

BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE FORD FOUNDATION

Mission Statement: The Ford Foundation is a resource for innovative people and institutions worldwide. Goals are to: Strengthen democratic values, Reduce poverty and injustice, Promote international cooperation, Advance human achievement

"A fundamental challenge facing every society is to create political, economic, and social systems that promote peace, human welfare, and the sustainability of the environment on which life depends... best way to meet this challenge is to encourage initiatives by those living and working closest to where problems are located; to promote collaboration among the nonprofit, government and business sectors; and to assure participation by men and women from diverse communities and at all levels of society... We work mainly by making grants or loans that building knowledge and strengthen organizations and networks."

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Program and Organizational Structure:

- Asset Building and Community Development
 - Human Development and Reproductive Health
 - Economic Development
 - Community and Resource Development
- Education, Media, Arts & Culture
 - Education, Knowledge and Religion
 - Media, Arts and Culture
- Peace and Social Justice
 - Human Rights and International Cooperation
 - Governance and Civil Society

CEM fits under **Education, Media, Arts & Culture** This unit supports efforts to engage diverse groups in work related to the media and to analyze the media's effect on society. In addition, the program incorporates existing support for media projects, which largely fund public broadcasting and the independent production of film, video, and radio programs. The arts program aims to foster new artistic talent, strengthen arts institutions, and encourage contributions by artists and arts organizations to the quality of civic life. The program also supports projects that advance understanding about cultural identity and community life.

Media, Arts and Culture includes: Artistic creativity and resources, cultural preservation, vitality, and interpretation, and media and public policy. Grants under media and public policy = Harvard University \$75,000 to study the conditions that enable people to carry out work in the media that is both creative and socially responsible

KTEH TV \$60,000 for documentary series on water scarcity in the U.S. and worldwide

MEE \$75,000 for a communications project to further understanding of the nature of relationships between adolescent women and their adult male partners

World Media Foundation \$200,000 over two years, for a national radio program on environmental issues