



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation

Grant Guidelines

Mission

To advance an environmentally healthy and culturally vibrant metropolitan Detroit and a flourishing Great Lakes ecosystem.

Environment

Great Lakes

Stewardship

Our Desired Outcome is a healthy Great Lakes, evidenced by increased stewardship and improved water quality in the Ausable Bayfield, Clinton, Detroit, Huron, Raisin, and Rouge watersheds.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to increase individual and institutional stewardship; improve understanding of emerging contaminants; and coordinate best practices and policies at the state, federal, and binational levels.

We will measure impact through annual reporting on water quality in our target watersheds.

Agricultural Runoff

Our Desired Outcome is a 50% reduction by 2025 in phosphorus in western Lake Erie through a focus on agricultural runoff and subsurface drainage.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to increase farmers' adoption of sustainable conservation practices, including education, policies, market drivers, and financial incentives, and to engage businesses developing those solutions.

We will measure progress by tracking phosphorus loads into western Lake Erie.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Our Desired Outcome is the elimination of untreated combined sewer overflows in the Detroit River system through optimal use of green stormwater infrastructure.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to build awareness and demand; research and demonstrate ecological and economic feasibility; and align public and private efforts around green stormwater infrastructure.

We will measure impact by tracking acres of land and gallons of stormwater managed through green stormwater infrastructure and reductions in combined sewer overflows.

February 13, 2020

Environmental Health & Justice

Lead

Our Desired Outcome is a reduction in elevated blood lead levels in children in Detroit and Wayne County through reduced lead exposure in housing, soil, and water.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to develop new cost-effective methods and landlord incentives to reduce lead exposure; increase public demand for action by the private sector and by government; and design effective policies and policy enforcement.

We will measure impact by tracking the number of children with elevated blood lead levels in Detroit and Wayne County.

Asthma

Our Desired Outcome is a reduction in incidence of asthma in Detroit and Wayne County through improved ambient air quality.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to develop new methods to measure, improve and monitor air quality; and design effective policies and policy enforcement.

We will measure impact by tracking incidence of asthma in Detroit and Wayne County.

Sustainable Development

Our Desired Outcome is sustainable development of the Metropolitan Detroit region.

To achieve that outcome, we support triple-bottom-line (environmental, social, economic) initiatives and organizations.

We will measure impact by tracking the health of the ecosystem of organizations focused on sustainable development.

Arts

Anchor Arts

Our Desired Outcome is a culturally vibrant metro Detroit, evidenced by healthy organizations and a coordinated sector.

To achieve that outcome, we provide flexible funding to select arts & cultural organizations; support improved business models that increase the capacity and impact of those organizations; and invest in holistic efforts that strengthen the field.

We will measure impact by tracking the capitalization of arts organizations in metro Detroit.

Jazz Education

Our Desired Outcome is a continuation of Detroit's strong jazz tradition, and Fred Erb's legacy of jazz patronage, by educating the next generation of jazz musicians.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to provide and improve jazz instruction for musically talented, economically challenged youth.

We will measure impact by tracking jazz education students.

Alzheimer's Research

Our Desired Outcome is improved prevention, management, and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.

To advance that outcome, we support leading research on lifestyle changes, basic research, and early career researchers.

We do not accept unsolicited proposals in this area.

Tenets of Lasting Change

The foundation believes the following tenets are necessary to effect lasting change:

Sustainability. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations, by harmonizing environmental, economic, and social interests.

Positive role for business. Collaborating with business as a force for good in society and for sustainability.

Stewardship. Cultivating resident, business, nonprofit, and government responsibility and accountability for the community's environmental and cultural assets.

Leadership. Supporting energetic, visionary champions who have a broad base of support.

Community support: Ensuring that efforts are relevant to and supported by the communities they affect.

Collaboration. Working with a broad range of stakeholders—community members, business, nonprofits, government, academia, and philanthropy—to advance shared goals.

Fairness and justice. The opportunity for equal participation by all is an essential element of sustainability.

Operating Principles

Partnering with grantees: Respecting our grantees' expertise, seeking to build strong nonprofit organizations, recognizing the funder-grantee power dynamic, and building open, trusting, mutually beneficial relationships.

Being a learning organization: Making decisions based on the best available information, learning from our successes and failures, and continually striving to improve.

Acting as stewards: Responsibly using all the assets entrusted to us to advance the mission of the foundation

Valuing diversity, equity, and inclusion: Creating an environment that respects individual differences along varying dimensions and fostering a culture that recognizes systemic inequities and strives to minimize bias

Providing transparency: Sharing summary information on our approved grants, financials, and governance with the public and privately providing feedback to all applicants