midtown Detroit Inc. (MDI), as fiduciary, to support the Detroit Cultural Center Association (DCCA) - Start-Up Support. The DCCA is a new organization formed to govern the implementation of the [Detroit Cultural Center Initiative](#) and shared or coordinated services for the district in partnership with the 12 founding cultural institutions. The initiative is a comprehensive plan to reimagine and transform a nine-block neighborhood in Midtown Detroit into a world-class, connected and interactive cultural district.

## **Community & Economic Development**

- [CHN Housing Partners](#) has been awarded \$200,000 over two years to support implementation capacity for the Detroit Housing Network and its single-family housing strategy in neighborhoods across Detroit.

## **Policy & Research**

- [Michigan Future, Inc.](#) (MFI) has been awarded \$250,000 to support general operations which will bolster the organizations capacities in research, communications and advocacy to advance the Neighborhood Talent Concentration Initiative (NTCI), designed to generate more high-wage jobs by creating places where young talent wants to live and work. The grant would also support MFI's insider strategy to advance the Working Parents Tax Credit, a program that would provide households receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) with a significant tax cut to help Michigan working families make ends meet.

## **Other**

- [The Children's Foundation](#) has been awarded \$25,000 program grant to support the Michigan Central Station Children's Endowment. The Michigan Central Station Children's Endowment Campaign seeks to support a set of Detroit-based youth-serving organizations with permanent endowment resources to promote their sustainability and impact for decades to come. This grant recognizes the restoration and re-opening of a Detroit landmark while promoting permanent access and engagement with Detroiters.

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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 \$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).*