

MLK Day and a look back to 2023



From Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation <web@knightfoundation.org>

To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>

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Hi Stephen,

I hope the new year is off to a fantastic start! I'm proud to share a few highlights of the work done by Knight and our partners last year. In 2024, I look forward to building on what we've accomplished to advance the Historic West End, Charlotte arts and local journalism.

Exciting news—I'll be on a panel at the Gantt Center on Monday. Local luminaries Arthur Griffin and Dr. O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight will join me to explore equity with a focus on lived experience and leadership in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Join us on MLK Day. Details are below.

Charles
Director/Charlotte

Panel Discussion on Civil Rights & Equity: Arts, Culture, & History

Monday, January 15, 2024, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Harvey B. Gantt Center, 4th Floor



The panel is part of the Harvey B. Gantt Center's annual MLK Day celebration. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature engaging panel conversations that address the truth of our history, accompanied by creative arts activities, installations and programs for all ages. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Spearheading Infrastructure Solutions

Charlotteans were well represented in Washington, DC, at the second annual Infrastructure Summit hosted by Knight Foundation and the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University. Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx delivered remarks that challenged the group of city leaders and planners from around the country to find infrastructure solutions centered around equitable outcomes. We look forward to putting these ideas into action in the Historic West End.

To get a taste of what was discussed, listen in on Knight's VP of Community



and National Initiatives Kelly Jin, on the Data-Smart City Podcast [here](#).

At the Forefront of Innovation in the Arts

A group of twelve Charlotteans stepped into the heart of innovation at Catalyst in Miami, Knight's inaugural forum for arts leaders. Amid the digital transformation shaping the arts, these individuals, ranging from artists to arts organization leaders and researchers, delved into discussions on sustainability, ethics and exploration. At the forefront of the conversation, they explored the profound implications and opportunities that technology brings to the creation, application and dissemination of art, contributing their unique perspectives to the broader narrative of arts innovation. [Learn more](#).



Charting Sustainable Paths for Local News Ecosystem



We tackled the pivotal role of philanthropy in local news at the Inaugural NC News and Philanthropy Forum, hosted by the Charlotte Journalism Collaborative and North Carolina Local News Workshop. With sustainability as a main focus, we charted paths forward for Charlotte's thriving local news ecosystem. [Watch the sessions here](#).

Empowering Tomorrow: Leadership and Innovation

As community hubs, I have long held that libraries play a key role in society. That's why one of my personal highlights of the year was becoming board chair of the [Charlotte Mecklenburg Library](#), an institution that I have enjoyed and admired since I was young. The facility broke ground on its [new main library project](#), promising a new, five-story building that not only houses cherished books and reference tools, but also research capabilities for history and genealogy, tech tools and a career and opportunity center.



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John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
2850 Tigertail Avenue, Suite 600
Miami, FL 33133