



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

### ***Local Projects Receive \$167,000 from Knight Foundation's Fund***

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla., September 20, 2016** – The Knight Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation of North Florida is awarding a total of \$167,000 to 6 projects helping to strengthen the Big Bend Community's future. All 6 projects were chosen because of their alignment with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's focus to support our community through investments that attract and retain talent, expand economic opportunity, and create a culture of civic engagement.

A description of the grants receiving funding is below:

- **Better Block Foundation** to support the local Frenchtown Better Block initiative through consultation, tools and support to advance the development of livable neighborhoods. The Better Block process leverages local community strengths to catalyze change at a fraction of the cost of traditional planning. For more information about this project, please contact Devan Leavins at [Devan.Leavins@talgov.com](mailto:Devan.Leavins@talgov.com).
- **Frenchtown Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc.** for the implementation of the 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).
- **Tallahassee/Leon County Affordable Housing Task Force** to conduct on-site visits to 6 targeted communities to explore how they have strategized and identified unique ways to maintain and

increase quality affordable workforce housing in their urban cores. For more information about this project, please contact Lamar Kemp at [kempl@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:kempl@leoncountyfl.gov).

- **Tallahassee Music Week** for 2017 Tallahassee Music Week (TMW). TMW places local musicians/ensembles in unexpected venues and encourages local venues to host musical concerts. For more information about this collaborative project, please contact Rick Minor at [RickMinor@yahoo.com](mailto:RickMinor@yahoo.com) or 850-445-1914.
- **The Village Square** for Citizenship in Place. This new program intends to build local capacity to respond to catalyzing events that fuel rising civic tension, thereby creating a community space that inspires hometown connectedness that incorporates broad demographic diversity dynamically into the fiber of civic life. The project will invite citizens to rely less on media sources that accentuate division in times of turmoil and engage with political and demographic neighbors in common cause. 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 excited about the potential of these projects to make our community a more interesting place for young professionals to live and work, while encouraging people to connect with their community and each other,” said Joy Watkins, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of North Florida.

“Each of these projects aims to build a more inclusive, connected Tallahassee by bringing people together to collaborate, problem-solve and take hold of their city’s future,” said Michelle Huttenhoff, Knight Foundation program associate for community and national initiatives.

For more information about the 2016 projects and the 2016 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 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 is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.*

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