

An inspiring 2022 in Charlotte, and an even better future



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Hi Stephen,

What a year! I am always in awe at how hard Charlotteans work to build a better city. To celebrate the great community work that has taken place in 2022, I wanted to share a brief overview with you. But first, here's some recent news, in case you missed it:

Breaking ground on a future of affordable housing



The West Side Community Land Trust, an invaluable Knight partner, [began construction](#) on a \$31 million project that will bring 120 senior affordable apartment units to the West Boulevard corridor.

Earlier in November, we were thrilled to announce [a \\$600,000 investment](#) in the Land Trust. I was so humbled to see [the video](#) that Charis Blackmon and her team put together to share the news.

National spotlight for local champions

Yes, that was Charlotte's very own Alesha Brown on The Kelly Clarkson Show! Brown heads [For the Struggle](#), an organization I'm sure I don't need to introduce you to because I'm sure



you've heard and seen their work around town. During her Good Neighbor of the Year segment, Clarkson [spotlighted](#) For the Struggle's work providing elders in Historic West End the information and resources they need to prosper. *Way to go, Alesha — you're making Charlotte proud!* (See more from the show

[here.](#))

Just last week, Knight also announced a new commitment of \$175,000 to help expand For the Struggle's home repair and legal services operations to assist more than 200 seniors and their families. I can't wait to see more of the amazing work they will do in our community.

A Snapshot of 2022

A look back at local changemakers and their work this year to build a Charlotte for all

January

Johnson C. Smith University is a leader in our community. Our \$144K investment at the start of the year supports JCSU's hiring development consultants to create a strategy to improve campus facilities and advance economic development that benefits students and residents. JSCU leaders have been hard at work building a more walkable and vibrant corridor.



March

We all win when opportunities thrive. Knight announced a \$150K investment in [Facilitate Movement](#) and their Equity Fellowship program, which identifies and develops emerging Historic West End leaders.

May

Sharing knowledge is a powerful way to bring about change. United Way of the Central Carolinas' leveraged \$5K from Knight to support a speaker's fund for the Funder Collaborative for Racial Equity, which seeks to explore creative ways to boost racial equity on a local level.

June

Public spaces play a starring role in building community attachment. Our \$3,500 investment in [Partners for Parks](#) and Emerging Cities Champion Emily Coldon supports their work in launching the Historic West End Path to Parks program, an initiative that promotes public spaces, walkability, and the arts in Historic West End.



July

Charlotteans are leading the charge in building a more inclusive West End. In support of these leaders and their strategic vision for a more successful community, we supported three professionals participating in Next Level Leadership. The program allows participants to engage with subject matter experts in civic engagement, economic development, and business development.

Likewise, Kuumba Academy manages an 18-month artists fellowship and training program for local artists. Knight announced \$20K to boost the Academy's reach to Charlotte's arts community.

August

Networking matters. In honor of Black Philanthropy Month, our \$5K investment in the New Generation of African-American Philanthropists supports the organization's mission to connect local Black-led nonprofits to Charlotte funders.



We also announced support for Fall programming for A Vibe Called Fresh, a series of community events in the Historic West End hosted by the Applacesauce Group. The events include several celebrating African-American culture, promoting Black homeownership and



promoting Black homeownership and celebrating Johnson C. Smith University's homecoming.



As further testament to the importance of the arts in building community, we supported Arts Future with a \$7K investment to research and recommend opportunities for local artists to utilize the West End Arts Factory, an underutilized location in the 5 Points area.



September

Historic West End Partners has made it its core mission to ensure the neighborhood's future is led by community members. That's why we announced \$75K to support the organization's Oaklawn Forward Vision Plan, a master plan for the Oakland commercial corridor led by residents and local business owners.

October

Supporting the United Way of Central Carolinas in building the capacity of resident-led organizations to deliver programming and services in the West Side of Charlotte through a \$450K commitment.

November

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute is all about boosting resident engagement. We were thrilled to announce a \$30K investment to help the Institute hire a graduate fellow to research news and information challenges — and opportunities — that exist in Historic West End. We look forward to their findings and recommendations to build a more inclusive and informed West End.

A note of gratitude

Our mission at Knight is to support the work that is happening on the ground in Charlotte. Each and every one of our partners are the leaders building an even better city where opportunities exist for everyone.

As we move into 2023, consider encouraging your colleagues to sign up for this newsletter. Keep it locked on Knight's [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for the latest.

Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday season, and looking forward to an even brighter, more inclusive, and successful future.

Best,

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