



COMMUNITY
IMPACT
INCUBATOR



Cohort I Final Impact Report

2020-2021

Founding Partners



**STRATEGIC
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**

MARYGROVE
CONSERVANCY

Funding Partner

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION



The Community Impact Incubator

Launched in 2020 as a partnership between Strategic Community Partners and the Marygrove Conservancy, with financial support from The Kresge Foundation, the Community Impact Incubator provides capacity-building support and facilities to a cohort of nonprofit organizations during a 12-month incubator experience. This opportunity creates an environment for the participants to develop their missions and further scale their services to children and families in Detroit's Fitzgerald neighborhood.

In addition to monthly programming sessions focused on strategic planning, financial management, talent development, and other organizational leadership topics, participating organizations also receive a suite of resources to help scale their work:



Monthly convenings with a community of practice cohort to build capacity and scale organizations



Access to over 20 technical assistants to provide advice, guidance, and coaching



One-on-one mentor matching



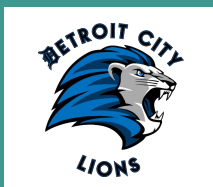
One year of free rent + two years of rent at a subsidized price



2020-2021 PARTICIPANTS

The inaugural Community Impact Incubator Cohort featured five Detroit-based nonprofits serving youth and families from across the city. With a proven track record of success in their respective areas of programming focus, each organization utilized the Incubator experience as an opportunity to strengthen their internal structure, build their organization's capacity, and deepen their impact in Detroit's Fitzgerald neighborhood.

Additionally, all five organizations in Cohort I were Black-founded and majority Black-operated. This created a powerful cohort dynamic as the organizations' leaders built upon shared personal and professional experiences as they uplifted each other's growth and progress.



Detroit City Lions Youth Club

Detroit City Lions Youth Club helps at-risk youth develop healthy bodies and minds. Children aged 3 to 15 can participate in sports programs such as football, soccer, basketball, swim, dance, lacrosse, and more. Detroit City Lions also provides tutoring and mentoring services, STEM programming, leadership development, financial literacy, youth employment, and wraparound services for families.



Detroit Phoenix Center

Detroit Phoenix Center is a low-barrier resource center for young people between the ages of 13 and 24 who are experiencing housing insecurity. Homeless and high-risk youth can drop in to take a shower, access laundry services, receive meals or other basic need items. The center also offers career readiness, life skills, and educational workshops, as well as a computer lab for schoolwork or job searching.



Detroit Youth Choir and Performing Arts Company

Detroit Youth Choir and Performing Arts Company offers the youth of Detroit a performing arts experience to develop creative skills and talents through music education, dance, and theater.



JOURNi

JOURNi is dedicated to building an inclusive technology ecosystem in Detroit, equipping individuals with the education and skills to jumpstart their careers and thrive in the local economy. JOURNi provides immersive courses and youth-centered programming in technology and entrepreneurship.



Pure Heart Foundation

Pure Heart Foundation aims to empower and embrace children of incarcerated parents to help break the cycle of generational incarceration. Children enrolled in the Pure Heart program receive access to mental health care and counseling, mentorship, academic support, and recreational activities.

COHORT IMPACT

1,000

Youth and community members served



Detroit City Lions Youth Club launched a robotics program in partnership with Fanuc and served 30+ Detroit students.



Pure Heart Foundation raised nearly \$200,000 through their Call of Impact campaign.

\$300,000

Additional grants awarded to participants from local and national funders



150+

Hours of group programming, coaching, and professional development



Detroit Youth Choir was selected for a Disney+ docuseries.



Detroit Phoenix Center
A PLACE WHERE YOUTH RISE

Detroit Phoenix Center was featured in Time Magazine.

10+

Local, regional, and national press features



12+

Local and national awards and recognitions



JOURN />

JOURNi was named a 2021 Gucci Changemaker Impact Fund recipient.

LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

Cohort I of the Community Impact Incubator featured five nonprofit organizations founded and led by Black leaders. The resources and opportunities provided through the program not only strengthened the organizations' development, they also supported these passionate and impactful Black leaders and provided opportunities for their continued professional and personal growth.

"Being a part of the Incubator has been an eye-opening experience. It has given our organization a place to grow, provided a safe environment for our youth, and brought our organization back down to earth from the cloud that we were on. Thanks to the Incubator, we now have reliable office space and rehearsal space which has strengthened the sense of dignity and pride within our organization. As a Black leader in our community, it's been amazing."

Anthony White

Artistic Director, Detroit Youth Choir and Performing Arts Company



"As a Black leader, being a part of the Community Impact Incubator has allowed me to be in a space with other leaders who understand the challenges of navigating the nonprofit sector while also gaining critical resources, knowledge, and support. Additionally, the learning opportunities have helped me move my organization forward, build my team's capacity and reimagine our service delivery. I've also been challenged throughout this process to learn more about my team so I can grow as an executive leader."

Courtney Smith

Founder and CEO, Detroit Phoenix Center



"Participating in the Incubator meant so much to me and my organization that it is hard to put a price on the value of this opportunity. Being able to learn from industry experts that look like me, come from similar places, and have like-minded missions and visions was priceless. Being a part of the Incubator's growing legacy was a major Detroit City Lions Youth Club, and the opportunity to connect with this cohort was truly an honor."

