



Transforming
Lives.

Revitalizing
Communities.



Who we are

As the mandate of the 27th Governor General of Canada (2005–2010) ended, the Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation (FMJF) was established with the support of the Government of Canada. The Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation is the continuation of all the actions carried out during the 5 years of the Governor General's mandate with the contributions of her husband Jean-Daniel Lafond. It responds to the request of marginalized and underserved young Canadians and their communities with the support of many relevant organizations and institutions across the country.

The vision of the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean and Jean-Daniel Lafond is to offer programs and platforms to underserved youth across the country that are active participants in developing and implementing solutions to challenges in their communities.

Headquartered in Ottawa, the Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation catalyzes social change. Through its programs, FMJF supports inclusive youth initiatives and organizations nationwide, leveraging arts, education and entrepreneurship as tools to create new solutions to pressing social issues and create opportunities for inclusive and constructive dialogues. The Foundation regularly partners with youth-led and youth-driven grassroots organizations to understand their needs and identify the areas in which FMJF can support and accompany them. The Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation has supported 1,000,000+ youth to date through its programs, partnerships and initiatives.



**Together
we are
stronger!**

Message from The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Co-Founder and Co-Chair

This 2019–2020 Annual Report is deeply marked by these uncertain times and by all the challenges that have befallen us, as on the rest of society.

The Covid-19 pandemic will have changed everything, from our programs to our events, from our actions to the organization of our work, from our mobility to our ability to bring people together.

The whole world is shaken, and confinement has become the rule, until further notice. Where there is confinement, there is also isolation. And we, who are dedicated to supporting young people in situations of exclusion and their communities, can fully appreciate the risks and distress of this situation. That said, we chose to continue to mobilize our collective strengths, alliances voices, in an inclusive manner. We remained in frequent contact with our partners and have been heavily solicited to join forces, to raise awareness, to enlighten and to create connections.

We have also seen emerge unprecedented synergies on the ground, that have won hearts and minds. The Black Lives Matter movement is a perfect example of this, which shows how citizens demonstrating in the streets were able to raise awareness among decision-makers, in all sectors – public and private, institutions, foundations, organizations, large companies – and to convince them of the urgent need to act, in a tangible and responsible manner, to eradicate systemic racial discrimination.

Civil society associations and the most vulnerable communities have seized this moment to make their voices heard. We have all been prompted to reevaluate how things are done, what is wrong and what needs to change. We can be proud of the confidence placed in the Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation that it is recognized as an experienced partner, helping to make the essential passage from word to action.

We were fully prepared to hold the National Black Canadians Summit in Halifax from March 19–21, 2020 but we were forced to postpone due to the state of emergency in the face of the pandemic. We have been successful in maintaining momentum with partners and allies who are impatient to act. At the same time, we have been able to proceed with the greatest diligence in evaluating and renewing our workforce. New recruits have joined us on the board of directors and we have put our committees back in working order. These valuable developments have made all the difference in further strengthening our leadership.

We have generated new and innovative partnerships and relaunched our calendar of activities to mark our 10th anniversary in 2021.

Together we are stronger!



Message from Jean-Daniel Lafond

Co-Founder, Co-Chair and Executive Director

In 2019–2020, following the successful 2nd Edition of the National Black Canadians Summit in Ottawa, the Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation started to plan the third summit to take place in Halifax in March 2020. This Summit, was inspired and developed using the values of Recognition, Justice and Development, as recognized in the United Nation’s International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024).

The Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation, with the participation of Black communities across Canada, is a recognized and respected leader in bringing together the public and private sectors, alongside institutions and civic initiatives, always with young people in the foreground, for the emergence of a coherent, local and national strategy, in favor of a fairer and more inclusive society. Our motto, “Breaking down solitudes” also means that the eradication of racial discrimination is everyone’s responsibility.

