Building upon the legacy of its founders nearly 60 years ago, the France-Merrick Foundation strives to improve and enrich the quality of life throughout Maryland, with a special interest in the Baltimore metropolitan region. The Foundation invests in nonprofit organizations serving the unique needs of people and places in the region. The Foundation strives to plant seeds of innovation, capacity building and program expansion through grants to organizations that positively affect people and their communities. The Foundation branches out to touch many facets of civic, educational and social issues to help grow, strengthen and support vibrant and healthy communities.

Focus
FY18 brought the conclusion of a four-year process of reviewing and refining the funding interests in each of our giving areas. This process began with a review of our efforts in supporting conservation and then moved through a deliberative assessment to refine the focus of our grant making in regard to health and human services, community and economic development, civic and culture, historic preservation, and finally, this year, education.

As we assessed our approach toward education grant making, the Foundation decided to affirm our pre-existing strategy for private schools and to make some substantial changes in our funding of K-12 public and out-of-school time funding. We refreshed our strategy as it relates to public education, with an emphasis on Baltimore City Schools and the organizations that work with schools to positively impact students. Our new public education strategy is focused on (1) improved literacy as the foundation of all other learning, (2) effective implementation of socio-emotional learning and trauma interventions in schools and (3) enhanced career readiness education. In this third area, we are hopeful that our efforts will result in more graduates who possess the academic skills, employability skills, and technical, job-specific skills necessary to succeed in career pathways. Our funding of nonprofits through the Baltimore Summer Funding Collaborative for the last few years has reinforced the need for focusing on these areas.

This year we specifically made some grants to new-to-us organizations in line with the above referenced strategies, such as our literacy grants to the Maryland Book Bank and Brown Memorial Tutoring, as well as grants to eight summer providers of literacy instruction. To support our social-emotional learning goal, we made grants to Thread, Playworks and Holistic Life that aim to foster mindfulness, collaboration and self-agency. With a more strategic focus on career readiness education, we funded Baltimore’s Promise Career Pathways Demonstration, which also connects to our workforce strategy. As we look for better ways to connect K-12 and the post-secondary system, a grant to Bard Early College is supporting students’ ability to graduate high school with college credit. And lastly, to help students succeed getting into and graduating from post-secondary education, we made our first ever grant to a community college. We and Community College of Baltimore County are hoping to learn from the implementation of some national best practices in retaining and graduating students through the three-year grant initiative we supported.

Learning
Two years ago, we added two board members, bringing our total to eight. At that time, we renewed an effort to learn together as a board and our process continues to evolve. This year our board toured Highlandtown and Patterson Park, where we have funded numerous projects over 30 years that have been mutually reinforcing to neighborhood revitalization in that area. We were able to see our impact on the growth of the Creative Alliance and see how investments are making a difference at Patterson Park Public Charter School. We also saw how a grant to Bayview’s Care-A-Van has been leveraged to help the uninsured while other populations are being served through the continued use of the old van. Our board tour allowed us to see firsthand how the Southeast CDC and its predecessor organizations (that we have also funded) are helping to strengthen the local community. We also drove by 14 other sites, illustrating for the board how the Foundation impacts many organizations in the community, and how these organizations reinforce neighborhood stability.

Capacity
We expanded our staff capacity this year by adding a new full-time program officer, Kristen Campbell McGuire. Kristen is also helping the foundation branch out in a new area of capacity—communicating our work more broadly. This is the first annual report that we are sharing with a wider audience and posting on our website. This year we plan to launch an e-newsletter and to regularly post to social media as a way of sharing the Foundation’s interests and impact in the broader community. To learn more about the Foundation through the year, you can sign up for the newsletter by emailing info@france-merrickfdn.org or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Grant Making
Given our new focus, increased staff capacity, greater learning and positive investment performance, we have been able to increase the number of grants given in FY18. This year the Foundation awarded 99 new grants totaling $12,938,360 through its regular grant process. Paired with payments committed in prior years and discretionary giving, we paid out $10,691,170. We have maintained our low administrative expenses for a foundation of our size, around 1% of total assets, in order to maximize the amount of grant dollars available for investment in the community.

