OUR MISSION

To nurture environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in metropolitan Detroit and support initiatives to restore the Great Lakes Basin
Thanks to my parents Fred and Barbara Erb and their philanthropic vision, the Erb Family Foundation has had an immediate impact on metropolitan Detroit.

Over the Foundation’s first eighteen months, we approved more than $10 million in grants, supporting a broad range of organizations, during a time of extreme need and exciting opportunity. The Foundation’s launch coincided with the onset of a severe economic recession, to which we responded with a half-million dollars in grants for food and shelter. We then moved on towards our Mission focused grants, which became all the more timely in light of the new federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the cuts in State funding for the arts, and the first inklings of a process to re-imagine the City of Detroit for a stronger future.

We are attempting to use our resources strategically to strengthen existing efforts and support new ideas within the context of these greater forces. For example:

- We provided unrestricted operating support for the key watershed and river protection groups in metro Detroit and funded broader research and policy efforts in the Great Lakes Basin.
- As Detroit has a vast inventory of currently dormant land and land use has significant implications for water quality, we supported projects and planning efforts promoting green infrastructure and other sustainable uses of the land.
- Our grants are helping environmental justice organizations educate and empower Detroit residents to take control of their future and the future of their City.
- One-third of our grants funded a variety of culture and arts organizations as essential building blocks for a vibrant City and region.
- We are supporting leading research to help better understand and ultimately cure Alzheimer’s Disease—an area of particular interest to us because my father has developed the disease, as have 5.3 million other Americans.

As I write this message, we have already approved another $4.2 million in grants beyond what is covered in this report and I look forward to sharing further results with you next year.

John M. Erb, President

Please explore the interactive links throughout this report (indicated by bold-face text or colored text boxes) for further information about the issues and organizations we support.
Devoted parents, grandparents and long-time civic leaders, Fred and Barbara Erb’s philanthropy is strongly influenced by their desire to create a better world for both current and future generations.

This desire, together with their successful family business experience, their shared love of the outdoors, and their deep sense of fairness and justice, naturally led them to view their philanthropy through the lens of sustainability — development that harmonizes economic, environmental and social interests while meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.

Both Fred and Barbara Erb were born and raised in the Detroit area, where they raised their four children, developed the family business, and have decided to focus their philanthropic legacy.

The day after receiving his BBA degree from the University of Michigan in 1947, Fred bought into his uncle’s lumber and coal business in Royal Oak, Michigan. At that time, the Erb Lumber Company had one store, seven employees, and revenues approaching $170,000. Fred developed the company into a multi-state enterprise, covering 45 locations with 1,300 employees and generating $280 million in sales, before he sold it in 1993. Ever the savvy entrepreneur, Fred didn’t stop there, but continued to develop multiple successful real estate and investment partnerships.

Fred and Barbara brought the same energy and acumen to their philanthropy. Their first major gift, in 1951, was to help establish a camp for troubled children in northern Oakland County, Michigan. Not only did Fred pledge an amount equal to his annual income (at that time $5,000), he and Barbara challenged their business associates, friends and neighbors to give as well, until they had raised gifts totaling more than four times that amount. Motivating and partnering with others became a hallmark of their philanthropy.

In 1996, they made their first major gift to the University of Michigan, with subsequent gifts eventually totaling $20 million, to establish the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise. With their concern for a sustainable future, it is not surprising that in 2007 they established a family foundation to institutionalize and perpetuate their philanthropy.

We invite you to explore our website to learn more about the Erb Family and the Foundation’s interests – [www.erbff.org](http://www.erbff.org).
The Foundation’s Mission is to nurture environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant communities in metropolitan Detroit and support initiatives to restore the Great Lakes Basin. To help us accomplish our Mission, we have developed Desired Outcomes and identified activities that we will support to help achieve these Outcomes.

Environment: Our overall Desired Outcome is an environmentally healthy City of Detroit, metropolitan Detroit region and Great Lakes Basin. 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 and justice.

