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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FIELD & MACARTHUR FOUNDATIONS LAUNCH TWO MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENTS TOWARD A MORE RACIALLY EQUITABLE CHICAGO**

**CHICAGO** — The Field Foundation is launching two new programs, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to help make Chicago more racially equitable. These initiatives will award \$5 million in grants for areas, organizations and individuals often left out of philanthropic giving. They will nurture new sources of civic and media leadership for Chicago's future.

As Chicago redefines itself, *Leaders for a New Chicago* will advance equity and access to opportunity, and foster conditions that recognize and promote people who bring a broad diversity of background and experience to leadership positions. *Leaders for a New Chicago* is now accepting nominations. The *Media & Storytelling* program, with additional support from the Democracy Fund, will open for applications April 15, 2019. Both programs will further boost the Field Foundation's innovative grantmaking model of [Community Empowerment through Justice, Art, and Leadership Investment](#).

"This partnership symbolizes a shift in business as usual in philanthropy," said Angelique Power, president, the Field Foundation. "Combining Field's racially equitable grantmaking model and MacArthur's deep commitment to Chicago will allow both institutions to help organizers, artists and journalists who are shifting the narrative, culture and systems of Chicago to make our city better."

Under Power's leadership the Field Foundation has transformed its grantmaking by focusing on systemic interventions, black and brown communities, innovative art and justice reform work. With Field's longstanding, deeply-rooted relationships in Chicago's community-based nonprofit space, the Foundation is directing funds to the changemakers on the ground to facilitate organic, long-lasting improvement.

These powerful new partnerships reflect MacArthur's enduring commitment to Chicago and its strategy to foster inclusion and address systemic racial, economic and social inequality. In its 40-year history, MacArthur has invested more in the Chicago region than in any other place around the world: \$1.4 billion in more than 1,500 organizations and individuals. Collaborating with the Field Foundation furthers that commitment.

"We are proud to help enhance and expand opportunities for a diverse group of leaders and organizations across Chicago to ensure their voices are heard in public conversation; their influence is felt in decisions that shape our city; and their perspectives are reflected in inclusive narratives that support meaningful civic engagement," said MacArthur President Julia Stasch. "We were pleased to partner with Field on the design of these programs because they advance our shared vision of a city where prosperity is shared, opportunity is equitable, and justice can thrive."



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The collaboration between Field and MacArthur led to two innovative programs. One is a no-strings award given directly to individuals to foster a new generation of dynamic leadership in Chicago. The other builds the arc of media and storytelling by amplifying voices and stories often unheard or untold.

#### LEADERS FOR A NEW CHICAGO AWARD

Although more than 60 percent of Chicago residents are from African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American (ALAANA) communities, the city's civic leadership does not reflect these demographics. Whether in the private, public or in the philanthropic sector, many individuals who are leaders in their communities, professional fields or interest areas are not heard or given a platform in the public discourse.

Details on the nomination process, including nomination requirements, eligibility rules, deadline information and application are available at <https://fieldfoundation.org/how-to-apply/program-grants/>.

*Leaders for a New Chicago* will award an amount of \$50,000 to 10-15 recipients per year, comprising a no-strings \$25,000 award for the individual and a \$25,000 general operating grant for the individuals' affiliated charities, if applicable. The program will support up to 45 recipients over its first three years.

The Field Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2019 *Leaders for a New Chicago Awards*. Candidates will be nominated by colleagues, peers, or self-nominated. Awardees will be selected in May 2019.

The program seeks to build a more inclusive Chicago by tapping communities outside of the city's current power structure. These awards will recognize established or emerging Chicago leaders with the potential for ongoing future leadership.

"One dimension of leadership is that it is a function of whom you know, who recognizes you as a leader," said Sylvia Puente, executive director of the Latino Policy Forum. "Given the existing inequality in our society, it's easier for some organizations to raise money because of their networks of connected people. That is often not the case for people helped by the Field program. In Chicago there is an abundance of people committed to building societal change — often with fewer resources — who have an expansive neighborhood network but are often not known outside of those neighborhoods. The resources provided by the Field grants will give these leaders an additional level of legitimacy and elevate them beyond their spheres of influences to call attention to their issues at a citywide level."

Field and MacArthur designed *Leaders for a New Chicago* not to shape leaders with philanthropic dollars, but to recognize leaders' contributions to Chicago, learn from them and incorporate insights about their experiences to better understand and support future leaders.

Beyond the ALAANA leaders mentioned, preference may be given to leaders of communities where quality of life indicators are statistically lower than other parts of Chicago. Currently, these areas are primarily found on [Chicago's South and West sides](#).

