Detroit: A Great Lakes City
Born February 11, 1923 in Detroit, MI, Fred attended Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills where he excelled in sports, music, science, and math. Fred went on to study engineering at Cornell University. In 1942 he transferred to the University of Michigan where he met his wife Barbara.

With the onset of World War II, Fred joined the Army Enlisted Reserve and was called to active duty in June 1943. While stationed in Maryland he spent his weekends in New York City listening to jazz greats like Art Tatum, Billie Holiday, and his favorite, Sidney Bechet, developing what would become a lifelong love of jazz.

After the war, Fred and Barbara married and Fred resumed his education at Michigan. Having decided that he wanted to be an entrepreneur, Fred transferred from engineering to business and earned his BBA degree with honors in 1947. Shortly after graduation, Fred went to work for his uncle’s lumber and coal business in Royal Oak. The day Fred began, he learned his uncle was leaving. He told Fred, “You’re running the company now.” Stunned, Fred took the helm. Starting with seven employees, one store, and sales approaching $170,000 (one third of which was coal), the next year the company’s sales rose to $300,000, and the following year to $1,000,000. By the 1970’s Erb Lumber became the largest lumber supplier in Michigan. When Fred sold the business in 1993, it was a multi-state enterprise covering 45 locations with 1,300 employees and generating $280 million in sales (none of which was coal). Fred was also active in real estate development, often lending money to new builders unable to access traditional financing — a further reflection of his entrepreneurial spirit.

Barbara Erb was born in Detroit, MI on April 17, 1924 as Barbara Jean Morley. Barbara grew up in Pleasant Ridge and graduated from Lincoln High School in Ferndale. As a young child, Barbara and her family spent their summers in Bayfield, Ontario, the lakeside community she cherished. It was her summers on the shores of Lake Huron that instilled in Barbara a lifelong love and respect for the Great Lakes and the natural environment, which would later influence her philanthropy.

Barbara attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from 1942 to 1944 where she met Fred, her husband of 66 years, at a New Year’s Eve celebration. They were engaged a year later. While Fred was stationed in Okinawa, Barbara worked as the secretary for the headmaster of Cranbrook School where she would type a letter to Fred every day.

An early environmental activist, Barbara was an organic gardener committed to nutrition and wholesome eating — an “environmentalist” long before these issues became mainstream. She lectured on organic gardening, frequented the local farmers markets, took her recyclables to the DPW, and was known in every health food store in town. Barbara also believed that travel broadened perspectives. As a young mother, she made sure her four children were exposed to the natural beauty of Michigan and the world through frequent trips to the Great Lakes and to more exotic environments, such as Kenya and the Galapagos Islands.

Always community minded, Barbara’s philanthropy included leadership roles with a broad array of organizations.

After years of charitable giving, in 1996 Fred and Barbara made their largest gift ever to create the Frederick A. and Barbara M. Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise, a joint Master’s degree program between the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business and School of Natural Resources and Environment. In 2007, as parents and grandparents with a concern for the environment and a love of the arts, Fred and Barbara established the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation.

Fred died January 10, 2013, just before his 90th birthday, after living 12 years with Alzheimer’s disease. Barbara died ten months later, on November 8, 2013, at age 89. We are pleased that their legacy will live on through the work of the Foundation.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We invite you to explore our website to learn more about the Erb Family and the Foundation’s interests and to sign up for email updates – www.erbff.org

This report covers the Foundation’s fiscal years 2014-2016 — July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016, a time of incredible growth for the Foundation.

With the passing of my parents in 2013, the Foundation’s assets more than doubled. That same year, the Foundation undertook its first five-year strategic review, resulting in revised grant guidelines (pg. 22); the addition of two new board members, Douglas Ebert and Neil Hawkins; and the hiring of four new staff members: Melissa Damaschke, Cris Doby, Sigal Hemy, and Mary Lyons-Richards.

The strategic review, which included input from more than 100 stakeholders, confirmed our direction with some refinements. We added sustainable business models to our mission, reflecting my father’s interest in triple-bottom-line solutions and the growing success of public-private partnerships. We also broadened and deepened our Desired Outcomes, articulated Guiding Principles and Values, and embraced a greater leadership role through convening, visibility, and influence.

My parents’ philanthropy was driven by their desire to create a better world for both current and future generations, and our focus on sustainable, environmentally healthy, and culturally vibrant communities is a direct result of that legacy. The Foundation’s primary goals are to improve water quality, promote environmental health, justice, and equitable development, and support the arts. We also support leading Alzheimer’s research. With our expanded personnel and financial resources, the Foundation was able to pay $25 million in grants during the period 2014-2016, bringing total payments since the launch of the Foundation’s grants program in 2009 to $45.6 million.

Metro Detroit was my parents’ home, and as a place-based funder, we recognize the importance of the city’s strategic location within the Great Lakes region. Our location on the shores of the Detroit River provides a number of recreational, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits to Detroiters, and it is our belief that an environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant Detroit not only improves quality of life in the city, but also contributes to the strength of the Great Lakes ecosystem and region.

While our Desired Outcomes are long-term goals, and it is difficult to attribute outcomes to a single funding source, we feel that our grantees are helping to make a difference. We hope that the stories and videos in this report illustrate that impact and provide inspiration and hope for the future.

John M. Erb, President
GRANTS PAID FY 2014–2016

JULY 1, 2013–JUNE 30, 2016

The Foundation’s mission is to nurture environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in Metropolitan Detroit, consistent with sustainable business models, and support initiatives to restore the Great Lakes Ecosystem. To help us accomplish that mission, we have developed Desired Outcomes and identified activities that we will support to help achieve these outcomes.

Environment: Our Desired Outcome is an environmentally healthy City of Detroit, Metropolitan Detroit region, and Great Lakes Ecosystem. To help achieve this outcome, we support efforts to improve water quality in the watersheds impacting Metropolitan Detroit and Bayfield, Ontario and to promote environmental health, justice, and equitable development.

