Dear Eisner Foundation Friends, Family, and Supporters,

Each year, I am blessed with the task of writing this letter to kick off our annual report. I have 600 words, give or take, to tell you what went right, what went wrong, and what will be different in 2018. I find it a tad daunting, as I need to be reflective, and thoughtful, and optimistic, but not too optimistic (these are perilous times), all without being boastful, overly vague, or unnecessarily technical.

But it can be difficult to summarize the efforts of a dedicated staff, a team of advisors, and a visionary board, all of them committed to making Los Angeles a more just, equitable, and inclusive place for all its residents, young and old. What we do is simple: we show up every day and use the resources the Eisner family has so generously committed to bring generations together, and to drive positive changes for seniors, children, and our communities. And sometimes we’re very good at that. Other times, we stumble. But we never stop trying, and I’m proud of the work we did in 2017 and excited about what lies ahead.

But the letter? This year, I think I’ll leave it to the professionals. Here is an excerpt from an article this year in *Inside Philanthropy*, called "Intergenerational Funding: What This Foundation is Doing to Bring Children and Seniors Together" by Alyssa Ochs and David Callahan:

> Mountains of new wealth have been created in the entertainment industry over recent decades. Today’s moguls and stars are exponentially richer than they were in an earlier era, and as a result, the philanthropy now emerging from this sector is much greater than in the past. That said, many of the newer foundations that are giving out money aren’t all that advanced in their strategies. They tend to be vehicles for personalized giving as opposed to professionalized grantmaking operations.

> The Eisner Foundation is different. Overseen by former Disney CEO Michael Eisner and his wife Jane, as well as their three sons, and run day-to-day by a small staff, this outfit has set a pretty high bar for itself and it’s emerged as one of the most sophisticated entertainment industry foundations.

> Last year, we touched on the reasons why Eisner Foundation grantmaking was getting more interesting. This Los Angeles-based funder has been working out a strategy to connect children with the elderly in the city and applying an intergenerational focus to its funding. This isn’t a well-trodden area for foundation grantmaking, and Eisner has come to stand out as the leader in intergenerational funding.

> In fact, last year the foundation became the first and only funder in the U.S. to exclusively invest in intergenerational community solutions. It gives out around $7 million per year in Los Angeles County for this purpose.

> There’s much to be said for an intergenerational strategy, and it’s surprising that more funders aren’t thinking this way. There are more older people than ever in an aging America—many with enormous capacity to give back, who also have their own needs for stronger connection and community. Meanwhile, huge numbers of disadvantaged children are struggling and can use any help they can get. The larger backdrop is a decline in public resources for social services—meaning that our society needs to get much better at using whatever free or low-cost human capital we can find to advance the common good.

Thank you, Alyssa and David. You said it better than I could. Time for us to get to work. There’s much to be done.

Respectfully,

Trent Stamp
2017 Giving

- Aging: $641,600
- Arts: $916,000
- Children & Families: $1,596,900
- Civic & Community: $413,500
- Education & Training: $422,930
- Health & Wellness: $735,600
- Other: $542,300

$5,268,830 Total Grants

- 292 Letters of Intent
- 40 Site Visits
- 29 New Grants
2017 Grantees

**Competitive Grants**

Alliance for Children's Rights • Armory Center for the Arts • Bet Tzedek • Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles • CASA of Los Angeles • Eisner Health • El Nido Family Centers • Elizabeth House • EngAGE • Families Forward Learning Center • Friendship Foundation • Generations United • GOOD+ Foundation • Growth Opportunities through Athletics, Learning & Service (GOALS) • Imagine Los Angeles • Koreatown Youth and Community Center • L.A. Kitchen • Little Tokyo Service Center • Los Angeles Philharmonic Association • Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles • ONEgeneration • P.F. Bressee Foundation • P.S. ARTS • Reading Partners • School on Wheels • St. Barnabas Senior Center of Los Angeles • Venice Family Clinic