While engaged in the planning of several other programs, including the 4th Wall – Making the Invisible Visible in Winnipeg, and contributing to Ottawa Community Housing Foundation’s RecLink program, many of our resources were focused on planning and delivering the third National Black Canadians Summit. Preparations were well underway, with committed and enthusiastic local and national organizing committees putting together an impressive slate of keynote addresses, panel discussions

and artistic presentations. With the support of valued partners, TD Bank, Sobeys, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and Air Canada, the stage was set for a gathering of 1,200 participants to engage in important and meaningful dialogue and mobilization towards collective action.

However, the unforeseeable COVID-19 pandemic did not allow us to honour our commitments. Less than a week before the opening of the Halifax Summit, we learned that public health guidelines prevented public gatherings, and that we were required to postpone our event.

The pandemic left us distraught, devastated even, as we had put so much energy into what was to be a great moment for Halifax, for Canada and for Black communities.

We had to undo what we had done with so much enthusiasm and certainty. We are deeply grateful to our partners and supporters who understood the situation and were remarkable in affirming their support and commitment. Despite all the upheaval, we were not discouraged. Over the spring and into the fall, we reconnected with the organizing committees and began to think about the future, always within the context of legacy of the foundation which is dedicated to working with underserved and marginalized youth.

Over the summer months, working within the restrictions of the pandemic lock down, we, with our Board of Directors, considered a restructuring of the Foundation to adapt to what will one day be the post-pandemic period, because there will be a before and an after, which must be anticipated.

To this end, we made several decisions:

- > We evaluated the Foundation’s functional and strategic requirements and decided to open three positions.
- > In the same timeframe, I decided, after 10 years of volunteering as Executive Director, to take a step back and take action to find the next leader that will pursue the FMJF mission and mandate.
- > At the beginning of August, we approached the firm Keynote Group and its C.E.O. James Baker to launch a rigorous and extensive recruitment process to find the Foundation’s next Executive Director. He assured us that our wishes would be granted shortly before Christmas.
- > In the restructuring, we have reignited the important and essential role of the Board Committees.

We are happy to see the participation and work of our Board members invested in the Michaëlle Jean Foundation.

I have had the great privilege of serving as Executive Director (on a volunteer basis) until today and to see the Foundation progress year after year, and especially to see underserved and disadvantaged young people regain the upper hand by using the arts as tools of mass construction, capable of saving lives.

I am certain that whoever replaces me soon will have the same desire for excellence and the same pleasure in being able to contribute to social change and, more than ever, to put a little more humanity into Humanity.

2019
2020

despite a global pandemic



The Foundation – Global Reach

In her capacity as Former Governor General, and as Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean has advanced the Foundation's mandate through public appearances, media interviews and keynote addresses.

Over the course of 2019–2020, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean connected with tens of thousands of young people across Canada through participation in the national and international broadcast event for Global Dignity Day (October 16, 2019), the Dalhousie Shaar Shalom Lecture for the Dalhousie University Community, Ridley College's MGI-Gordon Distinguished Speaker Series and University of Alberta High School Model United Nations Conference.

TRH Madame Jean also contributed to the discourse to advance Equity and end systemic racial discrimination through events such as keynote addresses for the UNFPA ICPD25 Nairobi, Kenya Conference on the theme of equity for persons of African descent; the Association for Canadian Studies' virtual event Stories of Hope, A Celebration of Canada; UNFPA and ARDN's virtual event Women of the Diaspora Summit; and the National Black Political Convention's International Panel.

TRH Madame Jean also gave media interviews and wrote Op-Eds on the theme of systemic racial discrimination.



Partnerships: advancing our mandate together

BLACK LIVES MATTER: Stomp out racism rally, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

On August 15, 2020, the FMJF was proud to collaborate with the Teens Now Talk team at their Stomp out racism rally which took place in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Despite the context of the pandemic, this event was a success and provided a safe space for Atlantic youth to show their support to victims of racism and allow them to make their voices heard.

