



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Downtown Partnership Welcomes Grant to Support Development

The Downtown Fresno Partnership today announced a grant of \$299,000 from the Kresge Foundation for ***Strengthening Downtown Fresno's Enabling Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Development***. It is believed to be the largest philanthropic award ever made for work in Downtown Fresno.

"This support is an exciting vote of confidence in the Partnership's potential to not only provide valued services and events for our community, but to help lead the process of our Downtown's growth and change," said Downtown Fresno Partnership CEO Elliott Balch. "This investment builds on the base of support property owners provide through assessment payments, with additional resources that can deepen our impact."

"The Downtown Fresno Partnership and the Kresge Foundation are important partners as the City of Fresno remains fully committed to accelerating Downtown Fresno and Chinatown development," said Mayor Jerry Dyer. "In addition to the State's recent investment of over \$293 million for public infrastructure, I am pleased to learn of Kresge's additional investment focused on meeting the needs of the Partnership's assessment base with small business development, a retail strategy, and building the capacity of local developers – these efforts are very closely coordinated."

"Fresno is rich with civic assets; we are excited to support the Downtown Fresno Partnership's commitment to furthering local capacity for community and economic development," said Sidra Fatima, American Cities Program Officer at The Kresge Foundation.

Simultaneous with announcing the grant, the Downtown Fresno Partnership posted a new position the grant will fund at <https://www.downtownfresno.org/do-business/now-hiring-in-downtown-fresno>. Working with the CEO, the ***Inclusive & Sustainable Development Manager*** at the Partnership will lead the key pillars of funded work, including:

- ***Technical assistance*** for first-time and historically marginalized buyers and builders to participate in the development process.
- ***Entity formation*** of a community development corporation that creates additional developer capacity, engages community members, and unlocks new funding streams to help solve development challenges for Downtown.
- ***Green infrastructure project pipeline expansion*** to draw resources highly aligned to Downtown Fresno into the region, and support development of the Downtown economy.
- ***Real estate market supports*** such as project matchmaking, data sharing, and collective action strategies for anchor tenant leasing.



- Education and engagement of Downtown community members — including residents, workers, and visitors as well as business and property owners — on equitable development scenarios, use-based master planning, public funding sources, and the factors that contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

## About the Partnership

Powered by the Downtown Property and Business Improvement District (PBID) first created by a vote of property owners in 2010, the Downtown Fresno Partnership provides management services such as marketing, area maintenance, and events. In addition, the Partnership exists to organize the Downtown community for advocacy and new investment that will change the trajectory of Downtown's future.

The Partnership, a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization, is governed by a board of directors comprised of private property owners, business owners, and public agencies, united in their passion for a revitalized Downtown Fresno.

The Partnership is co-managed with the Downtown Fresno Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity that supports education and new economic opportunities in Downtown Fresno. The Partnership thanks the Foundation for serving as the fiscal sponsor of the Kresge grant.

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