As we look to the year ahead and the future, we look forward to continuing to grow and learn, with and from the community in which we serve.

Sincerely,

Wally and Amy

Kristen is also helping the foundation branch out in a new area of capacity—communicating our work more broadly. This is the first annual report that we are sharing with a wider audience and posting on our website. This year we plan to launch an e-newsletter and to regularly post to social media as a way of sharing the Foundation’s interests and impact in the broader community. To learn more about the Foundation through the year, you can sign up for the newsletter by emailing info@france-merrickfdn.org or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

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The Foundation’s education funding is its largest area of focus, generally representing about 40% of annual grants. The Foundation supports projects directed toward improving educational quality and equity in Baltimore City public schools with particular focus on literacy, social-emotional learning and career-readiness. We also support private schools for both capital projects and scholarships.

The Foundation also recognizes the importance of higher education and to this end supports efforts to increase the number of students who can access and complete degree programs. The Foundation also aims to leverage higher education institutions as community anchors and supports campus initiatives that increase access, revitalization, local hiring and partnerships.

$3.9 million committed this year

**Focus area**

**Education**

The Foundation's education funding is its largest area of focus, generally representing about 40% of annual grants. The Foundation supports projects directed toward improving educational quality and equity in Baltimore City public schools with particular focus on literacy, social-emotional learning and career-readiness. We also support private schools for both capital projects and scholarships.

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**GRANTS AWARDED**

**Archdiocese of Baltimore**  
Construction of a school in West Baltimore, the first new Catholic School in Baltimore City in 57 years (over two years)  
$500,000

**Baltimore’s Promise**  
Implementation of the Career Pathways Demonstration to help more than 400 Baltimore City high school graduates access workforce training and support (over two years)  
$500,000

**Thread**  
Curriculum and technology to help underperforming high school students reach academic and personal success goals (over four years)  
$500,000

**Community College of Baltimore County**  
Scholarship, advising and non-tuition monetary assistance to support low-income, first generation students complete community college in three years through the France-Merrick Completion Pathway Initiative (over three years)  
$350,000

**St. Paul’s School for Boys**  
Campaign support for the new 60,000 sq. ft. high school as part of $25 million campaign  
$300,000

**Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys**  
Capital campaign support for expanded facilities, high school placement support and increased development capacity (over three years)  
$250,000

**Goucher College**  
New Maryland Equine Education Center replacing 1950s facilities and allowing for strategic growth of the equine program in partnership with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association  
$250,000

**Baltimore School for the Arts**  
Expanded film editing suite and equipment cage for the film program to expose youth to new career opportunities  
$150,000

**Loyola Blakefield School**  
Construction of a new middle school building  
$150,000

**Bard Early College Baltimore**  
Learning Commons space renovations to assist high school students to attain a high school diploma and an associate’s degree  
$135,000

**Mount St. Joseph High School**  
New HVAC system in St. Joseph Hall allowing for year round use of facility  
$125,000

**Maryland Book Bank**  
Renovations for new space at the Baltimore Community Warehouse, allowing for more literacy resources to be collected and distributed to those in need  
$60,000

**St. Francis of Assisi School**  
Renovations to space used by the Baltimore City school as a cafeteria, auditorium and gymnasium  
$60,000

**Play on Purpose**  
Furnish and equip office and programming space for after-school programs  
$50,000

**Playworks Education Energized**  
Expand recess training services to reduce bullying and support social-emotional learning in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties  
$50,000

**Southwest Baltimore Charter School**  
Renovate the school auditorium, which is used for performances, recreation and community meetings  
$50,000

**Young Audiences of Maryland**  
Technology and office equipment for the expansion of summer programs for Baltimore City students shown to improve literacy instruction through arts integration  
$50,000

**Centro SOL at Johns Hopkins University**  
Summer Funding Collaborative: Job and career training for immigrant and refugee youth.  
$30,000

**City Neighbors Foundation**  
Malone Children Memorial Playground at City Neighbors providing a play space for the school and neighborhood  
$30,000