Devon Buskin

Founder and President, Detroit City Lions Youth Club



"One of the most valuable aspects of the Incubator for me was the opportunity to be re-affirmed on the work and impact of my organization. Sometimes in past opportunities, I haven't necessarily known how I was doing as a leader. Being a part of this cohort helped me to find my strengths and identify areas where my organization can continue to grow."

Richard Grundy

Co-Founder & CEO, JOURNI



"As a Black leader in the first Community Impact Incubator cohort, I not only felt honored, I felt seen. Being selected for this opportunity and connecting with the cohort provided me with the resources and support network I needed to strengthen my organization and myself as a leader. The Incubator experience showed me and my fellow leaders that our purpose carries value and influence."

Sherelle Hogan

Executive Director, Pure Heart Foundation



CONTINUED GROWTH

Following their graduation from the Incubator, members of Cohort I used the momentum of their experience to continue scaling the impact of their work in the Fitzgerald neighborhood and beyond. Through alumni engagement opportunities, additional grant awards, and continued program growth, all five of the organizations are providing transformative experiences for youth and community members.



Alyssa Williams
Director of Early Childhood
Marygrove Conservancy Program



Dr. Chanel Hampton
Founder & CEO
Independent Sector



Devon Buskin
President and Founder
The Detroit City Lions Youth Club



Richard Grundy
Co-Founder
JOURNi



Sherelle Hogan
Founder
Pure Heart Foundation

Cohort I Leaders Shared Their Experience at Upswell 2021

Members of Cohort I were invited to share their experiences with a national audience during a breakout session at the Upswell 2021 Conference hosted by Independent Sector.

As part of the panel discussion, leaders discussed personal examples of the essential role that health and wellness play in Black leadership development experiences.



Pure Heart Foundation Hosted The Detroit Breaking the Cycle Symposium

Pure Heart Foundation hosted their first annual Detroit Breaking the Cycle Symposium featuring conversations centered on children with incarcerated parents, systemic racism, policy and mass incarceration.

The event included a variety of panelists including program alumni along with Trey Flowers and Jalen Elliot of the Detroit Lions.



Detroit Phoenix Center Opened The Zen Zone

Detroit Phoenix Center opened their first "Zen Zone" on the Marygrove Conservancy campus. The space provides a low barrier, safe space for young adults, ages 18-24 who are at risk of and/or currently experiencing homelessness.

Young adults who access the space can utilize showers, laundry services, food, and a variety of other basic needs items



Detroit City Lions Youth Club Received The Community Keeper Award

Devon Buskin and the Detroit City Lions Youth Club were selected to receive the Community Keeper Award as part of the 2021 SCP Annual Scholarship initiative. The Community Keeper award is presented to a community member who is leading in a nonprofit or community-based organization directly serving their neighbors, bringing their community together, and inspiring others to do their part.

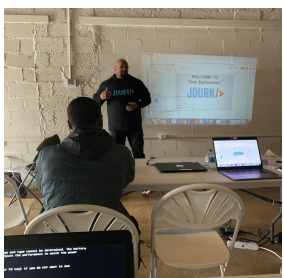
Funds from the award were used for new jerseys and equipment for Detroit City Lions Youth Club's football program.



Detroit Youth Choir Celebrated Its 25th Anniversary

In celebration of their 25th anniversary, the Detroit Youth Choir hosted a special celebration at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

The event featured an award presentation honoring Detroit's leaders, dinner, and a special performance from the NYC youth.



JOURNi Launched The House of Technology

To help expand its mission and reach a larger number of community members, JOURNi opened its first House of Technology location in the Fitzgerald neighborhood.

The House of Technology provides a physical space where Detroiters can access computer coding classes, start up education, and a makers lab within a neighborhood setting. By focusing on a residential area, the program helps to decentralize access to technology and create equitable pathways to tech careers.



THE FOUNDERS

The Community Impact Incubator is operated through a partnership between Strategic Community Partners and the Marygrove Conservancy. Additional financial support is provided by The Kresge Foundation.

Founding Partners



Strategic Community Partners is a national firm that works with organizations by advising, designing, and managing projects and initiatives that advance equity with and for communities. SCP partners with organizations to build capacity by pairing strategy with community and cultural context to drive forward powerful and equitable missions.

The Community Impact Incubator is one example of a growing number of Equity Initiatives that SCP has designed, launched, and facilitated for and with communities. Initiatives include local and national conferences, fellowships, incubators, and scholarships that place power, influence, and resources directly in the hands of community members who are leading transformative change. Ultimately, SCP envisions a world where marginalized communities will secure seats at the table, lead the charges, and bring the solutions that their communities deserve, desire, and need.



Established in 2018, the Marygrove Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that manages operations and stewards the 53-acre Marygrove College campus in northwest Detroit as a resource for high-quality uses in the community.

Funding Partner

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The Kresge Foundation is a private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and community development, nationally and in Detroit, Memphis and New Orleans.