Culture and Arts: Our Desired Outcome is a culturally vibrant City of Detroit and Metropolitan Detroit region. To help achieve this outcome, we support select anchor arts organizations, community arts, and jazz education.

The Foundation also initiates grants in the areas of Alzheimer’s Research and other areas that we consider “Special Opportunities.”

Sustainability involves the harmonizing of economic, environmental and social interests, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. Progress towards sustainability is rooted in the actions and decisions by individuals, private enterprises (nonprofit and for-profit), and local communities. Our grants support local grassroots and community-based organizations as well as larger institutions whose research and expertise helps inform and advance those local efforts. We strive for solutions that are consistent with sustainable business models. Please refer to the Grant Guidelines at page 22 for more information.

Please explore the interactive links throughout this report (indicated by bold-face text), as well as short (2-3 minutes) videos, for further information about the issues and organizations we support. To learn more about the foundation, visit www.erbff.org

BY GEOGRAPHY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
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<tr>
<td>CITY OF DETROIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREAT LAKES BASIN</td>
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<tr>
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TOTAL GRANTS: $25,066,014
**GREAT LAKES**

Our Desired Outcome is improved water quality in the Great Lakes, especially the watersheds impacting Metro Detroit and Bayfield, Ontario. We support efforts to eliminate polluted runoff and other threats and improve resiliency to climate change. We do this by promoting green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), individual and institutional stewardship, bi-national cooperation, and sound policy.

**Progress Highlights**

Responding to feedback and lessons from our 2014 strategic planning process, we expanded our green infrastructure goals to include community development as well as improved water quality. We added more project grants, resulting in 106 projects (ranging from a single residential rain garden to a 100 acre park) managing an estimated 27 million gallons of stormwater annually while beautifying neighborhoods and commercial spaces. A three-year grant to the University of Michigan Water Center is supporting the evaluation of societal and ecological impacts of neighborhood-based GSI installed on vacant lots in Detroit.

**WHY GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE MATTERS**

Detroit operates a combined sewer system, meaning that stormwater runoff and sewage both drain into the same set of pipes. In the event of heavy rainfall, the water running through the pipes can exceed the capacity of the infrastructure, backing up into basements, flooding streets, and discharging untreated stormwater and wastewater into rivers and streams. In addition to contaminating local watersheds, phosphorous from Detroit’s combined sewer overflows contributes to the development of toxic algae in western Lake Erie. Increased heavy rain and storm events due to climate change exacerbate the problem.

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) uses trees, plants and natural solutions to soak up stormwater where it falls, keeping it out of the sewer system. In addition to the environmental benefits, the use of trees and plants helps beautify the area, clean the air, and provide landscaping jobs. GSI can also save money by serving as a substitute for more costly human-engineered solutions, such as underground storage tunnels and treatment centers (gray infrastructure).

By preventing stormwater runoff from entering and overwhelming the combined sewer system, green stormwater infrastructure directly contributes to the health of local communities and the Great Lakes.
This collaboration of Keep Growing Detroit, Sierra Club and Friends of The Rouge educates and enables residents to build rain gardens, water catchment systems, and healthy soils to capture stormwater and conserve water. In the first two years of this three-year program, residents have planted 28 rain gardens capturing a total of 4,110 gallons of water per storm off of their rooftops, while three urban farms installed rain catchment systems capturing 3,245 gallons per storm. Keep Growing Detroit is developing a local native plant industry, using seed from the Michigan Wildflower Farm and hand collected on Belle Isle to grow 15 varieties of native plants in the greenhouse at Plum Street Market Garden. Video by Sam Wolson Photography + Media.
Community Development organizations like Northend Christian Community Development Corporation and Greater Woodward Community Development Corporation play an important role in helping neighborhoods incorporate green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and native plant butterfly gardens. Video by Sam Wolson Photography + Media.

A University of Michigan Water Center research team led by Joan Nassauer collaborated with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA), and Cody Rouge and Warrendale neighborhood organizations to create an innovative form of green stormwater infrastructure for vacant properties in Detroit. Highly engineered bioretention gardens featuring attractive plants and healthy soils on four vacant lots capture, soak up, and store a total of 1.2 million gallons of stormwater annually from the adjacent street, and enhance neighborhood quality of life. Video by University of Michigan News.
The SouthWest Solutions/Detroit Farm & Garden project demonstrates how an old vacant building can be repurposed to house a sustainable (triple-bottom-line) business, including a green roof and green parking lot that capture an estimated 4,000 gallons of water per storm. Video by Sam Wilson Photography + Media.
GRANTS

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Chandler Park Conservancy
for continued support of the Lower East Side Action Plan (LEAP) in Detroit FY 2014: $120,000 / FY 2015: $250,000 / FY 2016: $250,000

Freshwater Future
for continued support of the Great Lakes and Earth Observation Technology Transfer Collaborative (GLRI) for disaster response funding for sustainable infrastructure to improve resiliency in Detroit. FY 2016: $60,000 payable over three years.

Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative (DECC)
to continue to support efforts to link greenways on Detroit’s Eastside, through a collaborative framework for implementation including incorporation of stormwater management strategies. FY 2015: $5,000 / FY 2016: $50,000

Eastside Community Network
to develop green infrastructure in Detroit. FY 2014: $75,000 / FY 2016: $75,000

Greater Woodward Community Development Corporation
to continue to develop green infrastructure in Detroit. FY 2014: $75,000 / FY 2016: $75,000

Greening of Detroit
to strengthen organizational infrastructures at the Greening and WARM, creating the additional capacity to play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future for Detroit including improved water quality. FY 2014: $150,000 on a previously approved grant

to support the civic engagement activities related to the City of Detroit green infrastructure pilot project in the Fitzgerald neighborhood. FY 2016: $68,000

to partner with DTE and the City of Detroit to reactivate Detroit’s former O’Shea Park into a unique amenity that combines recreation, education, and public space with innovative energy and green infrastructure functions that extend into the neighborhood. FY 2016: $110,000

Green Infrastructure Collaborative (GIC)
to continue to support efforts to link greenways on Detroit’s Eastside, through a collaborative framework for implementation including incorporation of stormwater management strategies. FY 2016: $60,000

Lawrence Technological University
to develop a binational stormwater technology transfer collaborative for the Great Lakes Basin in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission. FY 2016: $120,000

Michigan Community Resources
to provide mini grants of up to $5,000 for small projects in Detroit that support green stormwater infrastructure. FY 2016: $60,000

Motorcities National Heritage Area Partnership
to transform a neglected urban space in Southwest Detroit into an experiential gateway that interprets the history of labor, industry and environment and connects to the Iron Belle Trail FY 2016: $170,000 challenge grant.

