

University Cultural Center Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Midtown businesses get support from Colin Hubbell Fund

Memorial grant program designed to seed growth and opportunity in Detroit

DETROIT, Dec. 14-The Colin Hubbell Memorial Fund, created in 2008 to carry on the legacy of native Detroit and local developer Colin Hubbell, recently awarded several grants to Detroit entrepreneurs and community organizations. The grant program, managed through the University Cultural Center Association, provides seed money to grow and expand the small business community in Detroit. Grants are also available to non-profit community organizations to build stronger neighborhoods and more sustainable communities. The following grants were awarded in 2009 to the following:

- **Good Girls Go to Paris Creperie** (located in the Park Shelton building) for signage on Woodward Avenue
- **Leopold's Bookstore** (located in the Park Shelton) for signage on Woodward Avenue
- **North Cass Community Garden** to create and install a bike rack in the garden on Second Avenue
- **Luella Hannan Foundation** to design a sensory garden for its Woodward Avenue frontage
- **The Hub of Detroit** for signage and façade improvement for its Cass Avenue bike shop
- **Mariners Inn** (located on Ledyard in the Cass Corridor) to create an artistic and utilitarian bike rack and mosaic tile bench for community use.
- **Detroit Cathedral Bookshop** (located on Woodward Avenue) to support software needs for better customer service
- **Morningside Community Mural project** funding for paint and materials to beautify the windows of abandoned homes in eastside Detroit neighborhood (community boundaries borders Alter to E. Outer Drive between Mack and Harper Avenues).

The Hubbell Fund is also supporting the 37th annual Noel Night with a \$5,000 contribution. The Cultural Center is one of Detroit's most-treasured resources and Noel Night is an important community event and a great way to highlight some of Detroit's most-treasured cultural institutes.

"Colin loved the city of Detroit, especially Midtown, and believed the viability of Detroit depended on creating walkable communities thriving with small businesses providing unique goods and great customer service," said Trish Hubbell, administrator of the Hubbell Fund. "He was also committed to the arts and believed that urban centers could only survive and thrive if they were anchored by a strong cultural corridor. We are working hard to carry on Colin's legacy and commitment to rebuilding Detroit by supporting Midtown businesses and community events."

Colin Hubbell was the founder and a partner in the Hubbell Group. The company was responsible for Midtown developments such as The Art Center Town Homes, 55 West Canfield, and the Canfield Lofts. Hubbell also taught an urban redevelopment graduate level course at the University of Detroit Mercy, and served on several non-profit community development boards.

Grants from the Hubbell Fund are reviewed by an advisory committee quarterly; funds are distributed bi-annually. The advisory committee consists of members from Detroit business, non-profit, and philanthropic communities, all of whom knew and supported his vision for Detroit.

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The grant funds can be used for a number of purposes including special events, lighting, signage, façade improvements, or neighborhood beautification. Most grants awards range from \$500 - \$2,500. The grant program also includes a mentoring component to assist grantees with advice on marketing, networking, public relations, etc.

The Hubbell Fund is supported through community donations and one or two fundraising events per year. For more information, or to make a donation to the Hubbell Fund program, visit <http://detroitmidtown.com/05/> and click on the Colin Hubbell Fund link. For more information, call Trish Hubbell at 313,729-6109.

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