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**The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, F. R. Bigelow and Mardag Foundations Announce More Than
\$9 Million in 2023 First-Round Community Grants**

Grants target a variety of areas between the three organizations

ST. PAUL, MINN. -- May 24, 2023 -- [The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation](#) (the Foundation), [F. R. Bigelow Foundation](#) and [Mardag Foundation](#) today announced that, together and independently, they have awarded over \$9 million to Minnesota nonprofits in their first round of 2023 grantmaking. Grants will support community organizations as they work to launch, expand and sustain their services in the community.

“We are lucky to have the opportunity to work with nonprofit organizations throughout Minnesota that are strongly committed to addressing some of the challenging issues primarily facing our communities of color,” said Tiffany Kong, the Foundation’s director of Community Impact. “It’s been our honor to support community-led organizations that advocate for equity for all Minnesotans.”

The following organizations were among the most recent round of grant recipients:

[Care Clinic](#) was awarded \$50,000 by Mardag Foundation to provide access to affordable and linguistically/culturally competent free medical, mental health, legal, social services, and affordable dental care in Red Wing. The clinic provides care to a little over 2,000 Latinx individuals who reside in Goodhue County.

[Hallie Q. Brown Community Center](#) (HQB) was awarded \$70,000 in total by the Foundation, Mardag Foundation and F. R. Bigelow to support youth and seniors in the historic Summit-University area. HQB strives to improve the quality of life in our community by providing access to critical human services, fostering and promoting personal growth, and developing community leadership.

[It’s Our Neighborhood](#) was awarded \$10,000 by the Foundation to support its continuing efforts to provide employment, mentoring relationships, recreational, and academic opportunities. Its goal is to help young Black youth from low-income families discover their gifts and talents by building relationships, mentoring, and providing them strong role models that they might otherwise not have.

[Faith City Church](#) was awarded \$40,000 by the Foundation and F. R. Bigelow Foundation to support its Social Kitchen program, which trains youth from 16-34 with transferable and basic food industry skills. The focus of the program is to increase knowledge, skills and incomes through culinary education, work opportunities, and employment. The organization also provides access to mutual aid for mothers with formula and diapers, a drop in center for sexually exploited girls, and affordable accessible groceries.

[Minnesota Deaf Muslim Community](#) was awarded \$25,000 by the Foundation to ensure effective access to communication, education, and resources for individuals who are Deaf, Deaf Plus, and hard of hearing which will lead to overall self-sufficiency and a better quality of life. This organization provides relief to

Deaf, Deaf Plus and hard of hearing individuals who are underprivileged and underserved, and to defend the rights of those individuals as secured by law.

[BLCK Press](#) was awarded \$60,000 by the Foundation and F. R. Bigelow Foundation to support the organization's goals to build a groundswell of BIPOC reporters to transform the racial narrative in local media by reporting on stories that may be ignored by major news outlets. BLCK Press strives to add equity nuance that may be missing in mainstream coverage, and works to dissolve historically ingrained Euro-centric approaches and interpretation of today's news coverage.

[FilmNorth](#) was awarded \$300,000 to be dispersed over two years by the Foundation and F. R. Bigelow Foundation to grow their services and continuous support to film artists. Its mission is to empower artists to tell their stories, launch and sustain successful careers, and advance FlimNorth as a leader in the national network of independent filmmakers.

[African Economic Development Solutions](#) was awarded \$60,000 by the Foundation and F. R. Bigelow Foundation to continue supporting African immigrant communities across Minnesota through entrepreneurial support, homeownership education, financial capability education/counseling, arts & culture initiatives, community building & leadership development, and policy advocacy.

[East Side Neighborhood Development Company](#) was awarded \$60,000 by the Foundation and F. R. Bigelow Foundation to sustain the organization's operations and economic development work, which is helping put money directly into the hands of BIPOC business owners who are struggling through the economic decline triggered by the pandemic.

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About the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation believes in the best of Minnesota and the power of its communities. With roots in Saint Paul and partners across the state, it is Minnesota's largest community foundation and the partner of choice for thousands of donors, nonprofits and community organizations. The Foundation aspires to create an equitable, just and vibrant Minnesota where all communities and people thrive by inspiring generosity, advocating for equity and investing in community-led solutions. Visit: spmcf.org

About F. R. Bigelow Foundation

F. R. Bigelow Foundation is committed to making the Saint Paul community a better place to live, learn and grow. Frederic Russell Bigelow, fourth president of the Saint Paul Fire and Marine Company (now Travelers), created the Foundation through a trust in 1946. Today, his commitment to strengthening the Saint Paul area lives on through the Foundation. The Foundation is an affiliate of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. Learn more at frbigelow.org.

About Mardag Foundation

Established in 1969, Mardag Foundation is the legacy of Agnes Ober. The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations that enhance quality of life, inspire learning, revitalize communities and build capacity for the arts across the state of Minnesota. Agnes' passion lives on through the work of her

descendants who serve on the Foundation's board. The Foundation is an affiliate of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. Learn more at mardag.org.