**Community Law In Action**  
Summer Funding Collaborative: Summer Leadership Institute  
$20,000

“We understand that children growing up in concentrated poverty need more than just improved financial resources or better classrooms; they need the same unassailable support and deep interpersonal bonds that we all need. Thread builds these bonds for students, volunteers and collaborators.” - Thread
EDUCATION GRANTS CONTINUED

Holistic Life Foundation $20,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: YouthWorks job training program

Parks & People Foundation $20,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: SuperKids Camp for Baltimore City children

Southeast Community Development Corporation $20,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Southeast Youth Jobs Collaborative

Wide Angle Youth Media $20,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: MediaWorks workforce development initiative that creates paid media education experiences for youth

Brown Memorial Tutoring Program $19,000
Furniture for newly renovated literacy tutoring space at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church

Believe in Music $15,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Music education and entrepreneurship training

Bon Secours Community Works $15,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: YouthWorks employment

Child First Authority, Inc. $15,000
Strategic plan to establish priorities and future goals for providing quality out-of-school time programs

Civic Works $15,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Baltimore Conservation Leadership Corps

Code in Schools $15,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: CodeWorks to help high school students learn coding skills and earn college credit

Green Street Academy $15,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Employment and career training for mostly first and second year students

Soccer Without Borders $15,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Academy to help immigrant and refugee youth gain literacy skills and practice soccer

St. Francis Neighborhood Center $15,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Literacy and arts programming for neighborhood youth

Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Montessori Bridge for Young Learners

Baltimore Youth Arts $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Arts and entrepreneurship program

Enoch Pratt Free Library $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Community Youth Corps program

Elev8 Baltimore $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Multi-site literacy program for Baltimore City children

Intersection of Change $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Art @ Work neighborhood mural program

Liberty Elementary School $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Academy to prevent summer learning loss

Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens (MERIT) $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Health Leadership Academy

Patterson Park Public Charter School $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Literacy education as part of Summer Fun Camp

Professional Development & Training Center $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Citizenship Law Related Education Program/Baltimore City Law Links

Sisters Circle $10,000
Summer Funding Collaborative: Summer Leadership Institute

Friends of Great Kids Farm $7,500
Summer Funding Collaborative: YouthWorks Summer Employment

SUMMER FUNDING

Many of our education grants were funded through the Summer Funding Collaborative. This partnership between public, private and nonprofit organizations supports high-quality summer programs that serve low-income youth in Baltimore City. While retaining individual priorities, all 13 members of the collaborative share the same goals: reduce summer learning loss, give older youth exposure to work and careers, and ensure all children have the chance to reach their full potential.

This year, the Foundation committed $350,000 towards the collaborative’s total of $3.5 million in summer funding.
### GRANTS AWARDED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>金额</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hippodrome Foundation</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>Capital grant toward the renovation of the Bank Pavilion to be a performance space and rental facility (over four years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Visionary Art Museum</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Construction of a freight elevator to facilitate event production and protect museum floors (over two years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roca</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Launch of an intervention model for very high-risk young men in Baltimore as a means to provide education, work opportunities and cognitive behavioral supports to young adults involved with the criminal justice system (over four years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Science Center</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
<td>Creation of a new waterplay space as part of the France-Merrick Foundation Kids Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore Festival of the Arts</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Support for Light City, a large-scale festival of light, music and ideas (over three years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Discovery</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>Campaign support to renovate the museum with new exhibits and remodeled spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Islamic, Christian &amp; Jewish Studies</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>Continued endowment support for the Roman Catholic Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Shakespeare Company</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>Walkover bridge connecting spaces at the CSC Theatre and The Studio in buildings on Calvert and Redwood Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art with a Heart</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Equipment, technology, construction costs and moving expenses associated with office relocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore Homecoming</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Program support to attract outside positive attention of and investment in Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;O Railroad Museum</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Construction of a new home for the Baltimore City Police Mounted Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Art Place</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Capital improvement funding for the basement performance art space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Citizens for the Arts Foundation</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Website design, social media engagement and increased marketing and brand updates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### THE HIPPODROME

