

Approved by the F.B. Heron Foundation Board of Directors
November 7, 2006

Statement of Core Values

Who We Are

The F.B. Heron Foundation is a **Private Community Investment Trust (PCIT)** – that is, we strive to be a model for capital allocation that identifies and supports effective change agents within our fields of interest, deploys the endowment for mission, represents a beacon of progressive and results-oriented grantmaking and mission-related investing, and exhibits respectful conduct towards our customers. The Foundation satisfies the Internal Revenue Service requirements for private foundation status.

What We Believe

A core underlying program value is self-help, with program strategies designed to “touch people’s lives” by helping people to take control over their lives and make decisions for themselves, their families, and their communities. The Foundation believes in the value of close connections to communities as a means of learning from the experts, and of aiming for continuous improvement in our grantmaking and mission-related investing.

How We Do Our Work

How we do this is as important as what we do. In our grantmaking, we regard core support as an essential element to promote effective change agents that demonstrate innovation and a track record of results. In addition to supporting community-based organizations as the laboratories of change, we value the work of regional or national organizations that promote lessons learned by providing technical assistance, conducting R&D, and promoting effective policies.

In our grantmaking and mission-related investing, we seek to support well-managed, “best-in-class” entities that improve and demonstrate their social impact applying practice-based, meaningful methods of assessing impact.

Effectiveness is a core value applied internally within the Foundation. We aim to continually improve the means by which we assess our own effectiveness in deploying grantmaking and investing dollars.

An important part of our work is leveraging the Foundation’s resources by engaging with colleagues in joint efforts and in “telling the story” of our work. We hope to collaborate with colleagues to exchange lessons learned and focus on the means, methods and results of our PCIT activities.

Customer service is a core value of the Foundation. We seek to be responsive to our customers with courteous, timely, respectful, and clear communications in all of our interactions. Systems for measuring and monitoring timeliness in customer interactions are in place, and the Foundation also seeks to improve the quality of customer engagement. Cost-effective operations that support PCIT activities are also a key value.