

University Cultural Center Association

4735 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
577.5088 phone
313.577.3332 fax
www.detroitmidtown.com



Contact: Trish Hubbell, 313-729-6109

Sue Mosey, 313-577-5088

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DETROIT, January 17, 2011– The Colin Hubbell Memorial Fund provided several small businesses in Midtown with seed money to survive and thrive in 2010. Managed through the University Cultural Center Association, the Fund provides financial support to grow and expand the small business community in Detroit, as well as neighborhood initiatives and events that stabilize communities. The Hubbell Fund was created in 2008 to continue the passion and memory of the late [Colin Hubbell](#), a native Detroiter, community organizer and urban developer.

“Small business is what makes midtown a viable, thriving and walkable community,” said Sue Mosey, President of the University Cultural Center Association. “The Hubbell Fund provides seed money to help entrepreneurs with some of the practical business necessities like signage, gardens, bike racks, façade improvements, lighting, etc. The Fund also allocates money to community projects and cultural events that strengthen neighborhoods. Colin was a real champion for the city, especially Midtown, and this is a meaningful way to honor him and his passion for Detroit.”

The following grants were awarded in 2010:

- **Parks of New Center beautification project:** a grant to purchase equipment and supplies to improve, maintain and beautify Pallister Park and the Virginia Park Gateway in the New Center community.
- **Inside Detroit leadership development:** partial scholarship for executive director’s participation in Detroit Regional Chamber’s 201-11 Leadership Detroit program.
- **The Midtown Green Alley Demonstration Project:** a grant to help transform an alley at the rear entrance of Motor City Brewing Works restaurant into a walkable, pedestrian-friendly space.
- **American Beauty Mural Project:** a grant toward the creation of an art mural on the abandoned American Beauty Iron Building at the corner of Woodward Avenue and Burroughs Street to celebrate the city’s industrial legacy.
- **Shop Midtown Campaign on WDET:** a grant to help fund a broadcast and interactive media campaign to educate and promote WDET radio listeners about Midtown businesses and cultural organizations.

- **Art Center Condo Association:** a grant to help fund landscaping and beautification improvements along properties lining East Palmer.
- **Motor City Brewing Works:** a grant toward the development of a sculptural archway for the Green Alley Demonstration Project.
- **Goods:** a grant toward the design, fabrication, and installation of store signage.
- **Fender Bender Detroit:** a grant to fund the purchase of a trailer that will support a mobile bike shop traveling throughout Detroit that provides service and education.
- **Community Acupuncturist:** a grant toward the design, fabrication, and installation of signage.
- **Lemonade Detroit:** donation to support an independent filmmaker's efforts to create a film about the disarming resilience of Detroit, and the entrepreneurial strengths of those who are reinventing themselves and their communities.

Several of the 2009 Hubbell Fund grantees are thriving. The Fund provided grant money to [Good Girls Go to Paris](#) for outdoor signage. Business has been steady, already requiring an expansion to keep up with a growing clientele. Good Girls is located in the Park Shelton Building on Woodward Avenue. "We are thrilled with the support we have received since opening our doors a couple of years ago," said Torya Blanchard, owner and manager of Good Girls Go to Paris. "Hubbell Fund is one of those organizations who gets it. In order for a business to be successful, it needs great signage. The Hubbell Fund saw a need for me to have a large well-lit sign on Woodward and helped pay for it. My debt of gratitude to Trish Hubbell is deep and I appreciate the Hubbell Fund's intuitiveness in funding my signage. Merci, mille fois!" Next door is [Leopold's Books](#), another Hubbell Fund grantee. The unique book store is often bustling with book signings and special discussion groups.

The Hubbell Fund looks forward to continue its support to neighborhood initiatives and the small business community in Detroit in 2011. For grant information about the Hubbell Fund or to make a donation, visit detroitmidtown.com.

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