For eight minutes and 46 seconds, the percussionists mimicked the human heartbeat to show solidarity to racism victims who have lost their lives. Based on the principle that young people are THE heartbeat of change, this event also brought together speakers, dancers and musicians and reminded us of why Black Lives Matter.



Foundation ReCLINK

ReCLink is a program that connects young people of Ottawa Community Housing to sports and camp programs they are passionate about at no cost to families. With an investment from the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, the program was expanded to be inclusive of arts programs in 2020. During the pandemic, the program quickly pivoted to providing at-home art supplies and craft kits to encourage creativity and combat feelings of isolation while staying at home.

This partnership will continue into 2021 and 2022.



Combating Hate Advancing Inclusion

In collaboration with Silk Road Theatre, Canada's first professional theatre company dedicated to celebrating Muslim stories, the play SPUN was presented on October 12, 2019 at the Toronto Meridian Art Centre. This play introduced the public to the story of two friends living in London after the 2005 terror attacks, addressing racism and islamophobia.

Rescheduled Projects

3rd National Black Canadians Summit 2020 – Halifax Convention Centre

The National Black Canadians Summit serves as a major meeting point for people of African Descent living in Canada, to share their experience, raise awareness about major challenges they face and to open a national conversation on ways to enhance social cohesion, as well as promote an inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for all Canadians. With an average of 1200 registrations per year, this is certainly one of the largest gatherings of its kind for Black Canadians. The Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation continues to massively mobilize thousands of Canadians, from the Black youth and their communities' perspectives, towards an inclusive and Strategic National Plan of Action for the eradication of racial discrimination in Canada, with an in-depth examination of situations in the fields of justice, education, professional insertion, entrepreneurship, access to funds, migration, health, housing, economic development... and more.

Every year, the event's mission remains the same: to collect experience-based data and tangible recommendations to continue to inform the "Canadian Strategic Action Plan for the International Decade for People of African Descent: 2017-2024" which draws on the strengths of initiatives across the country, identifies gaps in existing programs, and prioritizes areas where government support needs to be strengthened. Through a series of strategic planning sessions, panel discussions and presentations, participants from across Canada are invited to share their perspectives on topics such as justice, education, health, migration, wealth, poverty and much more.

Amongst our attendees who had registered for the 2020 edition was a high-level delegation from the United Nations who had committed to assisting with the crafting of a declaration as one of the outcomes of the Summit.

Nova Scotia – an inspiring model

This edition of the National Black Canadians Summit in Nova Scotia was to offer us the chance to draw from the experience of African Nova Scotians and highlight their contributions. Nova Scotia is the only province in Canada with a department that focuses on Black Canadians. The African Nova Scotian Affairs works with the provincial government on matters involving African Nova Scotian issues, policies and programs.

The unique perspective of African Nova Scotians, dating from the 16th Century, provides a rare account on the state of race relations in Canada, and, if we listen carefully by centering their voices, holds the solutions to address barriers faced by people of African descent.

Planned for March 2020 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the event was postponed due to the pandemic. The Summit will be relaunched in 2021 as a series of virtual events, with a full Summit, in Halifax in March 2022.



Power of the Arts Forum for Social Change – October 2020

This major national gathering usually brings together: Canadian grassroots organizations of change makers, academic researchers, seasoned and emerging artists socially engaged, professionals and private and public decision makers. On the course of 3 days, they come together each time by hundreds for workshops and dialogue, debating and sharing their best practices, experiences, observations on pressing issues across the country and their innovative initiatives to tackle these challenges.

The 2020 Edition was cancelled because of the pandemic. We are grateful to our partners, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the National Arts Centre and the National Gallery of Canada, with whom we will continue to collaborate to bring the Power of the Arts Forum to life in the future.

4th Wall – Making the Invisible, Visible – Summer 2020

Our 4th Wall program is co-created with young people, encouraging civic engagement and community dialogue through an exploration of social justice issues and artistic creation. In 2020, two events were scheduled in Winnipeg and Vancouver and had to be cancelled due to the Pandemic. These essential events will be rescheduled in 2022.

