



Inspiring Philanthropy

**Working together
to create positive
social change**

About Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation



95 YEARS
INSPIRING
PHILANTHROPY
SINCE 1923

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is Australia's oldest and largest community foundation. We inspire philanthropy throughout Melbourne and the wider community, and influence positive social change through our support of charitable organisations delivering innovative, effective programs. Through our future focussed research, innovative grantmaking, partnerships and impact investing, we are helping communities across Melbourne transition to become healthy, resilient and sustainable.

We believe that innovation and change occurs in communities when the intersection of ideas, knowledge and funding come together to improve lives and increase life opportunities for all people and communities experiencing disadvantage. This is the heart of community philanthropy.

Community philanthropy transforms our communities by providing them with the financial and social capital to address the most urgent challenges, now and into the future.

Our history

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation was established in 1923 by Lord Mayor Sir John Swanson, a Melbourne business leader and visionary philanthropist.

Sir John saw the need to formally organise fundraising with the aim of providing a reliable source of income to support the city's public hospitals and charities.

Today, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation continues Sir John's vision of caring for the health and wellbeing of Melbourne and inspiring community philanthropy.

Our values

Accountability

We are accountable to our donors and other stakeholders.

Brave

We believe in philanthropy's role in supporting the testing of new ideas and demonstrating innovative solutions.

Collaborative

We work as a team internally and understand the added value of working collaboratively with diverse partners.

Creative

We learn from what we do and fund.

Ethical

We apply an ethical lens to our granting and investments.

Relevant

We use research and learning to make sure we are funding and working on issues that are relevant to the community today.

Respectful

We respect diversity within our team and our community.

The community foundation difference



What is a community foundation?

Community foundations are uniquely placed to bring people, ideas and resources together to help build and strengthen communities. They are created by and for a community of people.

Community foundations provide everyone with an opportunity to participate in community philanthropy. They work in partnership with donors, local organisations, other funders and community organisations to pool and grow charitable funds, ensuring a sustainable source of funding to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the community.

Local communities know and understand their needs better than anyone else. Community foundations help to support positive change by bringing donors together, making grants and conducting research that improves well-being and tackles issues affecting a local community. Community foundations build partnerships around important initiatives and leverage other support.

Community foundations are a growing form of philanthropy all around the world. They offer opportunities for donors to work together with expert staff to make a real difference.

Our expertise in community philanthropy

Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation works to address the key issues and needs of Melbourne, by providing grants, expertise and leadership to initiatives that most benefit the community.

We work with other funders and organisations to find solutions to the city’s problems and through our future focussed research we are able to identify emerging issues and opportunities for positive social change in our society.

Through our grantmaking and community leadership, Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation is having a profound and lasting effect on the lives of Melburnians.

Our Impact Areas

Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation has made a lasting impact on the big challenges facing Melbourne. As these change over time, the Foundation monitors and researches current and emerging issues to prioritise and anticipate the needs of Melbourne. Our current grantmaking is focussed on four priority Impact Areas:



Supporting young and older people to access education and work.



Transitioning towards a low-carbon economy, building a sustainable food system and protecting aquatic eco-systems.



Addressing inequities in healthy ageing, building community resilience in the face of climate change, strengthening social cohesion and reducing discrimination.



Increasing the supply of affordable housing and preventing homelessness through early intervention initiatives.

Key reasons to partner with Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

1 In-depth community knowledge

With deep insight and understanding of local needs and opportunities, we are able to guide our donors in making the most strategic granting decisions. Through our Greater Melbourne Vital Signs research and Inspiring Philanthropy events, we promote discussion on the key issues affecting Melbourne.

2 Investing for perpetuity

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is governed by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Act 2017 (Vic), enabling us to continue inspiring philanthropy and supporting the community into the future. The gifts we receive are held in trust creating a permanent legacy for our community.

3 Governance & accountability

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is governed by a well-credentialed Board and has established several committees to assist in the strong governance of the Foundation. Our responsive grantmaking program is guided by the expertise received from external members of our Grants Advisory Panels.

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is an independent philanthropic organisation, governed by an Act of Parliament and is proudly recognised as a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund is governed by the Federal Treasury's Public Ancillary Fund Guidelines 2011 (as amended 2016) and the Foundation's financial statements are audited annually by an independent auditor.

4 Building lasting relationships

When donors join Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation they become a valued member of a community of donors. We are committed to working collaboratively with our donors to bring their philanthropic vision to life and help them create an enduring impact with their charitable giving.



