

\$5K plus mentorship available through fellowship, and more!



From Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation <web@knightfoundation.org>
To Stephen <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation <web@knightfoundation.org>
Date 2024-05-13 11:56

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**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**

COMMUNITIES

Dear Stephen,

We're looking for young people with bold ideas! From block parties to beehives—[Knight Emerging Cities Champions](#) (KECC) is offering funds for those of you who have ideas on how to improve the Historic West End and Beatties Ford Road corridor. I'll be hosting two information sessions for interested applicants, so sign up [here](#). Please apply or share this opportunity with friends! Details are below.

Also, I am proud to share that I completed [my first off-road sprint triathlon](#) at the White Water Center earlier this month: 400m swim, 10K bike and 3K run! I'm still in amazement. I've been training since October with @IamWeFitness (on instagram). We received swim coaching from Rodney Sellars at the Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center, Nadine Ford's Evolution Aquatics coaches and Doug Miller, who trained us in open water swimming. Big thanks to my family, friends and Knight colleagues who supported me along the way.

Sincerely,
Charles Thomas
Director/Charlotte



Seeking young leaders with big ideas for the West End

Locals between the ages of 18 and 35 are encouraged to apply for KECC funding for bold ideas for revitalizing our community. Selected applicants receive \$5,000 seed funding, \$500 for equipment and a mentorship trip to Toronto, Canada. [Register](#) for an in-person information session tomorrow, May 15th, or a virtual information session on Friday, May 17th. Learn more and apply for the program [here](#).





New community space opens for residents to enjoy

The Beatties Ford Road community, City of Charlotte's Urban Design Center and Knight Foundation have come together to create a place where patrons and passersby can meet, sit and enjoy innovative programming from Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

The new public space at Allegra Westbrooks Regional Library was revealed to the public on Tuesday morning, May 7, where residents, city and county officials, library leaders and Knight Foundation staff members celebrated with a ribbon cutting. It's another step along the way to enhancing walkability and livability in the Historic West End. Read more in [QCity Metro](#).



From left: Alesha Mackey (Allegra Westbrooks Regional Library), Council Member Malcolm Graham (City of Charlotte), Commissioner Mark Jerrell (Mecklenburg County), MT Turner (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library), Erin Chantry (City of Charlotte), Charles Thomas (Knight Foundation).

New investment in West End businesses

Recently, JP Morgan Chase [announced another round of investments](#) in small businesses and entrepreneurs along the Beatties Ford Road corridor. Over the past decade, Knight has invested in a more walkable, livable and prosperous West End.

In 2021, we issued a challenge grant to seed the [LISC Charlotte Emerging Developer Loan Fund](#) dedicated to support new developers who bring resident-desired amenities to the corridor. JP Morgan and Fifth-Third bank have matched Knight's challenge grant. Together our commitment to advancing underrepresented developers and small businesses will advance economic mobility and prosperity in the corridor.

Funding available for local news outlets

[Press Forward](#), the \$500 million dollar effort to revitalize local news, announced their first open call for applications targeted at closing coverage gaps around the country. Selected applicants will receive around \$100,000 each over two years in unrestricted funds. News organizations with budgets of up to \$1 million are eligible to submit proposals until June 12, 2024. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Press Forward »

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ABOUT KNIGHT FOUNDATION

We are social investors who support a more effective democracy by funding free expression and journalism, arts and culture in community, research in areas of media and democracy, and in the success of American cities and towns where the Knight brothers once published newspapers. Learn more at [kf.org](#).

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