> Human Rights – Canadian Museum for Human Rights – Winnipeg, Manitoba

A project on human rights in partnership with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Scheduled for summer 2020 and postponed because of the pandemic.

> Refugees and Newcomers – Vancouver Foundation – Vancouver, British-Columbia

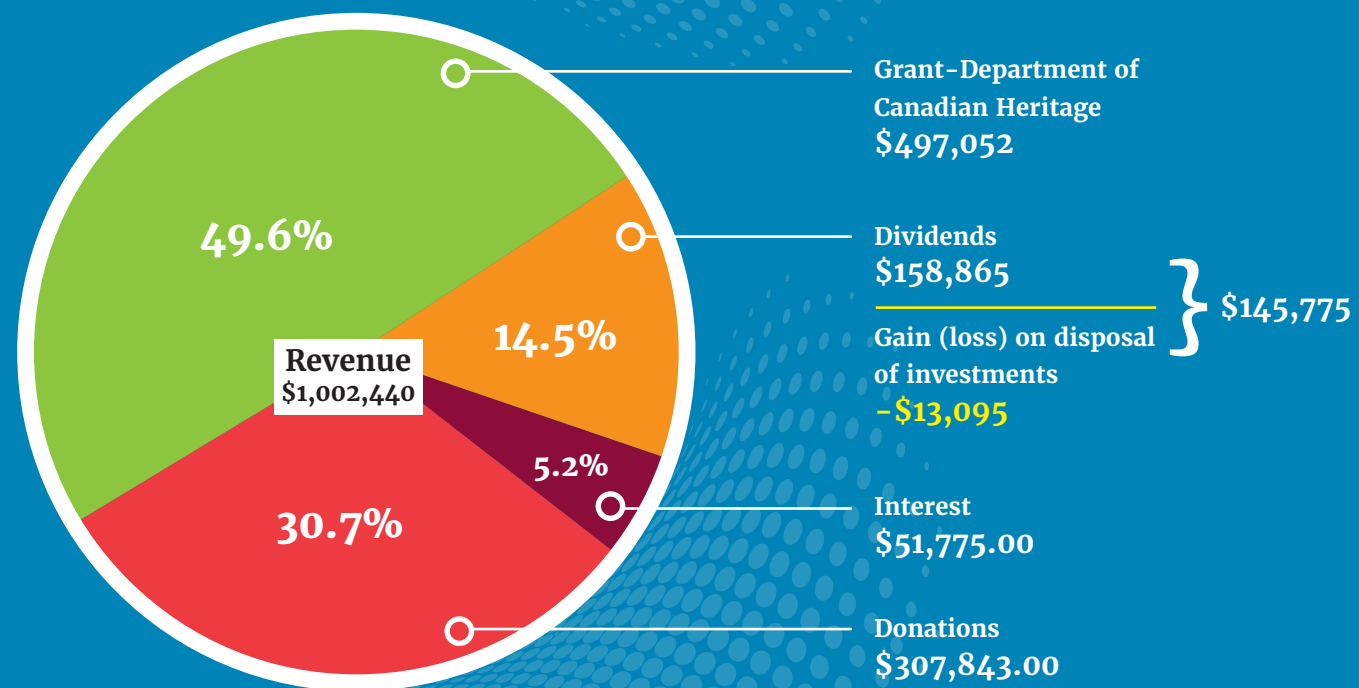
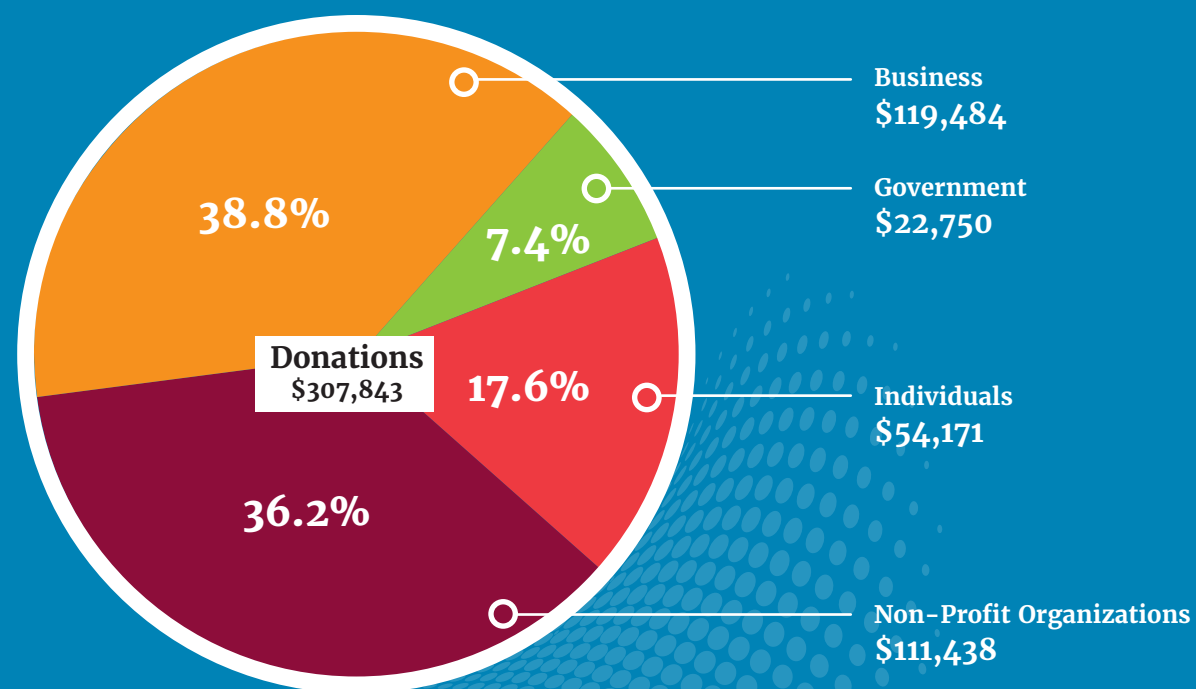
A project around refugees and Newcomers, in partnership with the Vancouver Foundation, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Scheduled for summer 2020 and postponed because of the pandemic.

