



Philip A. Morris Fund for the Design Arts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILIP A. MORRIS FUND FOR THE DESIGN ARTS ANNOUNCES 2025 GRANTS

Birmingham, AL - In its third annual grant cycle, the Philip A. Morris Fund for the Design Arts of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham awarded **\$214,000 in grants to seven area nonprofits.**

- **\$25,000 for Alabama Environmental Council** for a master plan for relocating the Environmental Center to the Continental Gin. The building will serve as a “nature lab” for environmental health sciences.
- **\$20,000 for Design Alabama** for the 2026 Philip A. Morris Mayors Design Summit. Funding will underwrite a printed retrospective covering the first 20 years of the Summit as well as a video.
- **\$115,000 for McWane Science Center** to fund the redesign of the front plaza and lobby. This is for a master plan, including fees for planners, architects, and landscape architects.
- **\$15,500 for the Nature Conservancy of Alabama** to fund landscape architecture design and signage (viewing box) design for their stormwater mitigation and greenspace project in Irondale across the street from Irondale Community School.
- **\$15,500 for Railroad Park Foundation** to support events and activities around the 15th anniversary of Railroad Park. Funding will underwrite an expert panel at the documentary film premiere, the film study guide development, as well as the development of an interactive design activity for the community picnic.
- **\$12,000 for the Town of Wadley** to fund a charette process for a master plan for the town of Wadley. The charette will be led by DesignVision Collaboration and involve students from Auburn’s Urban Studio and Samford’s School of Architecture Graduate Program.
- **\$11,000 for Your Town Alabama** to fund a keynote speaker and five scholarships.

About The Philip A. Morris Fund for the Design Arts

In 2015, Philip Morris—a champion of how good design enriches our communities and our lives, and a former executive editor of *Southern Living* magazine—established the Morris Fund, an endowed Field of Interest Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. He envisioned a fund that could provide resources to support his passion for the design arts and the role that the design arts play in building and enhancing communities.

Central to the mission of the Fund is creating and expanding awareness of the design arts and the impact of quality design. Broadly stated, “design arts” include but are not limited to urban planning; design and the built environment; architecture; graphic arts and graphic design; and landscape planning and design.

An Advisory Committee for the Philip Morris Fund for the Design Arts reviews grant proposals to ensure that they meet Mr. Morris's specific definition of design arts and his intentions for broad community building and inclusion. The Advisory Committee reviews grant proposals, conducts site reviews, and presents recommendations for funding to be awarded annually in August.

The 2026 grant cycle for the Morris Fund will open for applications in spring 2026. For more information about the Morris Fund or to make a gift, visit www.cfbham.org/philip-morris-fund-design-arts/.

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