Nature Conservancy
to work with Greening of Detroit, Issue Media Group, and others to facilitate development of a prototype green infrastructure project tracking and communications knowledge/database and web interface for the city of Detroit. FY 2016: $63,000

to advance green infrastructure in Detroit by modifying policies to incentivize GI, securing investments, and establishing the conditions for implementation. FY 2015: $1,200,000 payable over five years.

Sierra Club Foundation
to continue efforts to promote the use of urban green infrastructure in Detroit. FY 2014: $75,000 / FY 2015: $75,000 / FY 2016: $75,000

Student Conservation Association
to give underserved Detroit youth the training, tools, and experience to improve the environmental health and green infrastructure of their communities. FY 2015: $50,000 / FY 2016: $60,000

To provide regrants and related technical assistance to fund community based climate adaptation green infrastructure projects in the Detroit area. FY 2014: $35,000 / FY 2015: $35,000

To develop the Field Guide to Working with Lots and implement it in Detroit neighborhoods through mini-grants, technical assistance, and storytelling. FY 2015: $80,000 / FY 2016: $140,000

To continue efforts to link greenways on Detroit’s Eastside, through a collaborative framework for implementation including incorporation of stormwater management strategies. FY 2015: $50,000 / FY 2016: $60,000

To develop stormwater management practices, organizational structure, and funding mechanisms to establish a Stormwater Management District in Detroit as part of the Market’s 2025 Strategy. FY 2015: $75,000

To design and engineer a Transportation Alternative Program for Joy Road (on Detroit’s west side) that creates a safe, green, aesthetically-pleasing, and vibrant commercial corridor. FY 2015: $80,000

To provide mini grants of up to $5,000 for small projects in Detroit that support green stormwater infrastructure. FY 2016: $60,000

The Great Lakes Commission
to continue efforts to promote the use of urban green infrastructure in Detroit. FY 2014: $75,000 / FY 2015: $75,000 / FY 2016: $75,000

To advance green infrastructure in Detroit by modifying policies to incentivize GI, securing investments, and establishing the conditions for implementation. FY 2015: $1,200,000 payable over five years.
**STEWARDSHIP**

**Alliance for the Great Lakes**
to move water-related local and regional planning forward to achieve on-the-ground results and policy improvements in Detroit while inspiring citizen engagement. FY 2015: $60,000 / FY 2016 $60,000

**Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority**
to continue to improve water quality for the Bayfield River and Lake Huron in Ontario. FY 2014: $100,000 payable over three years.

**Belle Isle Conservancy**
for renewed support for the volunteer-membership initiative on Belle Isle. FY 2016: $50,000 payable over two years.

**Clean Water Fund**
to bring attention to the need for infrastructure improvements to better manage and protect water quality in the Lake St. Clair area. FY 2015 $10,000

**Clinton River Watershed Council**
to continue to support WaterTowns!, a community-based initiative designed to help towns and cities leverage the assets of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair for water-oriented community development. FY 2014 & FY 2015: a total of $110,000 paid on a previously approved grant: $225,000 renewal grant payable over three years.

for continued general operating support: FY 2014 & FY 2015: a total of $90,000 paid on a previously approved grant / FY 2016: $300,000 renewal grant payable over three years.

**Friends of the Detroit River**
for continued general operating support. FY 2014 & FY 2015: at total of $80,000 paid on a previously approved grant / FY 2016: $120,000 renewal grant payable over three years.

**Friends of the Rouge**
for continued general operating support. FY 2014 & FY 2015: at total of $80,000 paid on a previously approved grant / FY 2016: $120,000 renewal grant payable over three years.

to explore potential merger between Friends of the Rouge and Alliance of Rouge Communities. FY 2015: $45,000

**Huron River Watershed Council**
for a challenge grant to continue to support the RiverUp! initiative to restore and revitalize the Huron River corridor for the benefit of local economies and residents, and conservation of a shared natural heritage. FY 2014 & FY 2015: total of $160,000 paid on a previously approved grant / FY 2016: $300,000 renewal grant payable over three years.

for continued general operating support: FY 2014 & FY 2015: a total of $90,000 paid on a previously approved grant / FY 2016: $300,000 renewal grant payable over three years.

**Michigan League of Conservation Voters**
for a six-month planning grant to develop a field organizing plan to address nutrient loading in the western Lake Erie basin. FY 2016: $35,000
to convene Michigan’s environmental community in order to prioritize three top issues and advocate for these issues in the legislature. FY 2015: $50,000

**ALIGN RESEARCH, POLICY AND PRACTICE**

**National Wildlife Federation**
for the Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition: a collaborative effort to promote funding and policy reform for the Great Lakes. FY 2014 & FY 2015: at total of $300,000 paid on a previously approved grant / FY 2016: $450,000 renewal grant payable over three years for continued support and to broaden and deepen the membership.

to support the 10th anniversary Healing Our Waters Restoration Conference in Grand Rapids, MI and the Peter Wege Tribute Luncheon. FY 2015: $25,000

