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## **THE KNIGHT FUND**

### **Initial Grant Guidelines**

#### **What is the Fund’s priority area of interest?**

The priority area of interest of the Knight Fund is to foster informed, engaged communities in Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama.

#### **What does “informed, engaged communities” mean?**

Knight Foundation provided the following information regarding informed, engaged communities:

We want Knight communities to be places where the greatest possible number of people have the opportunity to belong, care and take action in their own true interests. The Knight Foundation has identified ‘informed and engaged communities’ as the focus of our place-based work. We care about local access news, and information as we always have — that’s the ‘informed’ part of the equation. To Knight, community engagement means creating opportunities for ordinary residents to come together, deliberate and take action collectively to address public problems or issues that residents themselves define as important and in ways that they themselves decide are appropriate. We believe approaches that put residents at the center are powerful ways to achieve social change, and that engaged communities are better places to live, work and play.

We know our strategies will evolve through our experiences, but to begin we have identified four possible focus areas:

##### 1. Creating new opportunities to participate

- Enhancing the role of citizens in local problem-solving
- Fostering interaction to promote trust, reciprocity and understanding among community members
- Supporting collaborations between government and community leadership
- Providing leadership skills to youth and young professionals
- Ensuring the community’s leadership reflects the area’s diversity

##### 2. Supporting and developing community leadership

- Helping groups of leaders work together on a shared vision for the community
- Investing in the convening and/or collaboration of leadership of essential community institutions

##### 3. Creating spaces for engagement

- Providing opportunities for cross-sections of the community to share in cultural or civic events

4. Creating spaces for community influence and solutions

- Supporting virtual and physical spaces where social interacting, public deliberation, and community action thrive
- Repository of engagement stories, tools and innovation

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

Applicants to the Knight 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).

**Are there things that are not likely to be funded?**

Yes. The following are not likely to be funded by the Knight Fund:

- Activities outside the Fund's stated areas of interest;
- Ongoing requests for general operating support, annual fund-raising campaigns, fund-raising dinners, or operating deficits;
- Activities that normally are the responsibility of governments;
- Medical research, organizations or project whose mission is to prevent, eradicate and/or alleviate the effects of specific diseases, and requests from hospitals
- Activities to propagate a religious faith or restricted to one religion or denomination, support of political candidates, and memorials;
- Programs or projects that take place outside the U.S. or are conducted by organizations headquartered outside the U.S.; and
- A second request for a capital campaign for which Knight Foundation previously approved a grant from its own funds or advised a grant from the Knight Fund.

**About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation advances journalism in the digital age and invests in the vitality of communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Knight Foundation focuses on projects that promote informed, engaged communities and lead to transformational change. For more, visit [www.knightfoundation.org](http://www.knightfoundation.org).

**About the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley**

The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley was formed in 1998 by a group of citizens interested in encouraging philanthropy and strengthening communities. Since then, the Community Foundation has grown to more than \$63 million in assets and has awarded over \$34 million in grants through its donor advised, unrestricted, designated, field-of-interest, scholarship, and organization endowment funds. As a local center for philanthropy, the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley works with individuals, families, corporations, private foundations and not-for-profit organizations to carry out their charitable objectives and address emerging community issues. For more, visit [www.cfev.com](http://www.cfev.com).