Culture and Arts: Our overall 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 works from the bottom-up and is rooted in the actions and decisions by individuals, nonprofit and profit enterprises, and local communities. Our grants support local grass-roots and community-based organizations as well as larger institutions whose research and expertise helps inform and advance those local efforts. In our first 18 months, we approved a total of $10,015,260 in grants. As of June 30, 2010, $6,651,760 of those grants had been paid, with the $3,363,500 balance to be paid out over the next 1–4 years depending on the individual grant terms.

Nonpoint source pollution is one of the biggest threats to the Great Lakes. NPS occurs when water runs over land or through the ground and picks up pollutants, or when pollutants are emitted into the air, and are deposited in surface or ground water. Sustainable land use, such as low impact development, is one way to prevent NPS.
We support efforts to improve water quality in the Great Lakes Basin, especially the watersheds impacting metro Detroit and Bayfield Ontario, emphasizing local strategies to reduce non-point source pollution, promote water conservation and efficiency, and restore critical wetlands. Grants approved in our first year supported organizational capacity, sustainable land use and policy & research.

Counties identifying the highest priority wetlands and connect landowners with wetlands with those in need of performing mitigation/$100,000 payable over 2 years [Warren-Conner Development Corporation • Detroit, MI](#) for a multi-organizational collaborative that will engage residents on the lower eastside of Detroit in a data-driven planning process to determine environmentally sustainable re-uses of vacant land in that part of the City/$120,000 [Policy and Research National Wildlife Federation • Arbor, MI](#) to support the Healing Our Waters Coalition: a collaborative effort to promote funding and policy reform for the Great Lakes and assistance for organizations conducting Great Lakes restoration projects/$450,000 payable over 3 years [Nature Conservancy • Lansing, MI](#) to hire a policy associate/$170,000 payable over 2 years and to complete the Lake Huron Conservation Planning Process/$100,000 payable over 2 years [University of Michigan (School of Natural Resources and Environment) • Ann Arbor, MI](#) to create cumulative impact maps of the Great Lakes ecosystem to guide conservation and restoration decisions/$500,000 payable over 2 years.

Organizational Capacity Clinton River Watershed Council • Rochester, MI general operating support/$138,000 payable over 4 years [Friends of the Rouge • Dearborn, MI](#) general operating support/$140,000 payable over 4 years [Friends of the Detroit River • Trenton, MI](#) general operating support/$60,000 payable over 4 years [Huron River Watershed Council • Ann Arbor, MI](#) general operating support/$330,000 payable over 4 years [Michigan League of Conservation Voters • Ann Arbor, MI](#) to help environmental groups learn how to use voting information to better engage their membership/$30,000 [Sustainable Land Use Detroit Science Center • Detroit, MI](#) to construct the Clean Water Through Green Engineering Exhibit/$125,000 challenge grant [Greening of Detroit • Detroit, MI](#) to test a new vacant land reclamation model that will create swaths of newly forested land in Detroit to mitigate storm water runoff/$160,000 [Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy • Rochester, MI](#) to create a model wetlands databank and outreach program in Oakland and Macomb Counties identifying the highest priority wetlands and connect landowners with wetlands with those in need of performing mitigation/$100,000 payable over 2 years [Warren-Conner Development Corporation • Detroit, MI](#) for a multi-organizational collaborative that will engage residents on the lower eastside of Detroit in a data-driven planning process to determine environmentally sustainable re-uses of vacant land in that part of the City/$120,000 [Policy and Research National Wildlife Federation • Arbor, MI](#) to support the Healing Our Waters Coalition: a collaborative effort to promote funding and policy reform for the Great Lakes and assistance for organizations conducting Great Lakes restoration projects/$450,000 payable over 3 years [Nature Conservancy • Lansing, MI](#) to hire a policy associate/$170,000 payable over 2 years and to complete the Lake Huron Conservation Planning Process/$100,000 payable over 2 years [University of Michigan (School of Natural Resources and Environment) • Ann Arbor, MI](#) to create cumulative impact maps of the Great Lakes ecosystem to guide conservation and restoration decisions/$500,000 payable over 2 years.
Minority and low-income people often live in areas where they are disproportionately exposed to polluted air, water, and land. Environmental issues are not just about wilderness in isolated areas, but also about the conditions of inner cities and poor neighborhoods. Environmental Justice is about social transformation directed towards changing these conditions.
Our goals are to promote social equity in developing environmentally sustainable communities and to reduce negative environmental impacts on human health. Grants in our first year supported policy & systems change and organizational capacity.
Culture and arts organizations not only contribute to the character of a community, they also are an economic stimulus. Nationwide, arts organizations generate $166.2 billion in economic activity and support 5.7 million jobs. (Americans for the Arts)
We provide general operating support for cultural and arts organizations, including larger organizations that have had historical significance to the family as well as to other organizations that are essential elements of a strong core central city and vibrant neighborhoods.

