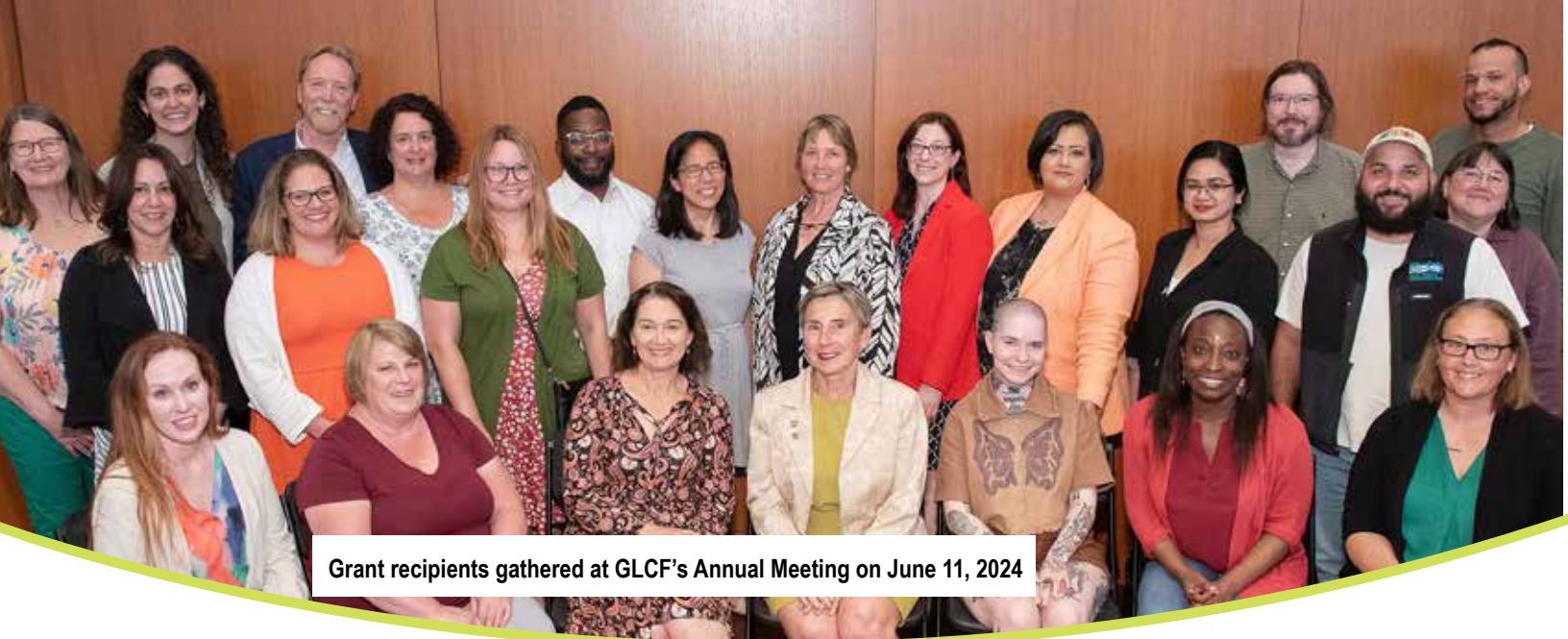


STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2028



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Established in 1997, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) is a philanthropic organization comprised of more than 400 funds dedicated to improving the quality of life in 21 neighboring cities and towns. With financial assets of more than \$68 million, GLCF annually awards grants and scholarships to hundreds of worthy nonprofits and students. The generosity of our donors has enabled the Community Foundation to award more than \$40 million to the Greater Lowell community.



Grant recipients gathered at GLCF's Annual Meeting on June 11, 2024

Our Mission

To foster community growth and development through funding, leadership, and collaboration to help transform the lives of individuals and organizations we serve in Greater Lowell.

We fulfill this through:

- Grantmaking to nonprofit organizations, high school scholarships, and special initiatives.
- Working in partnership with our donors and other funders to achieve high impact philanthropy.
- Serving as a convener and center of information where ideas are shared to leverage common agendas and resources into the future.