**Discretionary Grants**

826LA • American Ballet Theatre • American Heart Association • Angels of the Amazon • Asbury Park Music Foundation • Aspen Camp • Aspen Music Festival & School • Aspen Public Radio • Aspen Words • Audubon Dakota • Baby2Baby • Bet Tzedek • Beverly Glen Playgroup • Big Sunday • Brooklyn Community Foundation • CASA of Los Angeles • Center for Personal Rights • City Year Los Angeles • Classical KUSC • CODEPINK • College Track • Common Sense Media • Cure Sanfilippo Foundation • Dear Jack Foundation • Direct Relief • Echo Horizon School • Exceptional Children’s Foundation • Foundation for National Progress (Mother Jones) • Garry Marshall Theatre • Generations United • Georgetown University • Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence • GOOD+ Foundation • Grantmakers in Aging • Groceryships • Harvard University Law School • Harvard-Westlake School • Hayground School • Hope in a Suitcase • Inner Explorer, Inc. • J. Paul Getty Trust • Jake Forerster Music Arts Fund • JDRF Diabetes Foundation • KCRW • Kentucky Refugee Ministries • L.A. Goal • LA Opera • Ladies’ Village Improvement Society • Learning Rights Law Center • Los Angeles Philharmonic Association • Manhattan Beach Education Foundation • Milk + Bookies • Museum of Contemporary Art • Music Center • Natural Resources Defense Council • New York Landmarks Conservancy • New Yorkers for Children • NPR Foundation • One Story • PACE – Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement • Pioneer Works Art Foundation • Project High Hopes: Inspire U.S. • ProPublica • Putney Open Door Fund • Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History • Ronald McDonald House of New York • Ryman Arts • Santa Catalina School • Santa Monica Bay Junior Rowing Association • SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young • ScholarMatch • SCORE • Smithsonian Institution • Southern California Grantmakers • Southern California Public Radio (KPPC) • St. Lawrence University • Susan G. Komen • Tashirat Foundation • The 5 Gyres Institute • The ACLU Foundation • The Allen-Stevenson School • The Aspen Institute • The Colburn School • The Hawn Foundation: MindUp • The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles • The Lawrenceville School • The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society • The Milken Institute • The Pablove Foundation • The Rape Foundation • TreePeople • UCLA Anderson School of Management • United4:Good Foundation • University of Denver • USC Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy • USC School of Cinematic Arts • UTA Foundation • World Mercury Project
Generation to Generation

Encore.org’s new initiative Generation to Generation aims to activate a million people over 50 to become engaged in ways that benefit children, and in doing so, themselves and the whole community. This effort brings together existing programs and creates new ones to promote older adults advocating for and engaging with children and youth.

After launching in late 2016, Encore.org’s Generation to Generation initiative is now working in four key cities to develop new approaches to engaging older adult volunteers. Within this Learning Lab network, Los Angeles has launched a local effort in the Boyle Heights neighborhood and produced a conference in November 2017.

At that conference, 100 attendees gathered in downtown Los Angeles to hear an impressive slate of speakers and panelists, including The Eisner Foundation CEO Trent Stamp and Encore.org CEO Marc Freedman. Experts on early childhood education, volunteerism, and aging discussed the many benefits of this intergenerational effort.

The Eisner Foundation was an early supporter of Generation to Generation's national efforts, and has been deeply involved in the Los Angeles steering committee. In the years to come, Generation to Generation will expand to new areas of Los Angeles and bring more organizations and volunteers together to strengthen their communities.
The Eisner Foundation often pursues new avenues to showcase the exceptional work our grantees are doing in Los Angeles and beyond. In 2017, we produced a series of short videos featuring the intergenerational work of five organizations: the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor, The Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles’ Summer Night Lights, Venice Family Clinic, L.A. Kitchen, and the Koreatown Youth and Community Center. These videos demonstrate the myriad ways intergenerational programs can take shape.

At L.A. Kitchen, culinary training programs give youth transitioning out of foster care and older adults recently released from incarceration career opportunities. At Venice Family Clinic, older volunteer physicians are paired with younger volunteers interested in the medical field, learning from each other as they serve low-income patients. The Boys & Girls Clubs and the Koreatown Youth and Community Center enlist older volunteers for after-school programs. And Summer Night Lights brings community members of all ages together in parks across Los Angeles.