**University of Michigan**
to support the Water Center’s efforts to convene and support experts across the Great Lakes basin, and conduct related activities, to identify and fill key knowledge gaps in the current Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and to help develop a scientific framework for the next phase of the GLRI. FY 2014 and FY 2015: A total of $3,591,127 paid on three year $4.5 million grant FY 2013.
to link stakeholders, science, and modeling across Detroit River and Lake Erie watersheds to inform policy and management, and conduct longitudinal research on four bioretention gardens in Detroit’s Cody Rouge neighborhood. FY 2016: $2,994,000 payable over three years. *(video page 6)*
to provide key information to nonprofit and policy communities on impacts of and effective approaches to managing phosphorus in the Maumee River watershed and western Lake Erie. FY 2016: $298,516

**Wayne State University**
regional and binational science for monitoring, preventing, and mitigating urban stresses in the Huron to Erie corridor. FY 2016: $650,000 payable over three years.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, JUSTICE, & EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Our Desired Outcome is sustainable (triple-bottom-line) development. We support efforts that encourage entrepreneurial and responsible business solutions; a sustainable local food system; and collaborative community-based efforts that align research, policy, and practice to support citizenship and advocacy.

Progress Highlights

With development in Detroit ramping up, we sought high-leverage opportunities to introduce triple-bottom-line practices. We helped the Detroit Revitalization Fellows program incorporate sustainability concepts into its training sessions and Detroit’s Motor City Match program develop a sustainability handbook for building owners and their tenant businesses. A cohort of the Revitalization Fellows developed an Eco-D project to construct two green alleys in Detroit’s West Village neighborhood (this spring 2017) — one residential and one commercial.

Unsustainable development can negatively impact public health. The Detroit Health Department and Detroit Environmental Agenda are arming residents with data, advocacy tools, and job opportunities to fight current and legacy pollution that is causing lead poisoning, asthma, and other environmental health problems. Video by Cass Corridor Films.
## Sustainable Development

**Community Development Advocates of Detroit**  
for a pre-development process among four institutional partners to build the framework for a community development system in Detroit. FY 2016: $25,000

**Detroit Economic Growth Association**  
to help the Motor City Match program increase small business investment on neighborhood commercial corridors in Detroit by matching buildings and businesses with competitive grants, loans, and technical assistance on triple-bottom-line (sustainable) practices. FY 2016: $500,000 payable over three years.

**Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Coalition**  
for energy retrofits for the Common’s Building in Midtown Detroit. FY 2014: $30,000 payment on challenge grant.

**Wayne State University**  
to support Detroit’s environmental sustainability through a partnership between the Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program and community-based organizations focused on environmental health, justice, and equitable development, and to support a collaborative project to address an environmental issue (to be selected by the Fellows) that will impact Detroit’s future. FY 2016: $400,000 payable over three years.

## Sustainable Food Systems

**Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corporation**  
to improve and sustain an aquaponics system raising fish and produce in a repurposed corner liquor store in Detroit. FY 2015: $110,000

**Detroit Food & Entrepreneurship Academy**  
to support development of a just and equitable food system by investing in Detroit’s high school students as the leaders, entrepreneurs, employees, and employers of tomorrow. FY 2016: $30,000

**Detroit Food Policy Council**  
to facilitate action on recommendations from the Economic Analysis of Detroit’s food system. FY 2016: $45,000

**Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation**  
for a collaborative initiative housed at Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation and the University of Michigan to develop a public health action plan in Southwest Detroit and foster leadership and advocacy to implement the plan, working within the framework of the Detroit Environmental Agenda. FY 2016: $395,000 payable over three years.

**Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice**  
for renewed general operating support FY 2014: $75,000 / FY 2015: $75,000 / FY 2016: $75,000  
to support continued work on the Detroit Environmental Agenda. FY 2016: $621,000 payable over three years. ([video page 10](#))

**Ecology Center**  
for renewed general operating support. FY 2014: $100,000 / FY 2015: $100,000 / FY 2016: $100,000

**Fair Food Network**  
to build organizational capacity. FY 2016: $90,000 payable over three years.  
to expand Double Up Food Bucks in direct markets and groceries in Detroit, leveraging federal monies and building evidence so food assistance policy expands funding made available through the Farm Bill. FY 2015: $100,000 payable over four years.

**Keep Growing Detroit**  
to support efforts to promote food sovereignty in Detroit by distributing resources, hosting education and community events, and building capacity to decentralize and broaden leadership. FY 2013: $50,000 payable over two years. FY 2015: $50,000 renewal grant payable over two years.

## Align Research, Policy and Practice to Support Citizenship and Advocacy

**EcoWorks**  
to continue support for the Great Lakes Bioneers. FY 2014: $10,000 / FY 2015: $10,000 / FY 2016: $10,000

**Michigan Environmental Council**  
to continue to advocate at a state-wide level on environmental health, justice, and water issues facing Metro Detroit. FY 2014: $50,000 / FY 2015: $50,000 / FY 2016: $50,000

**People’s Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit**  
for the Delray Impact Project, to provide environmental health data and capacity to improve quality of life outcomes related to Detroit’s New International Trade Crossing and industrial impacts. FY 2015: $60,000

**Wayne State University**  
to address sources of air pollution in Detroit, providing organizational support and coordination for the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, coordinating an Air Quality Advisory Committee. FY 2016: $375,000 payable over three years.
ANCHOR ARTS

Our Desired Outcome is a culturally vibrant city of Detroit and metropolitan region. We provide general operating support for cultural and arts organizations, including organizations that have historical significance to the Erb family and organizations that are essential for a strong central city and vibrant neighborhoods.

Progress Highlights

Since 2010, we have partnered with the Kresge Foundation on a shared application, review, and reporting process for a series of grants that offer unrestricted financial support to Detroit arts organizations. Unrestricted support provides financial stability and allows arts organizations to take the programmatic risks they need to remain relevant. One example is the Art as Ritual Conference, featured here. To date, the Anchor Arts program has resulted in a total of $37 million in grants: $13 million from Erb and $24 million from Kresge.

