

Statement of Donor Intent Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence

The undersigned William D. Johnston and William U. Parfet, who are the Initial Donors of the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence, state the following as their intent for the creation and ongoing perpetuity for the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence.

In our role as leaders of Southwest Michigan First, a regional not-for-profit Economic Development Agency and as long term residents as well as philanthropists to many Kalamazoo non-profit agencies, the Donors are concerned with the long term viability of the City of Kalamazoo and its ability to meet not only the basic needs of its residents but also its inability to invest in efforts to help create a dynamic and growing city.

The Donors, the Mayor and the City Manager met together to create a plan that would reduce the millage rate, thereby making the City more competitive for capital investment and growth. We also identified specific benchmarks and key performance indicators that the City could identify as goals to improve through “aspirational” program investments. The initial meetings between the Donors and the Mayor and City Manager encouraged us to support the City in its creation of the organizational structure referred to as Imagine Kalamazoo 2025, a ten year plan to become a more dynamic growing city.

The creation of the concept of Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 will be supported by City staff, volunteers, non-profit agencies, neighborhood organizations and other relevant stakeholder groups, as shall be determined, to research and understand the specific needs to be targeted in the aspirational programs as well as the benchmarks, standards and achievement goals that are aligned with the journey of becoming a growing and dynamic city.

The ability to lower the tax rate and to invest in the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 concept is to be financially supported by the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence. The Donors and City leadership jointly created the organizational documents which memorialize the structure and governance of the Foundation’s current and future directors as well as the responsibilities of both the Foundation’s fiduciary requirements and the City’s reporting and budgeting responsibilities.

Annually, the City shall prepare a budget and report the progress made to meet the accountability standards aligned with the benchmarks identified to become a growing and dynamic city. Further, the City administration would annually request from the Foundation support of its operational budget needs as well as investment into aspirational programs necessary to continue to achieve progress towards Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 goals.

The intent of the Donors is to have the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence support the operational budget at a sufficient level to allow the millage level to be competitive with surrounding communities thereby maintaining a competitive capital investment environment. Further the Donors understood the City’s need to invest in aspirational services that would support the accomplishment of not only becoming but continuing to be a growing and dynamic city.

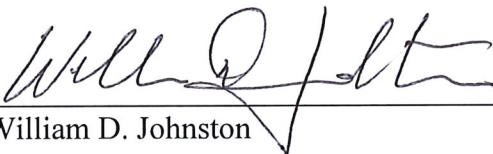
The Foundation shall provide appropriate funding to support these additional aspirational projects.

It is intended that funds used for and held by the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence shall be available in perpetuity.

The term Donors refer to the Initial Donors to the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence and/or the City of Kalamazoo to initiate the Kalamazoo Foundation of Excellence or its mission.

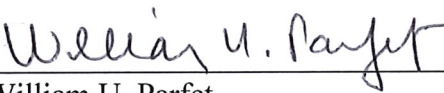
Initial Donors

Date: 8-23-2017



William D. Johnston

Date: 8-23-2017



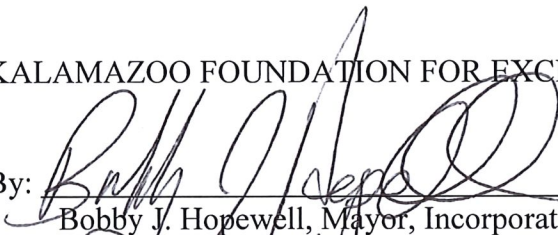
William U. Parfet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledge the foregoing Statement of Donor Intent to be included in the records and/or archives of Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence.

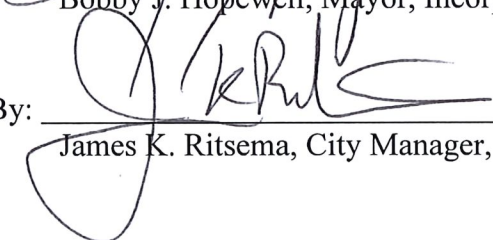
KALAMAZOO FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Date: 8-23-2017

By: 

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor, Incorporator

Date: 8-23-2017

By: 

James K. Ritsema, City Manager, Incorporator