

MACARTHUR IN CHICAGO

MacArthur is committed to making Chicago a better place to live and work. Chicago is where the Foundation is headquartered and the place John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur called home. Over the Foundation's more than 30 years in Chicago, we have invested nearly \$1 billion, supporting more than 1,000 organizations and individuals in the region.

MacArthur's long history in Chicago has given us what we hope is a deep and nuanced grasp of the city and its challenges. It also helped us understand the problems and opportunities facing urban areas across America—and ways to address them. Our work in Chicago on complex social issues, such as housing and community development, has led to programs with impact at the national level.

Chicago is also a global city—a transportation hub, home to multinational businesses and manufacturers, a place of ethnic diversity and many communities. The MacArthur Foundation is also international, with offices in Russia, Mexico, Nigeria, and India and grantees in 60 countries who work in areas from conservation to human rights.

The intellectual and cultural life of Chicago, with some of the world's best universities, museums, and theaters, is a spur to creativity. MacArthur supports leading institutions and partners with pioneering people and organizations to incubate good ideas for a better world.

We support efforts to improve city neighborhoods, reduce violence on Chicago's streets, preserve a stock of affordable rental housing, re-imagine learning for the 21st Century, and foster creativity through the arts.



Photo credit: Ken Carl

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES

New Communities Program

Over the past ten years, MacArthur has provided more than \$283 million in support of the nation's most comprehensive community development effort.

Called the New Communities Program, the initiative works in 16 low-income Chicago neighborhoods. It is implemented by the Chicago office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), which has deep, on-the-ground experience and close relationships with neighborhood groups. Together, they are tailoring development plans for each neighborhood that tap local assets to reverse negative trends and produce measurable improvements. The goal is to create safe, stable, and income-diverse neighborhoods.

More information is at [**www.macfound.org/ced**](http://www.macfound.org/ced) or [**www.newcommunities.org**](http://www.newcommunities.org).

Reducing Gun Violence

A principle challenge to neighborhood stability is gun violence. Chicago has some of the highest rates in the country. The shootings hurt and kill young people, undermine confidence in the police and local government, and keep away businesses and new residents.

MacArthur is supporting efforts to stop the shootings as they happen by putting “interrupters” on the streets and prevent violence by holding entire gangs responsible for actions of any one of their members. We also will try to shut down the pipeline to violence by identifying the very best programs that work with young people aged 9–13 who are at risk of becoming the next generation of shooters or victims.

Preserving Affordable Rental Housing

In virtually every major housing market in the country, MacArthur's \$150 million Window of Opportunity housing preservation initiative is at work. The initiative facilitates new ownership and preservation of affordable rental housing, calls attention to the importance of rental housing as an option for individuals and families at various times in their lives, and



stimulates new policies that accelerate and expand the preservation of existing affordable housing.

In Chicago, a comprehensive approach to the preservation challenge is under way through The Preservation Compact, which is bringing together all parties with an interest in the issue around efforts to reverse the trend of loss and preserve 75,000 affordable rental homes by 2020.

More information is at [**www.macfound.org/housing**](http://www.macfound.org/housing).

REIMAGINING LEARNING

Schools in America are not preparing all students to meet the complicated challenges of the 21st Century. At the same time, technology is transforming how knowledge is created, organized, accessed, and shared. To address this convergence, in 2006 MacArthur launched the digital media and learning initiative. It is exploring how technology and digital media are changing the way young people learn, play, socialize, and participate in society. The answers may determine how schools and other institutions of learning should change to meet the needs of this and future generations.

In Chicago, we are testing key concepts and new ways for libraries, museums, and schools to facilitate learning. In

September 2011, a new MacArthur-supported school, ChicagoQuest, opened in a changing neighborhood on the City's north side. Based on the principles of game design, the curriculum uses the evidence about what really engages kids in learning and will prepare them for the 21st Century workforce, lifelong learning and active engagement in civic life. Two additional schools will open in the near future.

We support YOUmedia—an innovative new teen space at the Harold Washington Library that helps develop the digital literacy skills of Chicago youth. In 2012, the model will spread to 30 libraries and museums nationwide. And we sponsor HIVE Chicago, a learning network of 30–40 museums, libraries, zoos, and youth programs in the Chicago region to provide new, connected and innovative learning experiences.