5 Giving made easy

We offer simple and effective solutions for our donors to support the issues that matter most to them. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation takes care of the investment, governance, compliance and administration, allowing donors to focus on supporting the causes they are passionate about.

6 Flexibility in charitable giving

We offer a variety of different ways to give to your community, depending on your desired level of involvement. From joining a collective giving group, to leaving a lasting legacy through your Will, we can help you support the causes you care most about.

7 Accessible, cost-effective philanthropy

As a community foundation, we are committed to providing accessible and low-cost giving options to help donors achieve their charitable goals.

8 Collaboration

We are in a unique position to collaborate with other charities, foundations, advisers and local communities on innovative approaches which address our city's greatest challenges.

9 We are part of a global movement of place-based community philanthropy

We are part of a growing worldwide movement of community foundations. Today there are over 36 independent community-owned foundations in Australia and more than 1,800 place-based community foundations in nearly every continent across the world.

Community foundations represent a sustainable and resilient source of ongoing funding support for their communities.



Ways you can make a difference in your community



Establish a Charitable Fund Account

Charitable Fund Accounts provide a simple, effective and rewarding way to support your community today, whilst creating a legacy in perpetuity for future generations. By structuring your giving, the issues you support will benefit from an ongoing source of income year-after-year.

A Charitable Fund Account within the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund is a great way to support an issue you are passionate about, and also enables you to leverage our extensive grantmaking experience across our priority Impact Areas.

There are many reasons why people may choose to establish a Charitable Fund Account, including honouring the memory of a loved one, planning to give through your Will, or creating an enduring way to engage family members in giving.

You can establish a named Charitable Fund Account with as little as \$2,000 and grow this over time. Once the balance reaches \$10,000, distributions to eligible charities can be made. Donations made to Charitable Fund Accounts are tax-deductible and family and friends can also contribute to your Charitable Fund Account.



Establish a Community Fund Account

A Community Fund Account is a form of Charitable Fund Account that helps local councils build long-term philanthropic support within their local community. At Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, we believe that strong communities make a great contribution to the health and vitality of the people living within a municipality.



Join a Hive collective giving group

Join a community of like-minded donors helping to make Melbourne a better place. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has established collective giving groups for each of our priority Impact Areas: Education Hive, Environment Hive, Health Hive and Housing Hive. By becoming a Hive member, you will have the opportunity to learn more about community issues and philanthropy, and enjoy working with others to collectively make a greater impact.



Join a Giving Circle

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation hosts two of Melbourne's largest and well-known giving circles – Impact100 Melbourne and Melbourne Women's Fund. Members of these giving circles pool their individual donations, resources and knowledge to make large grants to charitable organisations.



Leave a gift in your Will

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation has a long and proud history of supporting the community through changing times. By leaving a gift in your Will to Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, you will leave a lasting legacy which will create positive social change in our communities today and in the future. As a perpetual foundation, your gift to Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation will continue to respond to the pressing issues of the day.

The Swanson Society, named in honour of Melbourne's Lord Mayor Sir John Swanson, has been established to recognise and thank our valued supporters who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.



Support our regular community appeals for the future

Our regular community appeals encourage everyone to become active changemakers with us, by responding to a key social and environmental issue facing Melbourne. Each appeal has a specific focus on one of the Foundation's four priority Impact Areas of Education & Employment, Environment & Sustainability, Healthy & Resilient Communities and Homelessness & Affordable Housing. By working together, we can help change Melbourne for good.





**Bringing your
philanthropic
vision to life**



Start your giving journey with us today

LMCF Philanthropy Services can provide strategic guidance to help you realise your charitable goals. By utilising our deep knowledge of the issues affecting Melbourne and the charities addressing those issues, we can work closely with you to decide where your giving will have the greatest impact. You can also join us in supporting the broader grants program or become a member of a Hive collective giving group.

We understand that thoughtful and impactful giving finds its inspiration in passion. Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation is committed to helping you make a difference to the issues you care most about.

Whether you would like to make an immediate impact, or prefer to make a long-term contribution through the establishment of a Charitable Fund Account or a gift in your Will, there are a variety of different ways we can help you make a positive difference in your community.

**You will gain access to
our extensive grantmaking
expertise, community
connections and insights
into the needs of Melbourne
throughout your philanthropic
journey with us.**





Contact us

We welcome the opportunity to discuss how Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation can help you fulfil your philanthropic vision. **Contact LMCF Philanthropy Services for an introductory conversation.**

Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
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June 2018