"This program is needed," said Tuyet Le, a consultant for nonprofits and former executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice. "This is a comprehensive



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approach that supports the organization while allowing the leader time to invest in themselves. This is big. Field is a leader in racial equity and is leading the way in investment in leaders.”

## MEDIA & STORYTELLING PROGRAM

Field, with major support from MacArthur’s Jack Fuller Legacy Initiative and additional funding from the Democracy Fund, seeks to create a connected, equitable and informed media and storytelling ecosystem in which the stories of all Chicagoans are told accurately, fairly, authoritatively and contextually. A component of the new program will be to strengthen and expand the reporting and storytelling capacity of a more diverse set of news outlets, reporters and storytellers.

The Jack Fuller Legacy Initiative aims to strengthen news- and media-making organizations that represent and reflect the views and lived experiences of Chicago’s diverse communities and bring more nuanced and thorough coverage to participating organizations’ audiences.

“There’s legacy media that are doing good work,” said Natalie Moore, a WBEZ-FM reporter on the news station’s race, class and communities desk. “But there’s still a desire from people starting new organizations to highlight their communities or issues that are not being covered. It’s important to have other outlets covering all the different regions and perspectives of a city as diverse as Chicago.”

Details on the application process, including application requirements, eligibility rules, deadline information and application are available at <https://fieldfoundation.org/how-to-apply/program-grants/>. The *Media & Storytelling* program will award \$1 million every year for the next three years. Qualified 501(c)(3) organizations, including Chicago nonprofit news, media and storytelling outlets, community-based organizations of color and nonprofit organizations and associations that support journalism and storytelling, are welcome to apply. Nonprofit partners are preferred, but other organizations may be eligible if grants are used for charitable or educational purposes that further the underlying issues addressed by Field’s grantmaking. Applications open April 15, 2019, and grantees will be notified in September.

After gaining formal input from nearly 70 journalists, media makers and storytellers from communities of color, Field will ground its activities in five areas:

- **Capacity building and creative ideas:** Field will provide grants for fellowships for reporters, editors, multimedia and data journalists, as well as make investments in space, technology and equipment to support 501(c)(3) and other eligible news organizations.
- **Idea exchange, active communication and convenings:** Field will host periodic meetings with media makers, journalists and storytellers to exchange ideas and will foster idea exchanges between philanthropy and journalists, as well as support skill building.
- **Leadership Investment:** As part of the newly launched *Leaders for a New Chicago*, several media makers and storytellers will be eligible annually for individual awards based on their past work and accomplishments.
- **Content creation:** 501(c)(3) and other eligible organizations that create new compelling content aimed at narrative/culture/policy change will be eligible for grants.
- **Professional development:** Field will provide a competitive pool of money to 501(c)(3) organizations to support individual travel, conference participation,



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- professional development and events. These dollars are separate from the Leaders for a New Chicago initiative.

“The Field and MacArthur Foundations are embarking on something different for both of us — hacking the philanthropic system to give money to visionaries who rarely get resources or recognition for their work and then getting out of their way,” Power said.

**About the Field Foundation**

Founded in 1940 by Marshall Field III, the Field Foundation is a private, independent foundation that has been dedicated to the promise of Chicago for more than 80 years. The Field Foundation aims its grantmaking toward the goal of Community Empowerment through Justice, Art, Media & Storytelling and Leadership Investment. With racial equity at the center of its giving, it directs dollars to critical organizations working to address systemic issues in Chicago and aims to directly benefit some of our city’s most divested communities. Learn more at [www.fieldfoundation.org](http://www.fieldfoundation.org).

**About the MacArthur Foundation**

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world’s most pressing social challenges, including [over-incarceration](#), [global climate change](#), [nuclear risk](#) and significantly increasing [financial capital for the social sector](#). In addition to the [MacArthur Fellows Program](#), the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of [journalism](#) in a responsible and responsive democracy, as well as the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, [Chicago](#). MacArthur supports Chicago nonprofits, and communities by strengthening organizations, contributing to civic partnerships, investing in vital communities, advancing influential and diverse leaders and cultivating creative expression and art. Learn more at [www.macfound.org/chicago](http://www.macfound.org/chicago)

**About the Democracy Fund**

The Democracy Fund is a bipartisan foundation established by eBay founder and philanthropist Pierre Omidyar to help ensure that the American people come first in our democracy. The Democracy Fund is a resource for those who want to strengthen our nation’s democracy. We invest in change makers whose ideas and energy can make a difference. We advocate for solutions that can bring lasting improvement to our political system. We build bridges that help people come together to serve the nation, moving us closer to the ideal of a government of, by and for the people.



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