



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Community Foundation of North Florida Announces Grants**

*Local Projects Receive \$174,400 from Knight Foundation's Fund*



**TALLAHASSEE, Fla., October 29, 2015** – The Knight Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation of North Florida is awarding a total of \$174,400 to 7 projects helping to strengthen the Big Bend Community's future. All 7 projects were chosen because of their alignment with Knight Foundation's focus to support our community through investments that attract, retain and harness talent; expand opportunity by increasing entrepreneurship and economic mobility; and support civic engagement to accelerate the growth of ideas and bring people from diverse social and economic backgrounds together.

Of the 46 grant applications received, the following 7 projects received funding:

- **Council on Culture and Arts** in support of the KCCI Catalyst EnCompass team's SeeTallahassee project. SeeTallahassee will identify and highlight Tallahassee's landmarks, special interest districts and hidden treasures through sense of place murals, an artisanal informative map and an interactive website to support Tallahassee's wayfinding efforts. For more information, please contact Fran Conaway with EnCompass Tallahassee at [Franconaway32312@gmail.com](mailto:Franconaway32312@gmail.com) or 850-264-3150.
- **Domi Education Foundation** received a stipend for one senior staff member to attend the Open Cities Conference to convene with fellow citizens and start-ups that are emerging as a force alongside government and industry to build Open Cities that are participatory, sharable and adaptable. For more information, please contact Micah Widen, CEO, Domi Ventures, at [micah@domiventures.co](mailto:micah@domiventures.co).
- **Economic Development Council of Tallahassee** for the Entrepreneurial Excellence Program. The program delivers advice to early stage start-up businesses and entrepreneurs in an interactive classroom setting as they navigate through the vulnerable stages of business development. For more information about this project, please contact Larry Lynch, Director of the Entrepreneurial Excellence Program, at [llynch@taledc.com](mailto:llynch@taledc.com) or 850-570-0560.
- **Florida Litfest, Inc.** for a collaborative effort between the Word of South (WOS), Tallahassee Music Week (TMW) and the Southern Shakespeare Festival (SSF) to provide innovative programming by promoting local performers as well as bringing nationally known artists to Tallahassee, to cement our city's reputation as the cultural capital of the southeast. WOS provides a unique and innovative blend of entertainment and opportunity for area residents. TMW places local musicians/ensembles in unexpected

venues and encourages local venues to host musical concerts. SSF offers free Shakespeare in the park to cultivate an appreciation of the arts by making the work of William Shakespeare accessible and fun. For more information about this collaborative project, please contact Mark Mustian, at [mmustian@ngnlaw.com](mailto:mmustian@ngnlaw.com) or 850-224-4070.

- **Frenchtown Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc.** for their KitchenShare @ Heritage Hub project. KitchenShare is a certified, communal kitchen rental program that links individual talent with operational capacity to develop and advance food-related businesses. Based in Frenchtown, KitchenShare aims to expand economic access and diversity in the Capital City. For more information about this project, please contact Michelle Gomez, Director of Greater Frenchtown’s Marketplace & Heritage Hub, at [FrenchtownMarketplace@gmail.com](mailto:FrenchtownMarketplace@gmail.com) or 850-766-6505.
- **Knight Creative Communities Institute (KCCI)** for KCCI Tallahassee’s continued efforts to bring together a diverse group of community “Catalysts” who implement a sense of place project each year that works to attract, retain and harness talent, and increase entrepreneurship and economic mobility in Tallahassee. The projects also tie in with civic infrastructure and projects that bring together a variety of people. KCCI provides the Catalysts with training on (a) Richard Florida's concept of the creative class and (b) Tallahassee's opportunities, weaknesses and what's on the horizon. For more information on KCCI, please contact Betsy Couch, Executive Director, at [betsy.couch@kccitallahassee.com](mailto:betsy.couch@kccitallahassee.com).
- **The Village Square** for Tallahassee Local. This program focuses the innovations and assets of The Village Square on development of local civic engagement programming specific to the ongoing and evolving needs of the Tallahassee community. It embraces diversity of background and opinion as a creative force to grow ideas and address challenges toward building a stronger, more connected Tallahassee. For more information about this project, please contact Liz Joyner, Executive Director, at [liz@tothevillagesquare.org](mailto:liz@tothevillagesquare.org) or 850-264-8785.

“We are pleased to assist the Knight Foundation in funding valuable projects in Tallahassee,” said Joy Watkins, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of North Florida. “We are excited about Knight’s work to make our community a more interesting place for young professionals to want to live and work.”

For more information about the 2015 projects and the 2015 Knight Fund grant cycle, visit the Community Foundation’s website, [www.cfnf.org](http://www.cfnf.org) or contact Laura Harwin at 850.222.2899, Ext. 100 or [lharwin@cfnf.org](mailto:lharwin@cfnf.org).

### **About the Community Foundation of North Florida**

*The Community Foundation of North Florida is a nonprofit organization serving the 10-County Big Bend area by promoting and supporting charitable giving. The Foundation helps people give to their favorite charities and helps nonprofit organizations with grants, education and endowment building expertise.*

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

*Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit [KnightFoundation.org](http://KnightFoundation.org).*

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