

## Application Appendix

This document is intended to serve as a reference for Co.act Detroit's Activate Fund [Nonprofit Fundamentals](#) and [Collaboration Pilot](#) applications. This document contains additional information to assist applicants during the application process.

### Co.act Detroit Mission

Co.act Detroit is a hub that accelerates transformational impact with nonprofit and community organizations in Southeast Michigan through collaborative idea generation, cross-sector resources and equitable access to world-class programming and learning opportunities.

### Co.act Detroit History

We exist because you do! Here's some background on how Co.act Detroit came to be. With \$1.2 billion to spend down by 2035, the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation (RCWJRF) forged a mission to stimulate systemic and sustainable social change that would outlast its existence. In 2016 the Foundation began extensive research and outreach to better understand gaps and needs among nonprofits in Southeast Michigan.

Building upon these early insights, RCWJRF explored new ways of thinking and partnering between organizations and philanthropy, including an idea for a new Center that would support nonprofits while stimulating community-level problem solving and collaborative action.

After exploring a number of national models that activated space for collaborative action, the RCWJRF entered into an intensive engagement process with the nonprofit community to co-create the organizational name, ethos and areas of impact, ultimately shaping the concept into what it has become today: Co.act Detroit.

Along with partners TechTown Detroit, Michigan Nonprofit Association and Michigan Community Resources, Co.act opened its doors in 2019 and has emerged as a trusted place for Southeast Michigan's nonprofit community to connect, learn and develop solutions together.

### For a Summary of the Co.act Experience, Please See the Link Below:

[Co.act Summary](#)

### Co.at Detroit Convening Center: A Place for Resources and Collaboration:

During its soft opening phase in early 2019, Co.act listened to nonprofits describe the deep need for high quality, affordable meeting space for local nonprofits to host convenings, work collaboratively with fellow organizations and come together for special events. Co.act responded by offering its conference and convening spaces - free of charge - to local nonprofits, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. By the end of 2019, Co.act had hosted 13,801 people, supported 173 meetings and events, provided local nonprofits with in-kind space usage valued at \$65,000 and hosted 54 programs.

## Building a Network Report

In March 2019, Michigan Community Resources worked with sector partners Michigan Nonprofit Association, Nonprofit Enterprise at Work, and the University of Michigan School of Social Work to publish “Building a Network: Recommendations for Redefining Capacity Building in Southeast Michigan.” The report outlined systemic barriers to the success of nonprofit organizations in Southeast Michigan. This report provides a foundational framework for the Activate Fund’s (4) capacity building investment categories. Please see the link below for access to the report.

<http://mi-community.org/buildinganetwork/>

## Co.act Detroit: Commitment to Diversity Equity and Inclusion (Dei)

Co.act continues to value diversity, equity and inclusion in our workplace and program offerings. We support meeting people where they are, collaborative problem solving and, removing barriers to resources, narrowing gaps in racial equity and challenging old systems and the status quo.

## Activate Fund Nonprofit Fundamentals Grant Program: Dei Commitment

Co.act Detroit is committed to advancing equity, access and inclusion, and we expect our grantees to share in this commitment. For that purpose, we are asking prospective grantees to assist us by sharing your commitment and approach to diversity and inclusion practices, including demographic information about your organization, its leadership and those that you serve. This request is for our learning and understanding, and Coact Detroit will not share identifying information with any other entity.

In your application, we ask that you provide the information requested to the best of your ability. We welcome your feedback on the usability of this section. If you would like to offer comments, please email [activatefundinfo@coactdetroit.org](mailto:activatefundinfo@coactdetroit.org)

## Us Federal Office of Management + Budget: Definitions of Ethnic + Racial Categories

### Ethnic Categories

- Hispanic or Latino: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

### Racial Categories

- American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- Black or African American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.