



LOWER EASTSIDE COMMUNITY

grant program

LOWER EASTSIDE COMMUNITY

grant program
is all about...

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Leadership in action.

The Lower Eastside Community Grant Program (LECG) was launched in 2013 after Linda Jo Doctor, Kellogg Foundation Program Officer, vetted grassroots grant making as a strategy to support civic engagement efforts benefiting stakeholders on the lower east side of Detroit. Our team engaged residents and built deep trusting relationships with neighborhood leaders, stakeholders and grassroots groups working with and/or on behalf of children and families in the community.

The grant program took a comprehensive approach to supporting group's efforts to contribute to a healthy start and school readiness for the young children, positive learning and development opportunities for older children and stabilization of families with children.

We provided grants between \$250 and \$5000 to grassroots groups. Residents of the community were the grant makers. We actively outreached and provided technical assistance to neighborhood groups of adults and youth to support a wide variety of applicants. The positive impact and number of interested residents encouraged us to extend the program boundaries northward into the upper East side.



Learning opportunities were integrated into the program, insuring that panelists remained informed about and contributed to trends in the field. Grantees were convened several times a year for networking, collaboration and resource sharing. The program attracted a variety of applicants and ultimately strengthened resident leadership. Continuous learning and evaluation was integrated into the fabric of the program. Problems and solutions were processed through a lens of equity in order to positively impact the most vulnerable.

* The Lower Eastside neighborhoods will likely be included in a similar citywide grant making effort in the near future.

Involve me and I'll remember.

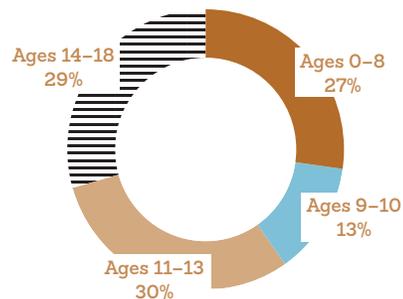
We engaged in extensive outreach to attract and build relationships with caregivers, early childhood educators and nurturing adults in both the formal and informal sectors. Leaders in the network had a keen interest and commitment to exposing young children to socially and literacy enriching experiences, healthy eating habits and activities to stimulate the youngest residents quest for knowledge.

The importance of these activities cannot be overstated. Research is clear that the cumulative effect of economic inequality on children of color and children from lower wealth households has a negative impact on children's learning and opportunities that can last a lifetime.

Tammara Howard is an example of an adult leader whose projects are designed to address the needs of young children. She is representative of many leaders in our network. Her experience with her own children, research and "mother wit"

guide her to incorporate concepts and practices into fun activities that strengthen and educate young minds and bodies. Ms. Howard and leaders like her stand in the gap to improve conditions for children when broken systems fail them.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION BY AGE:



* All data in this report is compiled from applications and final reports.



Early Childhood



“With LECG’s support, kids now understand how important it is to eat fresh, healthy food. They planted, harvested, cooked, and ate it. These kids can actually grow their own food.”

– *Tammara Howard*

Belvidere Community Youth Block Club



“Being able to expose the kids to new experiences and come back to the classroom and see how much they have retained is priceless. Their language and vocabulary increased and they continuously want to learn more.”

– *Victoria Adams*

Fisher Explorers



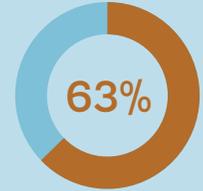
“I have been President of a group in my neighborhood for nine years, so I have heard of most of the groups in my area. Being on the ground, I most likely know which community groups have been doing good work. I share my information with fellow panelists which in turn helps us make informed funding decisions.”

– Jay Henderson

Riverbend Community Association

RESOURCES LEVERAGED

Projects that reported getting advice, coaching or mentoring from the LECG staff:



Grant distribution:



1 grant



2 grants



3-4 grants

Project funds leveraged from sources beyond LECG:

LECG only



LECG \$2,300

1 source



LECG \$1,960

Other \$155

2 sources



LECG \$3,320

Other \$1,000

Money is one thing. Impact is another.

Philanthropy focuses mostly on awarding money to projects and causes to change conditions for the better. Money is often the only thing people think of when they think about philanthropy. Foundations and communities are increasingly considering resources beyond money and also the mechanisms through which money and resources are allocated.

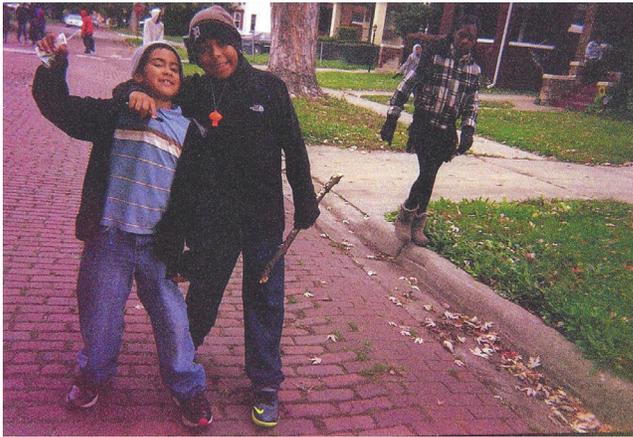
Grassroots grant making, also known as intermediary philanthropy, allows foundations to work through an intermediary organization to make awards to smaller groups that might not otherwise enjoy funding. This emerging form of grant making challenges assumptions about who makes decisions about funding. The Lower Eastside Community Grant Program was designed to place decision making into the hands of residents, trusting that they know best what the community needs, and the stakeholders with the ability to act in the best interest of the community. The program provides:

