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Erb Announces New Grants

July 15, 2016



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation

I would like to share with you news of \$3.8 million in new and continuing grants recently approved by the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation. This brings total grants paid FYE June 30 to \$11.6 million. A sampling of the recently approved grants will:

Support the creation of Green infrastructure (GI) to manage stormwater and provide other community benefits:

- transform **Chandler Park** to demonstrate how stormwater management can beautify and complement recreation and other traditional park activities
- expand a **program** that employs Detroit students to construct park trails and restore the natural environment in Rouge Park
- provide a seventh year of support for the **Lower Eastside Action Plan (LEAP)**, where early results include the Green T, Green District, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and other resident-driven efforts to productively repurpose and beautify open space
- design an interactive city-wide GI database through a cross-sector public-private partnership
- develop a technology transfer program to help municipalities adopt GI throughout the binational Great Lakes basin

GI uses trees, plants and natural solutions to soak up stormwater where it falls, keeping it out of the sewer system which, when overloaded, discharges sewage into our rivers and streams. Using trees and plants also helps beautify the area, clean the air, and provide landscaping jobs, while saving money where GI can substitute for more costly grey infrastructure (human engineered solutions that involve concrete, steel and the like). Click [here](#) to learn more.

Promote equitable and environmentally healthy development in the city of Detroit:

- create a new **collaboration** to strengthen the network of place-based community development organizations (CDOs) that are foundational elements for sustainable (triple bottom line), city-wide community and economic development
- expand **Small Batch Detroit**, a "people-planet-profit" food business designed and run by high school students
- incorporate triple-bottom line concepts into the **Motor City Match** program which pairs local businesses and property owners

Help transform the Arts League of Michigan (**Carr Center**) into a vibrant, financially sustainable, African-American led anchor arts organization (see Free Press article [here](#)), and support and document the **Heidelberg Project's** transition into its next phase.

Please click [here](#) for the complete grants list.

Additional grant highlights throughout the year include:

- Green Infrastructure projects at: **O'Shea Park** on Detroit's west side, the **Fort Street Bridge Park** in southwest Detroit, throughout multiple Detroit neighborhoods through three small grant/technical assistance programs (**Rain Gardens to the Rescue**, the **Field Guide to Working With Lots** and **NEX Green Stormwater Infrastructure Mini Grants**), along the Clinton & Huron Rivers through the **WaterTowns** and **RiverUp!** initiatives, and in the **Royal Oak Center Street Parklet**
- Research based efforts to eliminate toxic algae in western Lake Erie: a Phosphorus Reduction Tracking System as part of a larger **Blue Accounting** platform, and translational research by the University of Michigan (UM) Water Center **measuring the social and ecological impacts of neighborhood-based green infrastructure** in Detroit and the **proportional impact of the Detroit River system** on the algae problem
- Triple bottom line development: Sponsoring three **Detroit Revitalization Fellows** to focus on sustainability, and creating the I-APEEAL collaboration between Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, UM, the Detroit Environmental Agenda and others to address social and health effects of pollution in southwest Detroit
- Community-based art projects in: Highland Park, the **International Wildlife Refuge Center**, **Stoepel Park**, five Detroit neighborhoods (LEAP, Cody Rouge, Brightmoor, Jefferson East, North End) as part of the **C+PAD** project that fuses GI and public art, and **Intersections Park** at the corner of Martin Luther King & Rosa Parks in Detroit
- **Jazz education** for more than 200 musically talented, low income youth in Detroit through four premier instructional programs
- Leading Alzheimer's research worldwide: through the Alzheimer's Association's **Zenith** and **International Research** peer reviewed grants programs
- Ongoing support for 39 **Anchor Arts** organizations, the **Foundation For Detroit's Future** (the "Grand Bargain") and several other environmental and arts organizations.

Please click [here](#) for a list of all grants approved this past year.

We also are pleased to present our latest video, [Growing Sustainable Water Solutions: Rain Gardens To The Rescue](#).



Other Foundation videos may be found [here](#).

Thank you for your continuing interest,
John M. Erb, President

[Learn More](#)

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