In an effort to attract new and diverse communities, the DIA opened its facilities to 350 artists and professionals through the Art as Ritual project. Oren Goldenberg (Cass Corridor Films) and Bill Danaher (Christ Church Cranbrook) organized the day-long “Art as Ritual: A Conference on Lamentation in Contemporary Performance and Practice” in September 2016. Artists, activists, academics, and the interfaith community participated in 14 interactive sessions led by Detroit artists using the DIA’s galleries, grounds, and theaters. Photo by Ara Howrani.
Art as Ritual. Video by Cass Corridor Films.
**ARTS & COMMUNITY LIFE**

Our Desired Outcome is robust community participation and more attractive, prosperous neighborhoods in economically challenged areas across Metropolitan Detroit, contributing to a stronger region. We support projects that strengthen individual neighborhoods by engaging residents in opportunities for creative expression and participation, with an emphasis on projects that explore the intersection of arts and the environment or build on the community's artistic roots and history.

**Progress Highlights**

Artists worked with residents of all ages in Detroit’s Delray, Lower Eastside, Banglatown, Brightmoor, Corktown, and Grandmont Rosedale neighborhoods, creating murals, festivals, and art-infused pocket parks. After thirty years, the last eight of which have enjoyed Erb support, the Heidelberg Project is formally transitioning from an outdoor art installation driven by one artist into a community-driven arts-infused neighborhood. Ownership of the project will provide the community autonomy to chart their own future.

**JAZZ EDUCATION**

We support advanced jazz instruction for musically talented but economically disadvantaged young people, an investment in Detroit’s strong jazz tradition and a reflection of Fred Erb’s love of jazz.

Jazz instruction programs continue to nurture and develop the next generation of Detroit jazz musicians, providing high-quality instruction to over 250 middle and high school students each year. Like many young musicians, Louis M. Jones III (grade 12, Detroit School of Arts) engages in several extracurricular programs and performance opportunities to supplement his jazz education. A member of the MSU Spartan Youth Jazz Band and the Detroit Jazz Festival All-City Jazz Combo, Louis also performs regularly at Detroit’s two jazz clubs: Baker’s Keyboard Lounge and Cliff Bell’s. In Louis’s words, “Being a jazz musician in Detroit means being in a very cultured and experienced scene. I get to play with people who have played all around the world and have many achievements, and they are all so happy to teach me all that they know. Detroit has a rich legacy in music and it’s awesome knowing I’ve been chosen to keep the legacy alive.”
This video was made in the summer of 2015, before Heidelberg announced its transition, but you can see them already beginning to think about the coming changes. As Tyree Guyton notes in the opening lines of the video, “Nothing lasts forever. Change is inevitable.” Video by Sam Wolson Photography + Media.
ANCHOR ARTS
UNRESTRICTED GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

General operating support to a diverse but defined set of organizations that represent the culture mainstays of the region. Organizations with historical significance to the Erb family are indicated with an *.

Arts & Scraps
$30,000 payable over three years

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
$75,000 payable over three years

College for Creative Studies: non-degree community arts education and outreach programs
$75,000 payable over three years

Cranbrook Educational Community’s cultural and arts programs, including its community education and outreach programs*
$300,000 payable over three years

Creative Many Michigan
$75,000 payable over three years

CultureSource
$80,000 payable over three years

Detroit Artists Market
$30,000 payable over three years

Detroit Children’s Choir
$30,000 payable over two years.

Detroit Historical Society
$75,000 payable over three years

Detroit Institute of Arts*
$300,000 payable over three years

Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation
$40,000 payable over three years

Detroit Public Television*
$300,000 payable over three years

Detroit Repertory Theatre
$45,000 payable over three years

Detroit Symphony Orchestra*
$300,000 payable over three years

Detroit Zoological Society*
$300,000 payable over three years

The Henry Ford*
$300,000 payable over three years

Heritage Works
$30,000 payable over three years

Insideout Literary Arts Project
$75,000 payable over three years

Living Arts
$75,000 payable over three years

Marygrove College’s Institute of Music & Dance’s non-degree community outreach arts programs
$30,000 payable over three years

Matrix Theatre Company
$25,000 payable over three years

Meadow Brook Theatre*
$75,000 payable over three years

Michigan Opera Theatre
$75,000 payable over three years

Michigan Science Center
$75,000 payable over three years

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit
$75,000 payable over three years

Motown Museum
$45,000 payable over three years

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit
$75,000 payable over three years

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts
$75,000 payable over three years

Pewabic Pottery
$75,000 payable over three years

PuppetART
$30,000 payable over three years

Scarab Club
$30,000 payable over three years

Signal Return
$30,000 payable over three years

Southwest Detroit Business Association for COMPAS
$30,000 payable over three years

Sphinx Organization
$75,000 payable over three years

Stratford Shakespearean Festival of America*
$300,000 payable over three years

Wayne State University: Community Arts & Press
$30,000 payable over three years

Wayne State University: Hillberrry Theatre
$45,000 payable over three years

Wayne State University: WDET-FM
$45,000 payable over three years

YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit
$75,000 payable over three years
ANCHOR ARTS
TRANSFORMATIONAL GRANTS
Additional support to these select anchor institutions in exceptional cases for time-limited, large-scale transformational efforts.

Arts League of Michigan
to significantly expand infrastructure and programs and assist with relocation. FY 2016: $500,000 payable over two years.

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts
to support a $5 million capital campaign to remove threat of foreclosure and stabilize Music Hall operations for future generations. FY 2016: $50,000

ARTS & COMMUNITY LIFE

Allied Media Projects
for an 18-month-long series of art programs along the Detroit/Hamtramck border by Power House Productions that generates collaboration, community, artistic development, and economic development.

College for Creative Studies
to partner with Detroit Future City and The Greening of Detroit to create environmentally focused, community-generated public art projects in four Detroit neighborhoods. FY 2015: $150,000 payable over three years.

