

**McKnight approves grants totaling \$15.9 million in third quarter of 2009,  
including over \$1.8 million to improve Twin Cities neighborhoods**

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*Minneapolis, September 17, 2009* — The McKnight Foundation awarded 93 grants totaling \$15,911,000 in its third-quarter 2009 grantmaking. Grant totals and representative grants are listed by program below.

Of the \$15.9 million total approved, more than \$1.8 million went to six organizations working to foster thriving neighborhoods in the Twin Cities region. In Minneapolis, **Elliott Park Neighborhood, Inc.**, received \$70,000 over two years for an urban planning, design, and development initiative; **Harrison Neighborhood Association** received \$120,000 over two years for its efforts to empower residents and ensure equitable land development in north Minneapolis; **Hope Community** received \$200,000 over two years for its comprehensive community development work; and the **Peace Foundation** received \$80,000 over two years for its support of grassroots community-building. In St. Paul, **Summit-University Planning Council** received \$10,000 to increase participation in the LRT planning process among residents of University Avenue. **Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)**, headquartered in New York, received two grants: \$1.24 million over two years for Twin Cities LISC's work to build the organizational capacity of community development corporations, and \$350,000 to support Nexus Community Partners, providing community engagement services in several metro area neighborhoods.

"Amid pressures from the economic downturn, neighborhood-based efforts continue to be a rich source of opportunities for Twin Cities residents," says Robert J. Struyk, McKnight's board chair. "The tireless, creative work of grantees and partners like these are key to making that possible."

As evidenced by the far-ranging work of our grantee partners, McKnight fosters vital communities through integrated support for complementary strategies that include neighborhood development — with a core belief that multifaceted approaches are needed to address complex community issues.

#### **ABOUT THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION**

The McKnight Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, coalition-building, and encouragement of strategic policy reform. Founded in 1953 and independently endowed by William and Maude McKnight, the Minnesota-based Foundation has assets of approximately \$1.6 billion and granted about \$99 million in 2008. Program information and full grant descriptions are available at [www.mcknight.org](http://www.mcknight.org).

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**ARTS — 17 GRANTS / \$1,697,500.** American Composers Forum, St. Paul; Duluth Ballet, Inc., Duluth; Lyra, St. Paul; Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, St. Paul; Milkweed Editions, Inc., Minneapolis; The Minnesota Opera, Minneapolis; Minnesota Public Radio, St. Paul; North House Folk

School, Grand Marais; Patrick's Cabaret, Minneapolis; Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Minneapolis; Rain Taxi, Inc., Minneapolis; Skylark Opera, St. Paul; Southern Theater Foundation, Minneapolis; VSA Arts of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Zeitgeist, St. Paul; Zenon Dance Company & School, Inc., Minneapolis

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES — 30 GRANTS / \$5,600,000.** African Community Services, Minneapolis; American Indian OIC, Inc., Minneapolis; Camp Fire USA, Minnesota Council, St. Paul; Centre for Asians and Pacific Islanders, Minneapolis; East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc., Minneapolis; Family & Children's Service, Minneapolis; Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families, Silver Spring, MD (2); Jewish Family and Children's Service, Minnetonka; Learning Disabilities Association, Inc., Golden Valley; Lifetrack Resources, Inc., St. Paul; MACC Alliance of Connected Communities, Minneapolis; Minnesota Children's Museum, St. Paul; Minnesota Council of Churches, Minneapolis; Minnesota Early Learning Foundation, Minneapolis; Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Minneapolis; National Women's Law Center, Washington, DC; Neighborhood House, St. Paul; Parenting with Purpose, Brooklyn Park; Pillsbury United Communities, Minneapolis (2); Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, St. Paul; Sabathani Community Center, Minneapolis; Sanctuary Community Development Corporation, Minneapolis; Somali Success School, Minneapolis; Southeast Asian Community Council, Inc., Minneapolis; Washburn Center for Children, Minneapolis; Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment, St. Paul; Young Women's Christian Association of St. Paul Minnesota, St. Paul; youthrive, St. Paul

**ENVIRONMENT — 9 GRANTS / \$1,422,500.** The Center for Rural Affairs, Lyons, NE; Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Memphis, TN; Environmental Integrity Project, Washington, DC; Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, Inc., Coral Gables, FL; Iowa - State of, Des Moines, IA; National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, Washington, DC; Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., New York, NY; River Network, Portland, OR; Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Rochester, MN

**INTERNATIONAL — 26 GRANTS / \$3,871,000.** Africa 2000 Network – Uganda, Kampala, Uganda; Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical, Cali, Columbia; Compatible Technology International, St. Paul; Corporacion INIAP, Quito, Ecuador (2); Fundacion para el Desarrollo Tecnologico Agropecuario de los Valles, Cochabamba, Bolivia; Fundacion AGRECOL Andes, Cochabamba, Bolivia; Grupo Yanapai, Lima, Peru; International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Andhra Pradesh, India; International Potato Center, Lima, Peru; Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi; Montessori Training Center, Lushoto-Tanga, Tanzania; The Mountain Institute, Washington, DC; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, UK; Small Enterprises Foundation, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania (2); The Tanzania Gatsby Trust, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Tanzania Home Economics Association, Mwanza, Tanzania; Universidad Mayor de San Andres, La Paz, Bolivia; University of Greenwich, Chatham Maritime, Kent, UK (2); University of Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi (2); University of Missouri – Columbia, Columbia, MO; World Neighbors, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK

**MINNESOTA INITIATIVE FOUNDATIONS — 1 GRANT / \$150,000.** Center for Rural Policy and Development, St. Peter

**REGION AND COMMUNITIES — 10 GRANTS / \$3,170,000.** Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Minneapolis; Fresh Energy, St. Paul; Harrison Neighborhood Association, Minneapolis; Hope Community, Inc., Minneapolis; Local Initiatives Support Corporation, New York, NY (2); Minnesota Housing Partnership, St. Paul; Peace Foundation, Minneapolis; Summit-University Planning Council, St. Paul; Transit for Livable Communities, St. Paul