- A simple and transparent application process
- Extensive outreach and technical assistance to engage and support traditionally overlooked groups
- Quarterly grant reviews by grant reviewers from the community
- Opportunities for grantees and reviewers to learn new information and network
- Alternate forms of evaluation that allow us to capture outcomes that might not be best measured by numbers and charts
- Commitment to evaluate problems and solutions through a racial equity lens

LECG has awarded
\$300,000

averaged
\$2,865 & given
per grant. **95**
grants

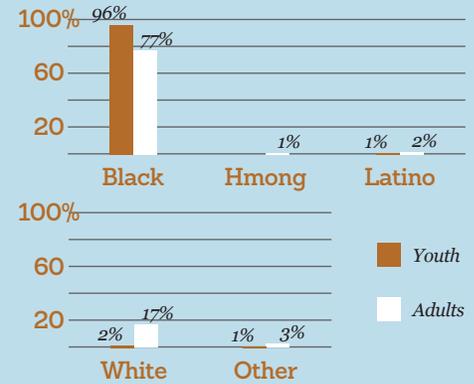
* Totals December 2013 through December 2016



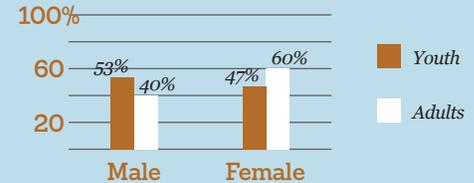
WHAT IS EQUITY?

Equity is the virtue of being just, even-handed and impartial. Distribution of resources recognizes differences, and attempts to counteract unequal individual opportunities.

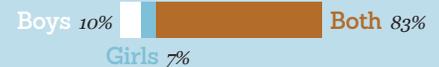
RACE OR ETHNICITY OF PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



GENDER OF PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



Project breakdown by gender:



* Projects involving just boys were leadership development projects that included 100% boys of color.



If equity equals justice, we invest in justice.

Equity is giving people what they need to lead full and healthy lives. This sounds simple enough. It, however, requires our team, including grant makers, to scrutinize all aspects of our work to anticipate its impact on the most vulnerable.

LECG staff deployed outreach and engagement strategies to reach groups serving children and families residing in higher poverty areas of the community and children of color with an emphasis on black and brown boys. We are serious about increasing advantages for those most in need.



“Lower Eastside Community Grant Program has given me the opportunity and more resources to work with young men of color at Denby & Southeastern High School. Our program empowers young men to make good decisions through connecting them with community and business leaders.”



– *Tozon Knight*
Caught Up Mentoring

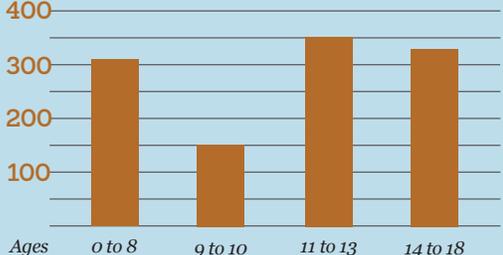


Civic Engagement

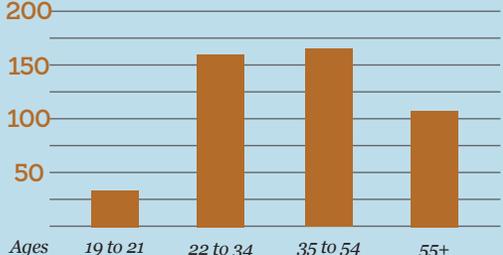
RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

Participation by age:

1,148 Youth Participants



472 Adult Participants

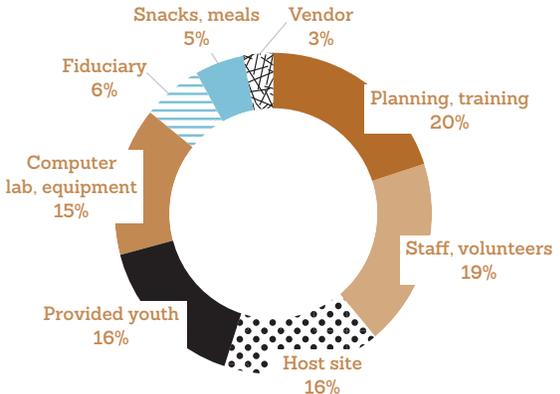


Youth participation by year:

556 in 2013-14 846 in 2014-15 **2,032** in 2015-16



CONTRIBUTIONS BY PROJECT PARTNERS/ORGANIZATIONS





INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES

Q: “Did youth build new relationships and connections to their community?”