Emanating from the vision of Baltimore community leaders 20 years ago, the Hippodrome Theatre was the centerpiece of a project envisioned as a major force in the revitalization of the area and an "anchor of the west side." The reborn France-Merrick Performing Arts Center opened in 2004 to great acclaim. Now, 14 years later, the center generates more than $25 million in economic impact each year. It is ready for expansion into an adjacent building that will become a new event space and black box theatre. The Foundation is proud to help ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for the center.
GRANTS AWARDED

Y of Central Maryland $500,000
Renovations to expand and improve the Weinberg Y in Waverly with a focus on youth development programming space

United Way of Central Maryland $300,000
Commitment to support United Way’s role in the community as convener, partner and program creator in areas of Foundation interest, such as homelessness, education and food security (over three years)

Bon Secours Community Works $250,000
Future Baltimore Initiative to develop a community resource center in a former library (over two years)

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake $250,000
Expand the construction training program, Habicorps, and complete 52 houses (over two years)

American Communities Trust $200,000
Baltimore Food Hub development project contingent on securing tenants.

Itineris $150,000
Building purchase to increase space and support more adults with autism as part of capital campaign

Loading Dock $100,000
Capital investment to improve the parking lot and technology as part of Service Expansion campaign

Power52 Foundation $75,000
Supply and install a solar energy system for Power House to reduce energy costs and serve as a neighborhood resiliency hub for Baltimore’s first responders

Baltimore Tech/Betamore $50,000
Expansion and customization of education offerings and technology upgrades

Jane Addams Resource Corporation – Baltimore $50,000
Equipment to expand job training programs for unemployed adults and low skilled incumbent workers

Wide Angle Youth Media $50,000
One-time support of equipment upgrades for the Baltimore Speaks Out program

Y of Central Maryland $50,000
Transition grant for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to the Y

Intersection of Change $47,000
Support to purchase a van and supplies for the Strength to Love Farm II program and convert Martha’s Place from transitional to permanent supportive housing

Code in Schools $46,000
Upgrade technology and purchase equipment and furniture

Providence Center $44,000
Installation of an additional greenhouse to increase sales production for the wetlands program

Belair-Edison Neighborhoods $35,000
Toward purchase of a permanent office location and moving expenses

Business Volunteers Maryland $25,000
Technology upgrade to support office operations

KaBOOM! $25,000
Creation of a new Baltimore Public Housing play space in South Baltimore

Focus area

Community & Economic Development

The Foundation’s funding in this area strengthens Baltimore neighborhoods. We support workforce development efforts that expand training and skill development, and economic development that creates living-wage job opportunities. In addition, the Foundation provides stabilization funding to develop and sustain safe, diverse and connected communities through planning and infrastructure improvements. The Foundation hopes to contribute to building community by creating or enhancing programs and spaces that support individuals, families and act as stabilizing forces in local neighborhoods.

$2.3 million committed this year

Power52 breaks the cycle of poverty, unemployment, under employment and incarceration in urban communities across the nation through economic empowerment and clean energy access.

“Power52 will not only give people opportunities, but it will also educate people so that they can understand the importance of energy independence while cutting their utility bills.”

- Ray Lewis, Co-Founder
Health & Human Services

The Foundation’s grants in this area aim to improve health and wellness, increase access to care and strengthen healthcare in community settings. Health funding focuses on prevention and population health as well as supporting anchor institutions’ work to contribute to improved neighborhood health and community development. Human services grants support organizations that increase access to food, housing and disability assistance. Nutrition funding helps ensure people will have access to sufficient and healthy food with an emphasis on fresh and local. In addition, the Foundation funds strategies that effectively move families out of homelessness through placement into permanent supportive housing.

