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THE KNIGHT FOUNDATION FUND

Grant Guidelines

The Knight Foundation Fund was established at the Community Foundation in 2002 by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, Knight Foundation is one of the country's largest private foundations. As part of its Community and National Initiatives Strategy, Knight uses endowed Donor Advised Funds at local community foundations to make investments in the 26 communities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight owned newspapers. With more than \$841 million invested in community initiatives since its creation in 1950, Knight wants its national network of learning to inspire the actions of residents in each of its communities and help build a better democracy and a successful future.

The Knight Foundation Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, Inc., makes grants totaling some \$200,000 annually. Representatives of charitable organizations interested in applying for a grant from the Fund should interact with staff members of the Community Foundation rather than directly with Knight Foundation. Grants made from the Knight Foundation Fund are legally grants from the Community Foundation, which works with Knight to select opportunities to support.

What does the Fund fund?

The priority area of interest of the Knight Foundation Fund is to foster informed, engaged communities in Columbus, Georgia. Informed and engaged communities are places where the largest possible number of people has the opportunity to belong, care and take action in their own true interests.

Specifically, the Knight Foundation Fund invests in civic innovators who help cities attract and keep talented people, expand economic opportunity and create a culture of engagement. Knight believes that the design of places plays an outsize role in achieving these goals.

Knight Foundation Fund invests in civic innovators using places to:

- **Attract and keep talented people** – as there is no better indicator of a city's economic success than the percentage of college-educated people in its population.
- **Expand opportunity for all** – by creating places where people of diverse backgrounds can connect across economic divides and which support the way people work in today's economy.
- **Accelerate civic engagement** – because cities will only succeed when people feel responsible for actively shaping the future of their communities.

What critical questions will be asked of a grant proposal?

Does this investment:

- Represent a true innovation? Have the ability to be breakthrough or transformative?
- Accelerate learning and the exchange of ideas?
- Have a champion equipped to execute the project?
- Have a path toward sustainability or completion?

- Promote retention and attraction of talent?
- Enhance opportunity and economic mobility?
- Incorporate opportunities for robust citizenship and/or engagement?
- Result in a change that can be seen or felt in the near term?

What organizations are eligible to apply for a grant from the Knight Foundation Fund?

Applicants to the Knight Foundation Fund must be:

- In good standing as a not-for-profit with the Georgia Secretary of State's office;
- Currently exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3) and classified as organizations to which contributions are deductible under Section 170(c)(2), normally a public charity under Section 509(a).

To apply:

Submit a 1-2 page letter describing your proposed project, its timeline and budget, and how it fits the guidelines above to grants@cfcv.com or to the Knight Foundation Fund, Community Foundation, at the address above.

Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.