More information is at [**www.macfound.org/education**](http://www.macfound.org/education).

FACING UP TO HARD PROBLEMS

Addressing the State Fiscal Crisis

Alarmed by the fiscal crisis the U.S. was facing, MacArthur funded a panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration to look for ways to

restore fiscal health. Its report appeared last year and informed the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. We are going forward with similar work to address the deficits faced by state and local government in Illinois and across the country.

Reforming Juvenile Justice

MacArthur's juvenile justice initiative, Models for Change, seeks to create successful and replicable models of reform through targeted investments in key states, including Illinois. It aims to accelerate progress toward a more effective, fair, and developmentally sound juvenile justice system that holds young people accountable for their actions, provides for their rehabilitation, protects them from harm, increases their life chances, and manages the risk they pose to themselves and to the public.

More information is at [**www.macfound.org/juvenilejustice**](http://www.macfound.org/juvenilejustice) or [**www.modelsforchange.net**](http://www.modelsforchange.net).

FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Support for Arts and Culture

The Foundation awards \$8 million in support each year to more than 200 arts and culture groups in the Chicago region, including theaters, dance groups, music organizations, visual art programs, film

CHICAGO EVENTS

Every year MacArthur brings expert speakers from around the world to Chicago audiences to talk about issues that are important to the City. These events are free and open to the public. Visit [**www.macfound.org/events**](http://www.macfound.org/events) for more information.

centers, museums, and libraries. The Foundation supports 48 large institutions directly. Midsize and smaller groups are supported through the MacArthur Funds at the Prince Charitable Trusts and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

We also support special, time-limited projects and initiatives, such as the International Connections Fund, which enables professional and artistic exchanges between Chicago organizations and colleagues in other countries; and the Working Capital Loan Fund, which provides small and medium-sized arts organizations access to capital. Over the past few years, the Foundation has also supported the International Connections Fund to encourage greater sharing of experiences and international understanding.

More information is at [**www.macfound.org/arts**](http://www.macfound.org/arts).

Civic Technology

The Foundation supports efforts to drive technology-enabled innovation in Chicago by investing in infrastructure, programs

and applications that make the resources of high-speed Internet more accessible, useful and beneficial to low-income people and neighborhoods. MacArthur is part of a funder collaborative called Smart Chicago—a partnership with the City of Chicago and The Chicago Community Trust—that provides cross-sector leadership and resources to support projects like LISC Chicago's Smart Communities Program.

More information is at [**www.getsmartchicago.org**](http://www.getsmartchicago.org).

MacArthur also is supporting a competition to use public data to improve lives of people across the Chicago area. Called Apps 4 Metro Chicago, it is the first ever regionally-coordinated civic apps challenge. Prizes are awarded for the best new mobile and web-based tools that solve real problems, improve communication, and facilitate delivery of government services.

More information is at [**www.appsformetrochicago.com**](http://www.appsformetrochicago.com).



GLOBAL REACH

Through its international grantmaking programs, MacArthur provides support to organizations such as the Chicago Council on Global Affairs; the Field Museum; Northwestern University's African Studies Program; the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University; and the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the National Opinion Research Center, Chapin Hall Center for Children, and the School for Social Service Administration, all at the University of Chicago.



Photo credit: Mercy Housing

LIVING IN A LANDMARK

Completed in 1895, the 17-story Marquette Building is one of Chicago's earliest skyscrapers, and an example of the renowned Chicago School of Architecture. As the building's owner, MacArthur was pleased to support its restoration and preservation. The Marquette Building was designed by the Chicago firm Holabird and Roche, which designed many of the City's early tall office buildings.

These new "skyscrapers" had steel skeletons holding up facades of brick and ornamental terra cotta, making them look light compared to their traditional masonry counterparts.

The building was designated a Chicago Landmark in 1975 and a National Historic Landmark in 1976. An exhibit on the history and architecture of the building is

located in the arcade, just west of the lobby. The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, includes interactive kiosks and also features information about the work and history of the Foundation.

More information is at www.marquettebuilding.org.

For more information

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About The MacArthur Foundation

The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society. More information is at www.macfound.org.

For more information or to sign-up for news and event updates, please visit www.macfound.org.

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