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings
to pilot a program that uses the arts to enhance community life in Highland Park, including a robust community planning process, technical assistance, and implementation grants. FY 2016: $152,800 payable over two years.

Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation
to engage youth in the installation of a public art project that will reflect the spirit of community and beautify Stoepel Park in Detroit. FY 2015: $20,000

The Heidelberg Project
to support the transition of the Heidelberg Project towards a new form of community arts space. FY 2016: $150,000 challenge grant requiring a 1:1 match, payable over two years. (video page 15)

Heritage Works
to continue to build organizational capacity. FY 2014: $100,000 in the form of a challenge grant requiring a 1:1 match / FY 2015: $75,000 in the form of a 1:4 challenge grant, providing $1 for every $4 raised.

International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
to create a 6’ X 7’ photo-mosaic mural, using children’s artwork, for the new LEED certified Visitor Center on the Detroit River. FY 2016: $20,000 challenge grant.

Midtown Detroit, Inc.
to enable the N’Namdi Center in Detroit to hire a consultant to draft a strategic campus plan. FY 2014: $15,000

People’s Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit
to engage the Detroit neighborhood of Delray, especially its youth to learn about and create a mural of the neighborhood’s history. FY 2015: $17,500

JAZZ EDUCATION

Arts League of Michigan
to continue and expand the jazz education program for Detroit youth. FY 2014: $50,000 / FY 2015: $50,000 / FY 2016: $50,000

Detroit Jazz Festival Foundation
to continue and expand the jazz education program for Detroit youth. FY 2014: $50,000 / FY 2015: $50,000 / FY 2016: $50,000

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
to continue and expand the jazz education program for Detroit youth. FY 2014: $50,000 / FY 2015: $50,000 / FY 2016: $50,000

Jazz at Lincoln Center
for Jazz for Young People-Detroit and for scholarships for Detroit students participating in the summer jazz academy. FY 2016: $100,000

Michigan State University
to continue and expand the jazz education program for Detroit youth. FY 2014: $50,000 / FY 2015: $50,000 / FY 2016: $50,000
ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH

The Foundation supports leading research on the prevention, management, and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time, the Foundation also initiates support for exceptional opportunities that fall outside of its mission.

Progress Highlights

After six years of Erb seed funding totaling $1.25 million with pilot projects in Detroit and Pontiac, RecoveryPark Farm has assembled 20 vacant acres on Detroit’s lower east side, begun to restore the former Chene Ferry market, built eight high tunnels, and obtained $2.2 million in grants, loans, and loan guarantees, with another $2.3 million pending, to further build out its eventual 50-acre, sustainable urban agriculture project that will employ recovering drug addicts and returning citizens to grow produce for Metro Detroit restaurants.

In the pilot phase featured in this video, RecoveryPark Farm hired its first supported employee, grew a variety of heirloom produce with sustainable farming techniques, and developed sales contracts with local restaurants. Under another Erb grant — a partnership through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative including DWSD, SEMCOG, Detroit Future City, Lawrence Technological University, LEAP, Greening of Detroit, EPA and the Erb and Kresge foundations — numerous bioswales were constructed in the RecoveryPark footprint to infiltrate and detain more that one million gallons of stormwater runoff per storm event from the streets and the adjacent land. Video by Sam Wolson Photography + Media.
ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH

Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Association
to support peer-reviewed, donor-directed leading research aimed to prevent, treat, and ultimately cure Alzheimer’s disease through the Zenith and New Investigative Research Grant programs. A total of $900,000 payable FY 2014–2016.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Christ Church Cranbrook
to use projects in music, arts and education to close the distance between cities and suburbs, as well as religious and educational communities, in Metropolitan Detroit. This is an Erb Family Legacy Grant. FY 2016: $90,000 (video page 12)

Detroit Zoological Society
to help advance the Detroit Zoo’s Greenprint by installing an anaerobic digester to process manure into energy and fertilizer and providing free refillable water bottles for low income families. FY 2014: $625,000 payable over two years.

EcoWorks
to expand and solidify the Detroit Youth Energy Squad as a self-sustaining, national model for comprehensive green schools and youth leadership development programs. FY 2015: $300,000 payable over three years.

Foundation for Detroit’s Future
for a multi-year commitment, as part of a coalition of funders, to support the “Grand Bargain,” a plan that protected the Detroit Institute of Arts and its collection and reduced cuts to city pensions threatened by the city’s bankruptcy. FY 2015: $10 million payable over 20 years.

Michigan Environmental Council
to support a partnership of Zero Waste Detroit and Green Living Science for a community engagement campaign to improve the success of Detroit’s new curbside recycling program. FY 2015: $357,000 payable over three years.

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit
for a one-to-one individual giving match supporting a partnership with Thompson Educational Foundation establishing Mosaic as “Arts Organization in Residence” at University Prep Science / Math Elementary School in Detroit. FY 2013: $70,000

RecoveryPark
to continue support for planning and implementation of a model, large-scale urban agriculture project in Detroit. A total of $619,000 paid FY 2013–2016 on $1 million four year grant FY 2012. (video page 18)
## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td><strong>$279,791,190</strong></td>
<td><strong>$167,382,925</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Deferred Federal Excise Taxes</td>
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<td>186,397</td>
<td>174,784</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Beginning of Year Balance</td>
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<td>$275,828,377</td>
<td>$160,644,220</td>
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<td>Additions/(Reductions)</td>
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<td>1,157,341</td>
<td>115,184,157</td>
<td>55,286,265</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$265,889,020</strong></td>
<td><strong>$284,910,295</strong></td>
<td><strong>$279,791,190</strong></td>
<td><strong>$167,382,925</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Foundation’s assets increased significantly between 2013 and 2014 as assets from Fred’s and Barbara’s estates transferred to the Foundation. The increased asset base translated to a proportional increase in the Foundation’s grants budget.*
BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF

Founding Members

Barbara M. and Fred A. Erb

Next Generation Advisory Board

LEFT TO RIGHT: Elizabeth G. Erb; J. Hugh Liedtke; Katherine (“Lark”) L. Liedtke; Margaret (“Mimi”) D. Liedtke

Board of Trustees

LEFT TO RIGHT: Douglas E. Ebert; John M. Erb; Leslie Erb Liedtke; Debbie D. Erb; Susan E. Cooper; Neil C. Hawkins; Ira J. Jaffe, Chair; Chacona W. Baugh

Staff

LEFT TO RIGHT: John M. Erb, President; Daryl Larson, Chief Financial Officer; Jodee Fishman Raines, Vice President of Programs; Christine (Cris) Doby, Program Officer; Melissa Damaschke, Program Officer; Sigal Hemy, Program Officer; Mary Lyons-Richards, Grants/Office Manager

Please visit our website for staff contact information.

www.erbff.org

PRESIDENT, BOARD & STAFF PHOTOS: Glenn Triest, Triest Photographic. REPORT WRITTEN BY Jodee Fishman Raines, Primary Author; Sigal Hemy, Content Editor; Mary Lyons-Richards, Production Coordinator; DESIGNED BY Kate Scheible, Scheible Design and PRINTED BY Inland Press.
MISSION

Nurturing environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in Metropolitan Detroit, consistent with sustainable business models, and supporting initiatives to restore the Great Lakes Ecosystem.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & VALUES

The Foundation is committed to the following standards and approaches in support of its mission:

• **Sustainability**: The harmonizing of economic, environmental, and social interests, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future. Progress towards sustainability is rooted in the actions and decisions by individuals, private enterprises, and local communities, and a special focus on the role of business to help transition to sustainability is a key approach to be encouraged;

• **Organizational effectiveness**: A commitment to continuous rigor, accountability, learning, and improvement, and an alignment of programmatic, management, operational, and financial capacities in support of clear goals and objectives;

• **Collaboration**: Efforts to bring together multiple, diverse stakeholders to develop solutions that address complex problems in the region; and

• **Leadership and key allies**: Energetic, visionary champions and leaders who have a broad base of support.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Desired Outcome: An environmentally healthy city of Detroit, Metropolitan Detroit region, and Great Lakes Ecosystem.

GREAT LAKES

Desired Outcome: Improved water quality in the Great Lakes basin, especially the watersheds impacting Metro Detroit and Bayfield, Ontario, through the elimination of polluted run-off and other threats, resiliency to climate change, and individual and institutional stewardship.

The Foundation will consider support for activities that:

• Promote green stormwater infrastructure to achieve community development as well as water quality goals;

• Inform and engage individuals, businesses, and government about how their daily activities, choices, and policies can help improve their watershed;

• Improve binational cooperation and policies on the Canadian and U.S. sides of the border to improve water quality; and

• Align environmental research, policy and practice to work toward a healthy Great Lakes.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, JUSTICE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Desired Outcome: Sustainable (triple-bottom-line) development, sustainable business models, and public policies that are socially equitable and sensitive to environmental and public health concerns in the Metropolitan Detroit region.

The Foundation will consider support for projects that:

• Promote sustainable (triple-bottom-line) development — development that balances present and future sustainable business models, environmental, and social outcomes;

• Encourage entrepreneurial and responsible business solutions to the region’s environmental issues;

• Build a healthy and equitable local food system based on sustainable solutions;

• Strengthen collaborative, community-based efforts working at the intersection of environmental justice, sustainable business, and public health, that align research, policy, and practice, and develop local environmental citizenship, advocacy, and leadership; and

• Promote cooperation and collaboration between consumers, the business community, and government agencies to develop policies and practices, encourage green chemistry, and address significant environmental toxins and pollutants.
ARMS

**Desired Outcome:** A culturally vibrant City of Detroit and Metropolitan Detroit region where arts contribute to the area’s economic, social, and creative well-being.

ANCHOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

**Desired Outcome:** A strong central city and vibrant neighborhoods in the city of Detroit that also contribute to the quality of life in Metro Detroit.

The Foundation will provide:

- General operating support to a diverse but defined set of organizations that represent the cultural mainstays of the region, including those that have historical significance to the Erb family; and
- Additional support to these anchor institutions in exceptional cases for time-limited, large-scale transformational efforts. This may take the form of capital or endowment campaigns, major physical infrastructure needs, innovative and comprehensive marketing and outreach efforts, or significant investments that will strengthen their position as cultural anchors. The Foundation is particularly interested in using its support of these efforts to attract new and additional philanthropic resources for the organization, so grants in this area will typically be challenge grants.

*Please note that the Foundation will not accept unsolicited applications in these areas.*

ARTS & COMMUNITY LIFE

**Desired Outcome:** Robust community participation and more attractive, prosperous neighborhoods in Detroit and other economically challenged areas across Metropolitan Detroit, contributing to a stronger region.

The Foundation will consider project support for activities that:

- Strengthen individual neighborhoods through cultural activities and public art;
- Explore the intersection of arts and the environment, or
- Build on the community’s artistic roots and history to support its cultural and economic renaissance; and
- Develop the support infrastructure to help create an economically sustainable arts community.

JAZZ EDUCATION

**Desired Outcome:** The continuation of Detroit’s strong jazz tradition, and Fred Erb’s legacy of jazz patronage, by educating the next generation of musicians.

The Foundation supports jazz instruction for musically talented, economically challenged youth.

ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH

**Desired Outcome:** A world free of Alzheimer’s disease.

The Foundation will support leading research regarding the prevention, management, and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

*Please note the Foundation will not accept unsolicited proposals in this area.*

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

From time to time, the Foundation may also consider support for exceptional opportunities that fall outside of its mission.

*Please note the Foundation will not accept unsolicited proposals in this area.*
**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Special Interest Populations:**
The Foundation has identified two constituencies of particular interest for its work:

- **Young people:** Fred and Barbara Erb cared deeply about investing in young people within the family business and in their personal philanthropy. In light of the significant educational and employment challenges facing youth today, the Foundation is interested in efforts to serve, engage, or educate young people (teens and young adults) through the arts or environmental activities.

