REVITALIZING THE CITY OF LOWELL THROUGH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

**Theodore Edson Parker Foundation and Greater Lowell Community Foundation**

The city of Lowell, founded in the 1820’s for the manufacture of textiles, is regarded as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution.

Theodore Edson

Parker Foundation

Located just 25 miles northwest of Boston, it is now the fourth largest

city in Massachusetts. Known for its rich history, cultural diversity, and civic pride, Lowell welcomed many immigrant groups since the mid-1800s as it became one of the largest and most influential industrial centers in the United States. Lowell’s economy declined precipitously through much of the 20th century, but the city experienced a rebirth in the 1970’s and 80’s. Lowell is now on an exciting upswing and is recognized as one of the leading “Gateway Cities” in the state.

For at least 175 years, following the arrival of Europeans, Greeks, and French Canadians, people from Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa have been coming to Lowell in search of opportunity and a better life. Today, more than 40% of the city’s population are minorities, at least 25% are foreign born, and some 42% speak languages other than English at home.23 The city is home to the nation’s second largest Cambodian community (and largest per capita),24 a rising number of Africans from as many as 20 countries, and a number of new immigrant-refugees from countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan. With the median age of 32 years25 (significantly lower than the national average), and a quarter of its population under the age of 18,26 Lowell has achieved notable results in cultivating new leaders and helping them build a strong and mutually supportive community. Fueled by the emergence of entrepreneurship, thriving education, its young and diverse residents, and the arrival of a large, vibrant community of artists, Lowell has increasingly become a destination for innovative and creative economies.

For this track, the Social Innovation Forum is seeking nonprofit programs and organizations that are helping to foster economic opportunities, develop diverse leaders who care about the community, and/or enhance the city’s artistic landscape, all while preserving and promoting the unique character of this historic city. This track is open to all nonprofit organizations working in Lowell, but is directed especially to new and expanding organizations and/or programs, or to organizations with newly established initiatives or leadership.

**How to Nominate:**

1. Review our [social issue track descriptions](http://newsletters.agency3.com/t/r-l-ajjtlz-itiyjtjtg-b/) to get a sense of what we're looking for on each track.
2. Fill out our [online nomination form](http://newsletters.agency3.com/t/r-l-ajjtlz-itiyjtjtg-n/). You are also welcome to call us and nominate organizations over the phone. Both options will allow you to nominate anonymously if you so choose.

**To Learn More:**

* Review our [Social Innovator Applicant Guide](http://newsletters.agency3.com/t/r-l-ajjtlz-itiyjtjtg-p/)
* Visit our website at [www.socialinnovationforum.org](http://newsletters.agency3.com/t/r-l-ajjtlz-itiyjtjtg-x/)
* The Social Innovation Forum's Impact Accelerator will engage a small cohort of social impact businesses,  please contact us at team@socialinnovationforum.org for more information
* For any additional questions, contact Anna Trieschmann, program manager, at  team@socialinnovationforum.org or 617.649.1518.

23 <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/25/2537000.html>

24 <http://www.lowell.com/city-of-lowell/demographics/>

25 <http://www.lowell.com/city-of-lowell/demographics/>

26 <http://lowell.areaconnect.com/statistics.htm>