A: **100%** said “Yes!”

“Has your project helped youth become more capable learners, navigators and contributors to their community?”

93% said “Yes!”

“Did this project draw more adults into new or stronger relationships with youth?”

97% said “Yes!”

“Did adults develop new skills, roles and relationships in the community because of this project?”

80% said “Yes!”

COMMUNITY-LEVEL OUTCOMES

Q: “Did your project empower residents to improve and/or influence schools, organizations, institutions or your neighborhood?”

A: **80%** said “Yes!”

“Did your project help to increase opportunities and equity for youth of color, especially black and brown boys and young men?”

90% said “Yes!”

“Did your project connect, or interact, with local policy makers?”

40% said “Yes!”

“Did your project contribute to any changes in resources and public policies affecting youth and your neighborhood?”

7% said “Yes!”

If there is no seat, let's create one.

Exercising the power to make change is at the core of civic engagement. Regular people becoming involved with each other, identifying common challenges and taking collective action to advocate for positive conditions is at the heart of the grant program. Groups in our network develop and strengthen skills and collaborations in order to advance agendas to improve the lives of children and families in the community. Alternate practices and systems are also developed to respond to and protect the most vulnerable against the effects of systemic inequalities.



systems Change

WHAT IS SYSTEMS CHANGE?

Changes in organizational culture, policies and procedures within individual organizations or across organizations that enhance or streamline access and reduce or eliminate barriers to needed services by a target population.

I am, we are... ONE.

Review Panelists are community leaders who volunteer their time at least quarterly to make decisions about which projects to support. They are not the usual suspects. They, however, have deep relationships with residents and stakeholders in their community. The depth of their commitment to children is demonstrated by the fact that 7 of the 8 panelists executed projects for children in their own networks.

Together, they act as a well-oiled machine, reflecting upon and discussing the type of projects they want to see and assessing its impact on the overall health of children, families and the community. The leaders are known to carefully review up to 40 applications during a session. Panel members also participate in learning events to build knowledge about philanthropy, equity, youth and community development. They additionally visit projects, attend networking events with grantees and collaborate with organizations to promote the field of grassroots grant making. They are dedicated change agents and the essential essence of the program.



LECG PANELISTS



Kevin D. Binion is a lifelong resident of Detroit's east side. He has worked with youth for over 30 years in leadership training, sports, education, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.



Linda Bowie is a retired postal worker, Wayne State graduate, former math teacher and proud grandmother of three. She is passionate about protecting the welfare of young people and the elderly.



Shadora L. Ford is the founder and lead mentor of Destined For Greatness Mentoring Initiative. Her passion is community service, mentoring, and steering at-risk girls into more positive lifestyles.



J. W. Henderson is the president of Riverbend Community Association, which consists of 12 Block Clubs. They provide services to improve the lives of youth and seniors.



Kinda Makini is the director of Inner City Youth Group (ICYG). ICYG provides a safe and structured environment for children ages 6-17 of low income families after school and during the summer.



Donna McDuffie loves gardening and community events. She enjoys working with diverse groups in neighborhoods on the (Lower) Eastside of Detroit and adjacent communities.



Miguel Pope is the founder and managing director of the BE EXPOSED Detroit youth development program. He is equally passionate about social justice and youth development.



Mrs. Turk-White is an executive director and CEO with the Empowerment Zone Coalition, Inc. Her major focus for the past 26 years has been on coalition building in the field of health with a focus on substance abuse prevention.

Panelists

If serving is below you, leadership is beyond you.

The busy beavers working behind the scenes to serve the community are also of the community. They work together mapping strategy, and supporting applicants and grantees, as well as trumpeting the impact created by the phenomenal work of community leaders. The cast of characters are:



Kayla Perrin
Community Coach

She is a permanent fixture in community settings, providing technical assistance to grant applicants and encouraging grantees to think about next steps. Her free time is divided between pursuing her Master's degree in social work and attending music concerts. Kayla serves on the board of the local Self-Development of People (SDOP) committee.



Ms. I. Mims
Program Assistant
and Evaluation
Leader

She is most likely the first and most friendly face that applicants meet when they contact the program. Ms. Mims' time is equally divided between evaluation and program support activities. Her background is in data management and administrative support. Her interests are family and DIY projects.



Lisa Leverette
Director and
C.C.O., Chief
Change Orchestrator

She can be found equally in communities and in strategic meetings. Lisa believes in imagining and implementing practices that challenge traditional models that have largely left black, brown and poor residents languishing on the margins of society. She is a fellow with the Detroit Equity Action Lab (DEAL), board member with Grassroots Grantmakers and Chairperson of the international committee for Self-Development of People (SDOP). Her hobbies are listening to jazz and house music, exploring the city and traveling.

Acknowledgments



Special and heartfelt thanks to the many groups and leaders who diligently work for and on behalf of children. We recognize and honor your contributions.

* The Lower Eastside Community Grant Program is administered by Prevention Network.



Lower Eastside Community
Grant Program

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