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## How would you transform Charlotte?

Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 09, 2019 7:14 AM

**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

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KNIGHT  
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COMMUNITIES

Dear Steve,

In case you missed it, the [LISC Charlotte office](#) officially opened last month, with initial support from Knight Foundation, the city and corporate funders. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) will leverage funding from the private sector and national sources for a wide range of community investment efforts, focused on ways to create economic opportunity in all Charlotte neighborhoods.

LISC's first program action is to provide a \$25,000 capacity-building grant to Historic West End Partners, a nonprofit that has worked since 2010 to raise up the culture, history and quality of life in northwest Charlotte. Learn more about the LISC Charlotte office and its plans [here](#).

**APPLY TO BE AN EMERGING CITY CHAMPION**

Do you have a bold idea to enhance public space, urban mobility or civic engagement in Charlotte? Apply to be an [8 80 Cities Emerging City Champion](#), a fellowship program for young civic innovators with transformative ideas, by May 12 and get \$5K in seed funding to launch your project.

Check out these upcoming events to advance a more livable, equitable and people-centered Charlotte.

### Upcoming Events

- **April 8:** [Emerging City Champions](#) fellowship program opens. Learn about past Charlotte champions, [Christine Edwards](#) and [Amir Naeem](#). [Apply](#) with your idea before May 12.
- **April 11-14:** The Charlotte Black Film Festival returns for its ninth year at the Charlotte Convention Center. [Learn more and get tickets](#).
- **April 18:** Sundance Institute presents "[Shorts Producing Session: Charlotte](#)," where you can get advice on producing your next film from seasoned

filmmakers and Sundance Institute staff.

- **April 23-30:** The City of Charlotte hosts the [2019 Neighborhood Exchange: NEXweek](#), a weeklong series of events encouraging community leaders and residents to connect with each other, learn about available resources and put local projects into action for their neighborhoods.
- **April 25:** Equitable Communities CLT presents “Historical Impacts of City Planning & Why We Should Care About CLT’s Future 2040 Plan.” [RSVP here](#).
- **April 25-27:** Jazz Arts Charlotte hosts a tribute to the music of Cuba, as well as Chicago-based trumpeter Corey Wilkes as he plays Miles Davis of the 1970’s. Check out its [events](#) page to see what’s coming up.
- **April 26-28:** Enjoy three days of art, performance and the unexpected at the [2019 BOOM Festival](#). BOOM is Charlotte’s annual showcase of contemporary and experimental art created on the fringes of popular culture.
- **April 28:** [Open Streets 704](#) temporarily closes streets to automobile traffic so that people may use them for walking, bicycling, dancing, playing and meeting their neighbors.

Thanks for staying connected with Knight Foundation. We look forward to meeting with you at events across Charlotte and continuing to work together to ignite positive change in our city.

Charles Thomas  
Knight Foundation  
Program Director for Charlotte  
[@cthomasclt](#)

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