These are just some of the innovative ways our grantees bring together multiple generations to improve their communities. These videos we produced will allow us to share those innovations nationwide.
On October 5, 2017, ONEgeneration celebrated the dedication of a new modular classroom at their San Fernando Valley campus.

Due to the popularity of their intergenerational preschool program, where the participants at the adjacent senior day care center regularly interact with the children, ONEgeneration was in immediate need of additional classroom space. With an early 2017 grant from The Eisner Foundation, staff moved quickly to permit and acquire a modular classroom. Now, ONEgeneration is able to serve 20-25 additional families and provide seniors additional opportunities for intergenerational interaction.

The Eisner Foundation was honored at the dedication ceremony, which also included Councilmember Bob Blumenfield and representatives from the offices of U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman, Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Nury Martinez.
In January 2017, The Eisner Foundation granted Denison University in Granville, Ohio more than $5 million to build a new performing arts building, to be named The Michael D. Eisner Center for Performing Arts. Michael Eisner is a member of the Denison Class of 1964 and a Life Trustee of the college.

The Eisner Center will be home to the departments of music, dance, and theatre, creating a dynamic, interactive space where students can collaborate across disciplines. While faculty and students already partner on projects that span their areas of interest, The Eisner Center will provide more and better opportunities for that engagement to happen, as well as larger, adaptable performance spaces to present their work for the Denison and local communities.

Denison University broke ground on The Eisner Center in April 2017, and the new facility will open in the Fall of 2018.
Throughout 2017, The Eisner Foundation pursued many opportunities locally and nationally to spark conversation and action around intergenerational ideas.

We explored the place of aging residents along Broadway in their communities through a partnership with KCRW, and showcased four incredible intergenerational programs in two episodes of NBC's nationally-televised “Give.”

At the 2017 Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence ceremony, we honored the achievements of New York nonprofit DOROT. During the ceremony, we also released a new report in conjunction with previous Prize winner Generations United on the importance of intergenerational connections in our communities.

In Los Angeles, the foundation held a series of workshops to give nonprofits additional tools to do their work more efficiently and effectively. At the last of the three events, we released a new handbook on engaging older volunteers.

Finally, The Eisner Foundation continued longstanding traditions with The Aspen Institute and Vermont summer camps Keewaydin and Songadeewin.
Launched in August 2016, Going Gray in LA shared stories from along Broadway Avenue. Home to some of the city’s most diverse and disenfranchised populations, these areas feature a wealth of perspectives on what it feels like to grow old in Los Angeles. The series visited a senior center in Lincoln Heights, affordable housing projects in Chinatown, a tight-knit community in Little Tokyo, and a caregiving home in South L.A.

In April 2017, the series concluded with a thought-provoking live event. Held at the Japanese American National Museum, the event brought together the producers behind the series with other panelists in the featured communities. Also at the event, attendees admired the poignant photographs by Bear Guerra, a producer of the series, that brought a visual element to the audio stories. In October 2017, an expanded exhibition of the photographs began a four-month run at the Los Angeles Central Library.
The Eisner Foundation partnered with NBC’s nationally-televised show “Give” for both seasons one and two in 2017. The new show focuses on philanthropy, partnering with foundations and celebrity ambassadors all over the country to identify nonprofits making a difference in their communities.

In season one, The Eisner Foundation’s episode aired in May 2017 and featured intergenerational programs at two grantee organizations: ONEgeneration's adult and child day care center, and Spark Los Angeles’ mentorship program. Celebrity ambassador Camilla Belle visited both organizations to learn about their work and surprised them with donations. In season two, our episode aired in November 2017 and featured two more innovative intergenerational programs. Celebrity ambassadors Connie Stevens and her daughter Joely Fisher visited the Glendale campus of EngAGE’s intergenerational arts colony and the Friendship Foundation’s Bridges program, which brings together seniors and special-needs youth for a game night at a senior apartment complex. As in the first season, the ambassadors presented each organization with a donation at the end of the episode.

Each episode resulted in increased awareness and support of intergenerational programs across the country, with individuals and organizations reaching out to partner or establish similar programs in their own communities.

DOROT was founded in 1976 by a group of Columbia University graduate students and alumni who were concerned about the plight of the homebound elderly “hidden” in apartment buildings on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. From these beginnings arose a multi-service agency mobilizing thousands of volunteers of all ages and offering numerous services for older adults, including a home visiting program, homelessness prevention, meal delivery and more.