Our Values

- **Integrity** - Ensuring the highest ethical standards in all we do.
- **Inclusiveness** - Developing an environment of trust and respect that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- **Adaptability** - Adapting to changing community needs and matching the needs with donor interests.
- **Effectiveness** - Focusing on efficient and effective practices, moving intentionally toward positive community impact.

This plan identifies the strategic priorities and imperatives that will guide our work to strengthen our community and improve the quality of life in Greater Lowell.

GLCF by the #s

445 endowed funds

\$68 million dollars in total assets

\$4,365,913 in grants distributed to **243** nonprofits

\$626,841 in scholarships were awarded to **197** students from **373** scholarship funds

Strategic Priorities

- Advancement and sustainability of the regional arts infrastructure
- Championing equity and equal opportunity for underserved communities
- Supporting the needs of children and youth



Strategic Imperatives

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 1: Expand GLCF's Impact and Resources

- Build and increase endowment and other funds to help donors meet their philanthropic goals and expand opportunities where philanthropy can play a meaningful role.
- Work to engage donors and together build resources necessary to ensure community growth and a better quality of life for the Foundation's served communities.
- Continue to strengthen GLCF's presence as a leader and valued asset in the region.

To fulfill Strategic Imperative 1, the Foundation will:

- Support an engaged Development Committee of Board Members and volunteers to help introduce potential donors, be ambassadors for GLCF, and grow the Foundation's presence in communities throughout the service area.
- Cultivate new donors and work with current fund holders to grow the endowment to increase grant and scholarship awards.
- Engage businesses around community needs as possible.
- Increase the minimum amount required to establish new scholarships and funds to \$10,000.
- Maintain GLCF's current 5% endowment spending policy.
- Continue quality donor stewardship and investment strategies of Foundation funds.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 2: Effective Community Leadership

- Add depth and breadth to the Foundation's work by strengthening and broadening partnerships and leading community collaborations.
- Work collaboratively with other similarly committed partners to identify and address community needs and find solutions that lead to lasting and meaningful change.

To fulfill Strategic Imperative 2, the Foundation will:

- Remain an active, informed, and valued resource for, and participant in, the nonprofit community.
- Facilitate collaboration among diverse stakeholders to ideate, plan, and implement community solutions.
- Expand and strengthen the Foundation's partnerships with area cause-focused groups and nonprofit organizations.
- Partner with local governments, and civic and neighborhood associations across the region to better understand and serve community needs.

GLCF Grant and Scholarship Distributions

More than **\$4.7 million** was distributed to Greater Lowell nonprofits to improve the quality of life.

- Arts & Culture - 12.39%
- Community & Neighborhood Development - 10.16%
- Environmental - 4.75%
- Food Security - 4.39%
- Health - 4.52%
- Housing and Homelessness - 11.21%
- Youth Services - 8.77%
- Other - .17%
- Religion - 6.36%
- Scholarships & Education - 20.15%
- Family Social Services - 17.13%



2024 GLCF LGBTQ+ fund benefit brunch inside Cobblestones Restaurant in Lowell on June 15, 2024.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 3: Social Entrepreneurship

- Pursue novel applications that have the potential to solve community-based problem.
- Strengthen and foster community growth and development in Greater Lowell.

To fulfill Strategic Imperative 3, the Foundation will:

- Offer grants and scholarship programs that support social entrepreneurship.
- Support fiscal sponsorships.
- Program to support current community needs including diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
- Employ current and newly raised funds to continue to build the program of available scholarships.
- Work with corporate partners to facilitate their community engagement and investment in social enterprise.
- Continue work to engage new communities in our region for future support.

For GLCF news and updates, scan below



STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 4: Responsive Impact

- By strengthening relationships with local organizations, stakeholders, and residents, we will ensure that our initiatives are aligned with community priorities and deliver tangible, lasting change.
- Through a flexible approach, we will adapt our strategies to maximize impact, fostering resilience, equity, and opportunity for all.

To fulfill Strategic Imperative 4, the Foundation will:

- Proactively listen to the needs of the community.
- Act with agility to support meaningful partnerships.
- Develop a measurement and evaluation framework to assess community impact.

Stay Connected:



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GLCF Communities Served

