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Building equitable public spaces in Charlotte

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

Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 9:29 AM

To: Steve Johnston

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FOUNDATION**

COMMUNITIES

Dear Sarah,

My heart and my prayers are with our community after the tragedy that occurred in the Historic West End last weekend. Knight Foundation has invested in the West End since 2015, focused on supporting residents participating in and leading the development of the district. My family and I also live on the edge of the Historic West End and were there last Friday for the Juneteenth celebration. My eldest son described leaving the community event with a feeling of belonging and aliveness.

While the senseless violence in the neighborhood is deeply troubling, it fails to take away the strength, pride and commitment to the vision of a vibrant and prosperous corridor. **West End leaders are resilient. Their determination, creativity and pride are an inspiration and it is why Knight is honored to be a partner in the equitable and inclusive development of the district.**

Across the country, we've seen a push for more equitable and inclusive communities — and now, more than ever, that's needed in our public spaces, in our mobility options, and in the ways we engage locally. To create a city that's designed for inclusivity and connectedness, we need innovative ideas from our young people.

As such, 80 Cities and Knight Foundation are now seeking another class for the [Emerging City Champions program](#): talented young people who are committed to their communities and would benefit from training, support and wider networks to advance their work and their roles as leaders.

The fellowship is currently accepting applications from young civic innovators (ages 19-35) in the [26 communities where Knight invests](#) who have bold ideas to build welcoming and resilient communities. In addition to being a Gen Z or millennial innovator, other application criteria include:

- Projects must take place in or benefit one of the 26 communities where Knight

invests.

- Ideas must be carried out within a year and with a \$5,000 budget.
- Projects must address public space, mobility or civic engagement.

The application deadline is Sunday, July 12, 2020. To apply to the fellowship, visit emergingcitychampions.org.

Virtual Q&A sessions with previous Charlotte Champs will be held on the two dates below:

- Thursday, July 2, 12 - 1 p.m. ET ([Register here](#))
- Tuesday, July 7, 5 - 6 p.m. ET ([Register here](#))

Follow [#knightcities](#) and [@knightfdn](#) on Twitter for updates — and please spread the word about this incredible opportunity as we work to make a difference in Charlotte.

Stay safe,

Charles Thomas
Director/Charlotte
Knight Foundation




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