

# 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. Through its Communities Program, Knight uses Donor Advised Funds at local community foundations to make investments in the 26 communities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once owned newspapers. With more than \$840 million invested in community initiatives since its creation in 1950, Knight works to foster informed and engaged communities, which it believes are essential for a healthy democracy.

The Knight Foundation Fund makes grants totaling some \$400,000 annually. Those interested in applying for a grant from the Fund should interact with staff of the Community Foundation rather than directly with Knight. Knight Foundation Fund grants are legally grants from the Community Foundation, which works with Knight to select opportunities to support.

### What We Fund & Why

The Fund invests to:

- Advance city vibrancy and connectivity in the core communities of Uptown and Midtown;
- Accelerate the attraction, development and retention of talent;
- Foster civic engagement; and
- Develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Funded projects will align with the objectives of Columbus 2025 -- the area's collaborative, comprehensive effort to reduce poverty, increase prosperity and improve the quality of life for all -- particularly with the Action Areas of Vibrant & Connected Places and/or An Enterprising Culture. For details see [ColumbusGa2025.com](http://ColumbusGa2025.com).

Knight hopes that focusing on the above investments will foster:

- 1. Talent** Driving the attraction, development and retention of talent will help drive economic growth, job creation and neighborhood revitalization.
- 2. Opportunity** Enhancing the public realm to be more connected and vibrant, and better-connecting the community to key assets like the Chattahoochee River, art centers, schools and universities, jobs, and parks builds opportunity for all citizens to be connected to each other and to their futures. Fostering a healthy entrepreneurial ecosystem lowers the barriers for all to succeed.
- 3. Engagement** Minimizing barriers between residents, making information widely available, and engaging underrepresented communities in civic life and leadership roles builds more inclusive and participatory decision-making.

### Eligibility

Applicants to the Knight Foundation Fund must be:

- 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). If an emerging nonprofit is certified by the Internal Revenue Service through a Form 1023-EZ or is working with a qualified Georgia nonprofit as their fiscal agent, they may apply.
- In good standing as a not-for-profit with the Secretary of State's office.

- Geographically focused on Columbus, Georgia. Phenix City, Alabama, organizations may apply if their project is a bi-city effort.
- Exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; units of local government or public education institutions; or emerging nonprofits certified by the Internal Revenue Service through a Form 1023-EZ or working with a qualified Georgia nonprofit as their fiscal agent.

**To apply:**

Grant applications can be made at any time during the year.

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](mailto: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.

###