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CONTACT:  
Hillary Reser  
(410) 332-4172 ext 182  
[hreser@bcf.org](mailto:hreser@bcf.org)

Cynthia B. Shaw  
(248) 643-9630  
[cbshaw@kresge.org](mailto:cbshaw@kresge.org)

## **Kresge Foundation Partners with Baltimore Community Foundation to Provide \$200,000 for Arts and Community Grants in Baltimore**

*(Baltimore, MD, 7/10/09)* The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, is piloting a new community arts and engagement project in Baltimore, Detroit, and St. Louis that encourages residents to use art and culture as a tool to address issues in their communities. Kresge has enlisted the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF) to administer the Baltimore program titled *Kresge Arts in Baltimore*. The Foundation is investing \$200,000 over two years in each city. Grants will range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

The project is designed to test Kresge's belief that grassroots arts and cultural projects can be an effective tool to unite communities, address pressing social issues, and uplift spirits in difficult times. Individuals and groups are encouraged to apply, including local artists and historians, neighborhood and homeowner associations, youth with parental consent, service agencies, municipal governments, community development corporations, and arts and cultural organizations, among others.

"We believe a thriving arts and cultural community inspires new thinking, spurs innovation and accelerates the creative vitality of a city or region," said Rip Rapson, president of the Kresge Foundation. "We hope these grants encourage civic dialogue and provide creative outlets to feed the human spirit."

*Kresge Arts in Baltimore* is intended to support the creative ideas that percolate from within the selected communities. The hope is that projects will engage underserved and new audiences as well as children, teens and families; promote cross-cultural understanding; increase exposure to art and culture; and provide experiences in non-traditional spaces such as low-

income housing developments, juvenile detention centers, battered women's shelters and after-school program centers.

BCF President Thomas E. Wilcox commented, "Arts and culture is one of the nine areas BCF and its donors are investing in to create a Baltimore with a growing economy in which all have the opportunity to thrive. *Kresge Arts in Baltimore* represents a significant investment by a national foundation in our city and is a powerful statement of support for our vision for Baltimore."

Pilot cities were selected based on a criterion that included median household income and the readiness of existing local partners to help launch the project. Considered for participation were twelve U.S. cities that are facing challenges but are well positioned to look toward the future.

Projects do not have to be new, but existing projects will not receive priority funding. Pre-application workshops will be held on July 13 and 14, and the deadline for submission is August 14, 2009. Grantees will be announced in Fall 2009 with funding beginning thereafter. Complete information on *Kresge Arts in Baltimore*, the grant process, and applications can be found at <http://www.bcf.org/kresgeAiB>.

## **KRESGE ARTS IN BALTIMORE PARTNERS**

**Kresge Foundation** – The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, is a \$3.1 billion private, national foundation that supports communities by building the capacity of nonprofit organizations in six fields: health, the environment, arts and culture, education, human services and community development. In partnership with grantees, Kresge seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations by creating access and opportunity in underserved communities, improving the health of low-income people, supporting artistic expression, assisting in the revitalization of Detroit, and advancing methods for dealing with global climate change. In 2008, the foundation approved 342 grants totaling \$181 million. In Baltimore, the Kresge Foundation has supported organizations including Baltimore Medical System, the Center for Urban Families, and Joseph Richey House. Visit [www.kresge.org](http://www.kresge.org) for more information.

**Baltimore Community Foundation** - The Baltimore Community Foundation distributed \$28 million in 2008 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations in the Baltimore region and beyond. With assets of \$143 million, BCF comprises more than 600 different charitable funds. BCF invites donors to *Invest in Baltimore* through its civic agenda, which combines economic development with poverty reduction by making strategic investments in the areas of human services, youth,

education, transportation, neighborhoods, diversity, environment, arts and culture, and promoting Baltimore. More information about *Invest in Baltimore* as well as support for individual donors' philanthropy and more can be found at [www.bcf.org](http://www.bcf.org).

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