

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **Kresge Arts in Baltimore calls for applications; \$80,000 available for community arts projects in Baltimore**

*(Baltimore, MD, 2/2/10)* The Kresge Foundation is calling for applications for year two of *Kresge Arts in Baltimore*, a national community arts and engagement project being piloted in five cities in the United States, including Baltimore. Grantseekers are invited to submit applications for projects in Baltimore that use art and culture as a tool to address issues in their communities.

In 2009, Kresge funded 12 projects totaling \$88,500 in neighborhoods across Baltimore City. An additional \$80,000 will be awarded in 2010; grants will range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

The pilot program, now underway in St. Louis, Missouri; Detroit, Michigan; Tucson, Arizona; and Birmingham, Alabama, as well as Baltimore City, is designed to test Kresge's belief that grassroots arts and cultural projects can be an effective tool to address pressing social issues. The foundation is investing \$200,000 over two years in each pilot city.

Applicants may request one-year grants for planning and implementation. Projects do not have to be new, but existing projects will not receive priority funding. Grantseekers who applied in year one and were denied are eligible to reapply for the second year of funding. Current grantees are not eligible to apply unless their project is complete and their final report received by the Baltimore Community Foundation before March 31, 2010. Complete information on *Kresge Arts in Baltimore*, the grant process, applications, and most recent grants awarded can be found at <http://www.bcf.org/kresgeAiB>.

The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2010, by 5:00 p.m. Three workshops will be held to review the guidelines and answer questions from potential applicants. Items to be

covered in the workshops include eligibility, the criteria for a successful proposal, and frequently asked questions.

“The Baltimore Community Foundation is pleased to administer year two of the *Kresge Arts in Baltimore* initiative,” said BCF President Tom Wilcox. “This exciting program is supporting a host of small, innovative projects that bring people together through the arts and enrich and strengthen Baltimore’s neighborhoods. *Kresge Arts in Baltimore* is an important source of funding for projects which might otherwise be unable to attract funding because of their small size.”

The grant opportunity is intended to support the creative ideas that percolate from within the selected communities. The foundation seeks projects that will engage underserved and new audiences as well as children, teens and families; promote cross-cultural understanding; 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.

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.

“Arts and culture are an essential part of community life,” says Rip Rapson, president of the Kresge Foundation. “The activity of creating new forms of artistic and cultural expression can foster civic dialogue and build community while enriching life for all residents. We anticipate a second year of thoughtful, highly imaginative projects for the city of 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 20 U.S. cities that are facing challenges but are well positioned to look toward the future.

Pre-application workshops will be held on February 23 and March 8, and the deadline for submission is March 31, 2010. Grantees will be announced in May 2010 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>. For questions about the grant application process, please contact Sarah Cordi at 410-332-4172, ext. 160 or [scordi@bcf.org](mailto:scordi@bcf.org).

## **KRESGE ARTS IN BALTIMORE PARTNERS**

**Kresge Foundation** – The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Michigan, is a \$2.8 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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