

CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

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By Sherri Welch

Nearly \$20M in grants to support Detroit neighborhoods, Joe Louis Greenway, tech economy



Credit: City of Detroit

The Joe Louis Greenway, as seen from Tireman Avenue to Joy Road, is a beneficiary of the Knight Foundation grants.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is expanding its grant-making in Detroit's neighborhoods with a new \$19.8 million round of grants.

The multi-year funding, announced at a celebration of the Miami-based foundation's Detroit partners at Michigan Central on Sunday night, will support the city's arts and technology economy, civic infrastructure and public spaces.

"Detroit has always been a city of resilience and reinvention," Maribel Pérez Wadsworth, president and CEO of Knight Foundation, said in a news release. "Our latest investments support a Detroit that will continue to be shaped by the creativity, talent and vision of its residents. Whether it's transforming public spaces along the Joe Louis Greenway, expanding local residents' economic power in tech or strengthening the city's creative economy, these efforts reflect the energy of a city on its triumphant rise."

Two of the grants in its latest round of funding are to nonprofits it has supported in the past, she said. They are a \$2 million grant to the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit to activate a flexible indoor/outdoor community space and \$2 million to Vanguard Community Development Corp. to support completion of the North End Community Campus as a civic and cultural anchor for the neighborhood, on earlier support from the foundation.