Looking ahead

National Black Canadians Summit – Virtual Series 2021

Health measures resulting from the global pandemic prevented us from creating the in-person gathering of the National Black Canadians Summit. But with a record registration rate for the 2020 Edition, we believed it was essential to offer a virtual version while awaiting a physical gathering. Thus, over the next year, discussion panels and thought-provoking content will be offered free of charge to participants to continue exchanges and discussions and allow young people to be heard, but above all to be listened to.

Financials > Year ended September 30, 2020



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Andrew Parker	Christiana Sudjana	Keifer Bryan	Sibina Fisher
Shauni Haggarty	Angela Wagner	Meghan MacKinnon	Muhammed and Mai Munshi fund



Our Team

Jean-Daniel Lafond, *Co-Founder, Co-Chair and Executive Director (Volunteer)*

Paul Cormier, *Special Advisor*

Alice Mutezintare, *Executive Assistant*

Yaovi Hoyi, *Director of Operations, Partnership & Development*

Soraya Lemur, *Director of Communication and Programming*

Our Board

Co-Founders and Co-Chairs

The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean
Jean-Daniel Lafond

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Michelle Douglas

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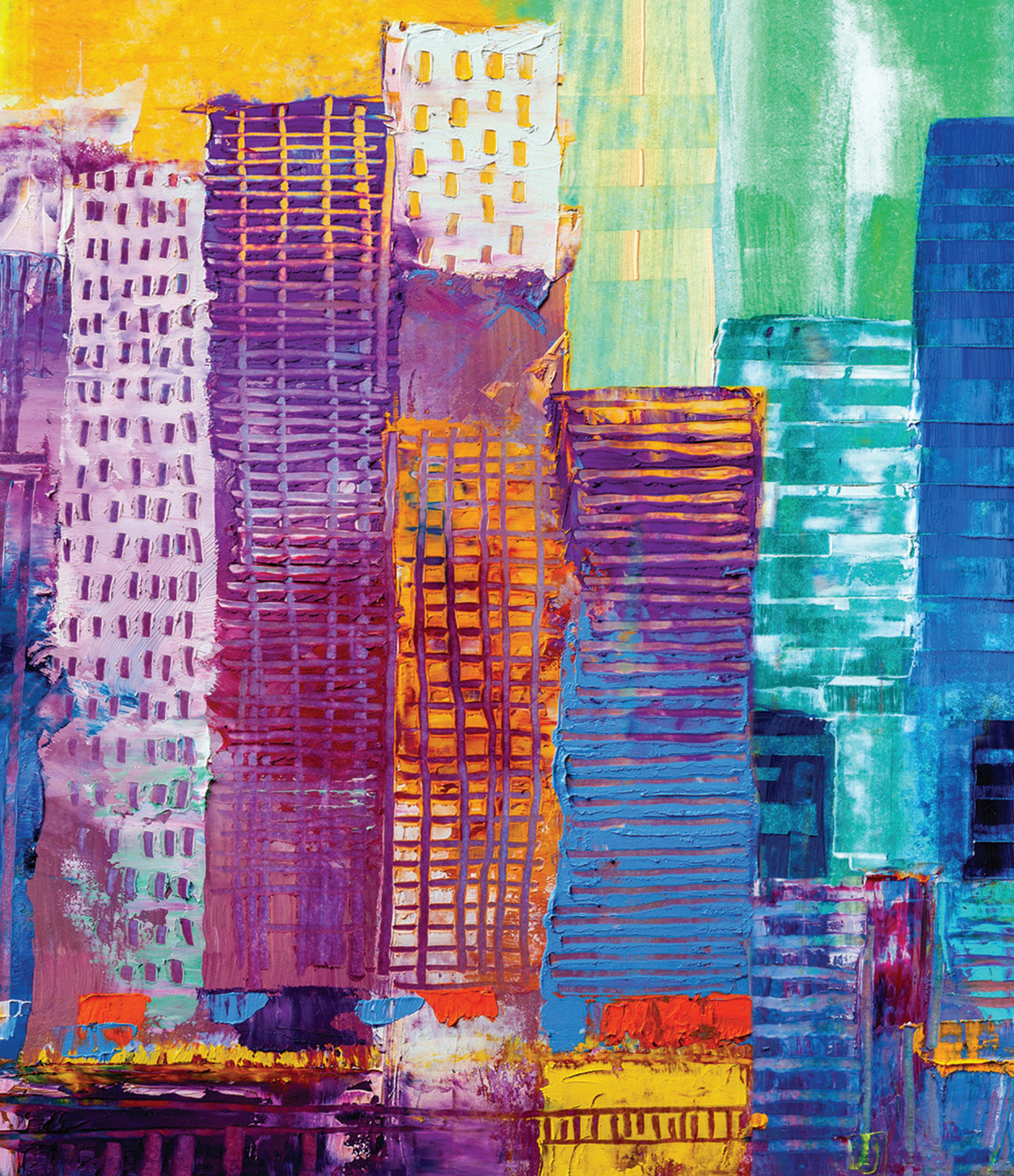
Contact Information

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Our Mission

The Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation is a national charitable organization that uses its unique arts for collective impact model to enable underserved youth to use creativity to change their lives and revitalize their communities. To that end, we work with cultural organizations, the business sector, local organizations, government and other sectors of society to make a lasting difference in the lives of people across the country. Through our programs, thousands of young people have been empowered to use the arts to build new solutions to pressing issues affecting them. These young leaders are proving that the arts can change lives and give hope to communities hit by such challenges as violent extremism, the disproportionate incarceration of minority youth, delinquency, violence and suicide.



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