- **People of color:** The Foundation has a strong commitment to diversity, and recognizes that the interests and voices of racial and ethnic communities have historically been underrepresented in both the arts and the environment. Due to the large concentration of low-income communities of color in Detroit, and the disproportional impact of numerous environmental issues on these populations, the Foundation desires to support efforts that engage and benefit the most marginalized segments of the community. This is a topic of particular interest within the environmental movement where progress has been lagging.

**Other Potential Partners:**

- In exceptional cases, the Foundation may be open to partnerships — which may or may not involve grant support — with organizations working in other fields (i.e., not arts or environmental groups) whose work may be enhanced by bringing the arts and the environment into those disciplines. The Foundation sees this as an opportunity to strengthen its impact and explore its goals through new partnerships.

- The Erb Family and the Erb Family Foundation have helped create valuable academic resources at the University of Michigan in the form of the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise and the Water Center. We are interested in helping connect these resources with the Foundation’s grantees and mission-related initiatives where practicable.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Step 1: Determine Eligibility.**
To be eligible for a grant, your organization must:
(1) Be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and not a private foundation;
(2) Have a current financial audit conducted by an independent certified public accountant;
(3) Have total revenues of at least $100,000 for the preceding year;
(4) In policy and practice not discriminate based on age, race, creed, gender, gender identity, religion, disability, sexual orientation and ethnicity.

**Step 2: Determine Program Fit.**
Please review our Grant Guidelines (available on our website) to determine whether there is a potential match between your organization’s work and the Foundation’s interests. You may contact the Foundation to help you with this determination. Our geographic area includes Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties of Michigan and the watersheds impacting these areas. We will consider requests for the development or significant expansion of programs that meet our desired outcomes or general operating support for organizations whose core work fits our mission. Matching funds or other conditions may be required. We generally do not provide support directly to individuals or units of government, nor for loans, grants to support religious activities, capital projects, research (unless solicited by the Foundation), fundraising events, or conferences. The amount requested should be based on the size and scope of the organizational and program budget and the anticipated impact of the program. We generally do not fund 100% of a program’s cost. We will consider multi-year grants where appropriate.

**Step 3: Submit a Letter of Inquiry Through Our Website.**
A Letter of Inquiry (LOI) may be submitted at any time. Grants generally are approved at our board meetings in March, June, September, and December. LOIs must be submitted through our website; e-mail and paper inquiries will not be accepted. Please note that our requirement for an online application is not intended to minimize communication, but is simply one way for us to exercise environmental stewardship by reducing the amount of
paper we generate. Please feel free to call us if you have questions about how to complete the online application form, if you need assistance with Internet access, or if you would like to discuss your program ideas before you submit your application. You should be notified within two to four weeks whether we are able to invite a Proposal. Foundation staff may contact you for additional information or a site visit at any point in the review process. Detailed instructions on the LOI and Proposal are included in the Grant Application Instructions on our website.

Step 4: The Proposal.
A Proposal may be invited based upon your LOI. The information you will be asked to include in the Proposal is specified in Section II of our Grant Application Instructions. A grant request typically should take three to five months to process from the time that the Letter of Inquiry is submitted, though certain requests may take longer. Again, Foundation staff may contact you for additional information or a site visit at any point in the review process.

Step 5: Post Grant Requirements.
If a grant is awarded, you will be asked to sign a Grant Agreement Letter. Progress reports will generally be due every six months. See our Reporting Requirements on the following page.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
We have attempted to develop a practical approach to program evaluation. While most programs likely will not require a formal, outside evaluation, we do expect a thoughtful process and written report. Program evaluation provides ongoing, systematic information that strengthens projects during their life cycle and provides outcome data to assess the extent of change. Evaluations should include both Process and Outcome components, meaning that they will document the development and operation of the program (Process) as well as measure the program’s impact (Outcomes). The purposes of our Reporting Requirements are therefore: (1) Grant Monitoring — to assure that funds are being spent as planned, (2) Measurement — to help assess the impact of the grant (3) Organizational Learning — careful collection and use of data should help ongoing program development and refinement.

New grants must submit a Progress Report after six months and a Final Report two months after the conclusion of the grant. Renewal Grants and Multi-Year Grants instead submit annual Progress Reports, due 10 weeks before the Board reviews the next grant installment, and a Final Report two months after the conclusion of the final Grant Term. Final Reports should be cumulative, covering the entire Grant Term. We will send you an email reminder approximately four weeks before your Report is due. The email will include a web-based link to submit your Report. We will only accept Reports submitted through that link. We also encourage regular, ongoing communication.

The Progress and Final Reports should answer the following questions:

- What activities have taken place/services have been provided and which of the results or outcomes identified in your proposal as flowing from those activities have occurred (recognizing that it may take a full year or longer before some of these are observable)? Please be sure to specify the number of people served, the units of service provided and/or any other relevant quantifiable data. Please cumulate your data for us where possible.
- What challenges or disappointments did you encounter?
- What changes, if any, have you made or do you anticipate making and why?
- What specific steps have you taken towards securing additional and ongoing funding for the project or organization, and what steps do you plan to take over the next year?
- List program expenditures and revenue to date, following the original budget submitted with your proposal, showing variances if any (remember, you must request prior approval from the Foundation for material changes to your program or budget). General operating support grantees should instead submit the organization’s internal (unaudited) financial report for their fiscal year-to-date.
- Attach a copy of your most recent audited financial statement if we do not already have it. Also include links or references to publicity and other materials regarding the program that would be helpful in improving our understanding of the program.
Nurturing environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in Metro Detroit, consistent with sustainable business models, and supporting initiatives to restore the Great Lakes Ecosystem.

Moving June 2017 to:
215 S. Center Street, Suite 100 • Royal Oak, MI 48067
www.erbff.org • 248.498.2503 [office]

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