Detroit, MI/$10,000 Detroit Historical Society · Detroit, MI/$25,000 Detroit Repertory Theater · Detroit, MI/$15,000 Friends of Detroit Public Library · Detroit, MI/$25,000 Heritage Works · Detroit, MI/$10,000 Living Arts · Detroit, MI/$10,000 Marygrove College (Community Arts Programs) · Detroit, MI/$10,000 Michigan Opera Theatre · Detroit, MI/$25,000 Motown Historical Museum · Detroit, MI/$15,000 Museum of African American History · Detroit, MI/$25,000 Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit · Detroit, MI/$25,000 Pewabic Society · Detroit, MI/$25,000 PuppetArt · Detroit, MI/$10,000 Rackham Symphony Choir · Detroit, MI/$10,000 Scarab Club · Detroit, MI/$10,000 VSA Arts of Michigan · Detroit, MI/$10,000 Wayne State University · Detroit, MI/Hilberry Theater/$15,000 WDET/$15,000 WSU Art Galleries/$10,000
Community Arts

Arts can be a valuable engine of civic renewal and represent perhaps the most significant under utilized forum for rebuilding communities in America. (BETTER TOGETHER: THE ARTS AND SOCIAL CAPITAL, JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY)
Ann Arbor Hands On Museum · Ann Arbor, MI to develop local environmental concern and activism in five communities in metro Detroit through a library-based arts program/$85,500 Cranbrook Educational Community · Bloomfield Hills, MI to support Artology: The Fusion of Art and Science, a collaborative exhibition and education effort between Cranbrook’s Institute of Science and Art Museum /$100,000 Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan · Detroit, MI for a planning process for a new initiative to increase attendance and participation of arts and culture programs of more than 100 organizations in southeast Michigan/$25,000 The Heidelberg Project · Detroit, MI to help build organizational capacity to develop a cultural village – a sustainably designed, arts-infused, economically vibrant community /$125,000 payable over 2 years (dollar for dollar match required for $50,000 of $75,000 year two payment) InsideOut Literary Arts · Detroit, MI for a multi-arts, community-based, year-long celebration of women poets in partnership with Detroit Public Television, Arts League of Michigan, Matrix Theatre Company, Wayne State University Press and others /$100,000 Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation · Detroit, MI to create a community designed public art sculpture and rain garden at Hannan House, engaging senior artists, local artists and volunteers, as part of Detroit’s Midtown Loop Public Art Plan /$15,000 Matrix Theatre Company · Detroit, MI to develop Ghostwaters, an interactive arts project examining Detroit’s water history, its current water problems and their impact on the future /$150,000 payable over 3 years Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit · Detroit, MI to hire a development director and create a strategic development plan /$120,000 Southwest Housing Solutions Corporation · Detroit, MI to engage the community and demonstrate artistically and ecologically creative storm water mitigation/low impact development techniques in renovating a former police station in southwest Detroit into a creative arts center housing 555 Nonprofit Gallery & Studios and Classic Landscape, Ltd /$75,000 payable over 2 years.

Our goal is to help revitalize individual neighborhoods and ultimately the City of Detroit and metropolitan Detroit region through cultural activities and public art. We support neighborhood-based culture and arts projects that engage the community in planning, creating and maintaining the project, especially projects that explore the intersection of arts and the environment.
Arts Education

Jazz speaks profoundly of the American experience because of its democratic nature—in its practice, through the collaborative nature and improvisational qualities of its performance, and its important social role as an early meeting place for people of different races. (NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS)
Our original goal was to prepare young people for productive careers and community leadership by providing them with quality arts experiences. Within our first year, we refined that goal to focus solely on jazz education—a reflection of Fred Erb’s love of jazz and Detroit’s strong jazz history.

YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit • Detroit, MI to develop a Y-Arts program to teach urban teens digital arts skills through a focus on environmental issues/$100,000

Jazz Education— to provide advanced jazz instruction to musically talented youth

Arts League of Michigan • Detroit, MI $35,000

Detroit International Jazz Festival Foundation • Detroit, MI $77,500 payable over 2 years

Detroit Symphony Orchestra • Detroit, MI $100,000 payable over 2 years

Michigan State University-CMS Detroit • Detroit, MI $100,000 payable over 2 years

Music Hall • Detroit, MI $40,000
An estimated 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer’s Disease and that number will likely increase to 13.5 million by 2050. The annual total cost of care will likewise increase from $170 billion today to more than $1 trillion in 2050. Yet there is a chronic underinvestment in federal funding for Alzheimer’s research, with current government spending at less than $500 million. (Alzheimer’s Association)
Alzheimer’s Research: The Foundation supports leading research regarding the prevention, management & treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

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

In December 2008, the Foundation approved three, one-time special grants totaling $500,000 to help meet the immediate, short term needs of individuals affected by the economic downturn. The grants were matched dollar for dollar by Fred and Barbara Erb personally. Forgotten Harvest • Oak Park, MI to distribute fresh food to vulnerable families in metro Detroit using rescued perishable food/$125,000 Salvation Army • Southfield, MI for emergency holiday and year round assistance to families/$250,000 THAW • Detroit, MI to provide energy assistance to low income families and individuals in metro Detroit/$125,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 234,561</td>
<td>$ 4,769,777</td>
<td>$ 8,343,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes receivable</td>
<td>921,617</td>
<td>2,014,689</td>
<td>2,081,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks held</td>
<td>415,500</td>
<td>1,389,023</td>
<td>2,886,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managed accounts</td>
<td>95,507,407</td>
<td>82,067,525</td>
<td>103,380,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Investments</strong></td>
<td>$95,922,907</td>
<td>$83,456,548</td>
<td>$106,266,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$97,079,085</td>
<td>$90,241,014</td>
<td>$116,690,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Liabilities</td>
<td>$ 10,798</td>
<td>$ 8,830</td>
<td>$ 152,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Payable</td>
<td>3,037,142</td>
<td>1,636,521</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred federal excise taxes</td>
<td>36,319</td>
<td>41,600</td>
<td>57,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$ 3,084,259</td>
<td>$ 1,686,951</td>
<td>$ 210,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of year Balance</td>
<td>$ 88,554,063</td>
<td>$ 116,480,415</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions/(reductions)</td>
<td>5,440,763</td>
<td>(27,926,352)</td>
<td>116,480,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$93,994,826</td>
<td>$88,554,063</td>
<td>$116,480,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$97,079,085</td>
<td>$90,241,014</td>
<td>$116,690,554</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: 2008 and 2009 audited; 2010 audit pending*
Founding Members
Fred A. Erb
Barbara M. Erb

Board of Trustees
Debbie D. Erb  
(as of September 2010)
John M. Erb
Leslie Erb Liedtke
Wendy Elaine Erb
Susan E. Cooper
Ira J. Jaffe, Chair
Chacona W. Johnson
(as of September 2010)
Robert C. Larson
(Deceased 2010)

Staff
John M. Erb
PRESIDENT
Daryl Larson
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Jodee Fishman Raines
VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS
Patricia Smotherman
GRANTS & OFFICE MANAGER

Please visit our Web site for staff contact information – www.erbff.org

A hard copy of this report, printed on 100% post-consumer fiber processed without chlorine, using soy and vegetable oil-based inks, is available as well. Please click here to have a copy mailed to you.

PHOTO CREDITS GREAT LAKES: Friends of the Rouge  ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & JUSTICE: Ecology Center
ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH: © 2007 Alzheimer’s Association. All rights reserved. Illustrations by Stacy Jannis
PRESIDENT, BOARD & STAFF PHOTOS Chris Ward for Laurie Tennent Studios