



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 to improve the health of the western basin of Lake Erie by reducing phosphorus from runoff and subsurface drainage from agricultural fields. We aim for a 50 percent reduction from the 2008 baseline loading levels by 2025.

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.

Urban Runoff

Our Desired Outcome is to reduce urban runoff to improve water quality of southeast Michigan rivers and the Great Lakes.

To achieve that outcome, we support regional collaboration, research, and policy efforts that result in water quality improvements and climate resiliency.

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

Environmental Health & Justice

Lead

Our Desired Outcome is a reduction in elevated blood lead levels in children in Detroit and Wayne County by reducing lead hazards in housing and soil.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to develop cost-effective remediation methods for homeowners; incentives for landlords to reduce exposure in rental properties; collaboration between property owners, businesses, government, and nonprofit organizations; and design of effective policies and policy enforcement through increased public education and engagement.

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 Business

Our Desired Outcome is Southeast Michigan is a national leader in sustainable business, and the regional business community is collaboratively engaged in a flourishing and just economy, society, and environment.

To achieve that outcome, we support efforts to build capacity for businesses of all sizes to implement sustainable practices; connect organizations with regional sustainability leaders; and bridge the gaps in our education-to-professional pipeline through internships, mentoring, and curriculum.

We will measure impact through an annual review and report of the sustainable business landscape in the region.

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.

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

Jazz Education

Our Desired Outcome is to continue 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 youth.

We will measure impact through the number of 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.

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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