FFL HISTORY

FFL was founded in the tumultuous days following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Our founders knew that a full and responsible recovery would entail far more than rebuilding what was lost.
The mission of the Foundation for Louisiana is to invest in people and practices that work to reduce vulnerability and build stronger, more sustainable communities statewide.

The Foundation for Louisiana honors the knowledge of local communities, addresses Louisiana’s most pressing issues, and supports freedom work statewide.
THE FREEDOM TO SEE JUSTICE
Some of FFL’s early wins include:

Providing **thousands**... of residents with access to safe, affordable housing, along with capital to organizations that advocate for affordable housing throughout the state.

Providing **tens of thousands**... of residents with emergency relief.

And investing **$55 million**... in mission-critical nonprofit organizations working across the state towards building a better Louisiana.
THE FREEDOM TO LIVE
FFL’s current freedom work supports statewide systemic change:

• Passing historic **criminal justice reforms**

• Supporting removal of **confederate monuments**

• Initiating a process to build a **people's history** of Louisiana

• Establishing the first fund for supporting Black-led movement work consistent with the **Black Lives Matter** platform
THE FREEDOM TO SEE LIBERATION
Our work at FFL was and still is:

**Bold.**

FFL received the 2017 “Mover and Shaker” Award for Bold Peer Organizing as part of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy's Impact Awards

**Courageous. Unapologetic...**

in a landscape that is conservative and that is still a stronghold of the Confederacy today.
THE FREEDOM TO THRIVE
UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA IN LOUISIANA

- RACIAL TRAUMA
- TRAUMA OF POVERTY
- DISPLACEMENT
- EXTRACTION
- GENERATIONAL TRAUMA

Diagram showing the cycle of trauma in Louisiana, including racial trauma, trauma of poverty, displacement, extraction, and generational trauma.
THE FREEDOM TO BE FINANCIALLY SECURE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALUES</th>
<th>FREEDOM</th>
<th>JUSTICE</th>
<th>ACCESS</th>
<th>KNOWLEDGE</th>
<th>LIVED EXPERIENCE</th>
<th>TRANSPARENCY</th>
<th>DIGNITY</th>
<th>COMMITMENT</th>
<th>COURAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(Chart showing the values: Freedom, Justice, Access, Knowledge, Lived Experience, Transparency, Dignity, Commitment, Courage.)
FOCUS AREAS – PATHWAYS TO FREEDOM

Criminal Justice Reform

Philanthropic Leadership

Community Finance

Gender Justice

Arts and Culture

Racial Justice

Climate Justice
THE FREEDOM TO WORK, LIVE, AND THRIVE

THE FREEDOM TO EXIST AS MY FULL SELF
THE FREEDOM TO DREAM
INVEST

Grantmaking

Community Investment Loan Fund

Disaster Recovery and Rapid Response Funds

Fiscal Sponsorship
THE FREEDOM TO BE THE STEWARD OF MY LAND
THE FREEDOM TO BE THE STEWARD OF MY WATER
TRANSFORM

Coalition Building

Public Private Partnerships

Philanthropic Leadership
Collective Impact
THE FREEDOM TO BRING PEOPLE WITH US
ON EMPIRE, ARTS INSTITUTIONS, AND TRAUMA
THE FREEDOM TO PRESERVE THE MAGIC OF MY ANCESTORS... AND TO CREATE MY OWN
Our Vision:
Support and Preserve the Art and Culture of Louisiana
DISINVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH


Source: FREEDOM MAPS, Foundation Center, U.S. Census Bureau
DISINVESTMENT IN THE SOUTH


Source: FREEDOM MAPS, Foundation Center, U.S. Census Bureau
FREEDOM FOR ME
ARTS + CULTURE: THE NEED

Threats to Louisiana Arts and Culture

- Land Loss
- Criminalization
- Low Wages and Lack of Resources
- Displacement
- National philanthropy doesn’t understand the local arts ecosystem
- Lack of Infrastructure to Support Artists
- Disinvestment

National philanthropy doesn’t understand the local arts ecosystem
Artists are change agents.

Culture bearers are necessary and irreplaceable in a rapidly shifting landscape that is constantly under threat.

Artists are the answer to Louisiana’s most critical issues.

Supporting artists to find the solutions needed to preserve Louisiana’s communities will have impact not only on the arts ecosystem, but on the root factors that are impacting the lives of so many Louisianans.
ARTS + CULTURE: PROGRAM GOALS

**Address the disinvestment** in Louisiana arts and culture, and respond to the opportunity gap facing BIPOC Louisiana artists and culture bearers.

**Approach the Louisiana arts ecosystem from an intersectional perspective**, and consider how the impacts of climate change and land loss, mass incarceration, low wages, and displacement shape opportunity and life outcomes for Louisiana artists.

**Utilize arts as a tool for narrative change** for Louisiana’s most critical issues.

**Support rural artists** and work happening outside of metro areas and in nonconventional structures/venues.

**Strengthen locally grown cultural institutions**, particularly those operating outside of the 501c3 structure.
ARTS + CULTURE: THE STRATEGIES

INVEST
Participatory Grantmaking
Freedom Fellowships
Scholarships

BUILD
Regional Scan + Mapping
Cultural Trust

TRANSFORM
Regional + National Advocacy
Cultural Master Plan
Local Institutions
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDERS

• Begin by listening
• Do your homework, check your framework
• Consider community-driven philanthropic models
• Simplify processes
• Resource existing community cultural institutions
• Support the development of local artists and their work on their own terms
• Make long-term capital investments in existing community assets and projects

Source: FREEDOM MAPS
QUESTIONS FOR RESOURCED ORGS

CONSIDER WHO HAS POWER IN THE REGION AND WHERE POWER LIES.

Do not replicate extractive processes.

How are you using the resources available to you to support Black communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color? Rural arts and culture? Undocumented artists? Trans and queer artists? Artists with disabilities? How can you support these communities inside of your mission, or does your mission need to change?

If you have positional power, how might you give up or share your power in the name of justice, equity, and healing trauma (e.g., white curators and directors, transplant curators and directors, national organizations headquartered in the South)?

Source: FREEDOM MAPS
FREEDOM FOR LOUISIANA