$1.4 million committed this year

GRANTS AWARDED

First Fruits Farm $250,000
Purchasing and equipping a new property to enhance the production of donated produce to address food insecurity

Institute for Integrative Health $250,000
Capital kitchen renovation project for program space to allow for nutrition and wellness education

St. Vincent de Paul Society $200,000
Renovation and conversion of three projects for 30 units of permanent housing for families in Baltimore City and County

Westminster Rescue Mission $200,000
Improvements to renovate an outbuilding into a recovery “sober” house

Manna House $150,000
Renovate existing space and build a new kitchen, storage area and entrance for better access to food and health services

Marian House $150,000
Renovations for Independence Place, which provides supportive housing for homeless women and families

At Jacob’s Well $50,000
Capital acquisition and renovation to add eight permanent supportive housing units

Hearing and Speech Agency $50,000
Technology and communication upgrades to improve service delivery

Light of Truth Center $50,000
Renovation of two single family properties into Recovery Residences for women

ShareBaby $30,000
Support build-out costs for warehouse space to enable program to grow to distribute two million essential items by 2019

Dyslexia Tutoring Program $12,000
Computers and a server to support program delivery

Conservation

The Foundation supports organizations that preserve and protect the environment. Funding focuses on improving the ecological health of the Chesapeake Bay, enhancing connections to the environment through experiential education, and protecting open space for education and enjoyment.

GRANTS AWARDED

University of Maryland $250,000
Center for Environmental Science
Ecological assessment of the Inner Harbor and Patapsco River Estuary to better understand Baltimore’s estuarine ecosystems and potential impacts of future management and development decisions (over two years)

Mount de Sales Academy $150,000
Funding for an ecologically-innovative water management system as part of campus expansion project

American Chestnut Land Trust $113,000
Land acquisition and easement to help preserve Holly Hill along the Parkers Creek Watershed in Calvert County

Ladew Topiary Gardens $70,000
Restoration support for the Nature Walk, including new path, observation areas and entrance gate

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center $20,500
Support for the construction of an education pavilion

$604,000 committed this year

Historic Preservation

The Foundation funds projects that restore and maintain properties of historic and architectural significance, primarily in the Baltimore region, but also across Maryland. We hope that preserved historical assets spur economic development and teach community history. When possible, the Foundation prioritizes projects that positively affect community development and contribute to environmental sustainability.

GRANTS AWARDED

Franciscan Friars Conventual $150,000
Restoration of Carrollton Hall as part of a $3.3M campaign to make the campus more sustainable

Baltimore Lab School $100,000
Capital improvements to the historic Goucher Hall, designed by Stanford White, which now houses a school for students with learning disabilities

Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation $50,000
Support for the construction of an education pavilion

American Chestnut Land Trust $113,000
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Ladew Topiary Gardens $70,000
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Support for the construction of an education pavilion

$350,000 committed this year
Applying to the Foundation

Organizations should send the Foundation a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) containing the following information:

• Brief description of organization including mission, population served, scope of activities and current organizational budget size.
• Goals and objectives of the proposed project for which funding is sought.
• Total cost of the project, funds already committed, the fundraising gap and the amount of the request
• Timeline over which funding is needed, and overall timeline of the project.

Letters are accepted on a rolling basis and can be addressed to the Executive Director and emailed to info@france-merrickfdn.org.

Please visit www.france-merrickfdn.org for more information.

Foundation Staff

Amy M. Gross, Executive Director
Rosanne DiFonzo, Investment Administrator
Kristen Campbell McGuire, Program Officer
Sheree Norton, Grants Administrator
Dan Redfield, Business Administrator
Elizabeth Perriello Rice, Program Officer

Priorities

The France-Merrick Foundation concentrates its grantmaking within the State of Maryland and primarily within the greater Baltimore area. Applicants must be non-profit organizations holding 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.

The Foundation favors one-time, project-oriented requests that have defined beginnings and endings, as opposed to annual giving or ongoing operational support. Our funding is aimed at increasing capacity by making investments in the future positive impact of a nonprofit, either through improved quality of programs or expansion of the number of people served. Funding targets organizations who already demonstrate the ability to sustain their work and are looking to the Foundation to provide one-time funding to enhance the organization’s ability to fulfill its mission over time for the benefit of individuals and communities.

Grants that impact multiple funding areas, as well as projects that are able to leverage additional resources, are especially appealing.