



Overview

The Mellon Foundation is a champion of the arts, culture, and humanities, guided since its 1969 founding by the core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. Under the leadership of Mellon President Elizabeth Alexander, we shifted our emphasis to put social justice at the center of all our grantmaking, through which we seek to build just communities.

OVERVIEW →

ABOUT

History

Established in 1969 by Ailsa Mellon Bruce and Paul Mellon

President

Elizabeth Alexander

Board Chair

Kathryn A. Hall

Core program areas

- Arts and Culture
- Higher Learning
- Humanities in Place
- Public Knowledge

Reach

Based in New York, the Foundation makes grants in all fifty states and in Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, US Virgin Islands, and six continents.

2023 TOTALS*

Endowment

\$7.9 B

Total awarded

\$549 M

Number of grants

637

Number of grantees

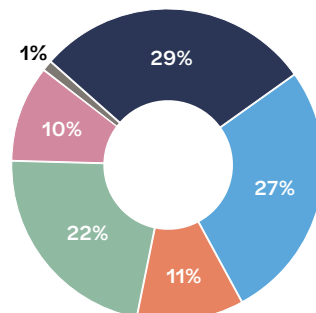
504

Total grantmaking all time

\$9.1 B

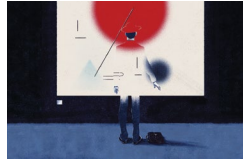
*Most recent audit. See Form 990-PF 2023.

2023 GRANTMAKING BY PROGRAM AREA/INITIATIVES →



- Arts and Culture: \$158 M
- Higher Learning: \$148 M
- Humanities in Place: \$60 M
- Presidential Initiatives: \$122 M
- Public Knowledge: \$56 M
- Other: \$5 M

**GRANTMAKING
AREAS →**



Arts and Culture

Funds an arts and culture ecosystem that strives for greater representation and stability in and equitable access to invigorating and inclusive cultural experiences.

Deana Haggag
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Higher Learning

Supports broadened and equitable access to inclusive humanities education and diversified higher education learning environments that stimulate critical thinking.

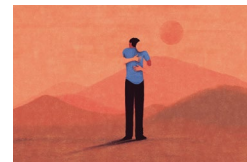
Phillip Brian Harper
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Public Knowledge

Works to preserve and ensure equitable access to overlooked collective knowledge—community collections, scholarly texts, and cultural records—to ensure fuller histories are recorded.

Patricia Hswe
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Humanities in Place

Supports historic and memorial spaces, museums, and other institutions to foster increased interaction with a richer and more diverse understanding of shared history.

Justin Garrett Moore
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**PRESIDENTIAL
INITIATIVES →**

Imagining Freedom

A \$125 million commitment to shift conversation around punishment, incarceration and freedom by emphasizing artistic, cultural, and humanistic work that centers the voices and knowledge of people impacted by the US criminal legal system.

Puerto Rico

An ongoing commitment to strengthen Puerto Rico's vibrant artistic, cultural knowledge, and memory ecosystems and the individuals working in them.

The Monuments Project

A \$500 million commitment to reimagine the US commemorative landscape to reflect the full breadth and complexity of our nation's history and the American story.

Elizabeth Alexander
PRESIDENT

Margaret Morton
PROGRAM DIRECTOR