Many of the elders they serve have outlived or lost touch with their families and friends. As the aging population in this country undergoes a period of unprecedented growth, more and more isolated older adults will require the kinds of services that DOROT offers.

DOROT’s intergenerational mission encourages volunteers to engage with older adults and create meaningful connections. Whether it is through DOROT’s prestigious Summer Teen Internship, Intergenerational Chess, or Family Circle visiting programs, DOROT’s caring professionals ensure that every generation has the opportunity to strengthen the community. DOROT’s work does more than provide services to older adults; it brings generations together.
Generations United and The Eisner Foundation released survey findings in the new report *I Need You, You Need Me: The Young, the Old, and What We Can Achieve Together* at the 2017 Eisner Prize event.

Ninety-three percent of U.S. adults agree that children benefit from building relationships with elders in their communities; 91 percent agree that elders benefit from these relationships as well, according to the new survey. It also found that 78 percent of adults seem to be so convinced that the young and the old are good for one another that they think the federal government should invest in programs that bring together young and old Americans. The report highlights 2017 Eisner Prize winner DOROT and others as national examples of pioneers reuniting the generations and making their communities better places to live.

Taking inspiration from the survey findings and featured organizations like DOROT, the report highlights inventive, intergenerational solutions and actionable ways to harness the benefits of connecting generations. They include lobbying local government to make age integration a core value, calling on organizations that serve the young to collaborate with those that serve the old, challenging local boards of education to integrate elders into every school, and urging local foundations to support intergenerational programs.
Throughout 2017, The Eisner Foundation offered a series of workshops to help nonprofit staff develop key skills. After surveying local organizations to determine the greatest needs, foundation staff designed three workshops to target those needs.

The first workshop, held in partnership with the California Community Foundation, brought together a panel of funders that gave candid advice on how to secure grants. For the second, LACMA hosted a salon-style workshop focusing on different aspects of public relations and communications featuring several grantees’ communications staff. Finally, a packed event at The California Endowment featured a discussion on engaging older volunteers, and again included grantee expertise. At this final event, The Eisner Foundation also released a handbook for nonprofits with practical tips for bringing older volunteers into their organizations.
During the final workshop in 2017, The Eisner Foundation released a new handbook for nonprofits based on original research that lays out best practices for recruiting, managing, and retaining older volunteers. 

As our society ages, the growing population of older adults is likely to experience social isolation, which is linked to cognitive decline, depression, and other health issues. At the same time, millions of children live in poverty and are disadvantaged by the growing opportunity gap. But when the experience of older adults is harnessed in service to these children, both groups benefit. 

Nonprofits can capitalize on this mutual benefit by seeking out more older volunteers. In fact, nonprofits often find that older volunteers are their most valuable. But proper management of these volunteers is key to maximizing everyone’s potential. 

This handbook suggests big and small strategies that nonprofits can implement to make their organizations thrive, and includes case studies of grantees that have succeeded with these strategies.
For over two decades, The Eisner Foundation has sent a group of Orange County youth to the Keewaydin and Songadeewin summer camps in Vermont, continuing an Eisner family tradition. Working closely with local nonprofit GOALS, students are selected based on their potential to benefit from the camp experience.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Michael Eisner himself attended Keewaydin from age eight to twenty-two, joining the staff in his later years. He credits Keewaydin as the place where he developed the values and principles that have served him throughout his life, and he and his wife Jane sent their own sons there when they came of age.

In 2017, The Eisner Foundation sent twelve children aged eleven to sixteen to spend several weeks camping, hiking, canoeing, and more. They returned home with increased self-confidence, new skills, and new friends—just as generations of Eisners have before.
As the Chairman of the Arts Committee at The Aspen Institute, Michael Eisner spoke in conversation with artist Jeff Koons at the 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival in June. Koons is known for transforming familiar subjects into captivating and surprising works of art, often in large-scale public art displays.

In their conversation, Koons reflected on his work and discussed his early life, emergence as an artist, and how he captures the American imagination in his art.

Director Ava DuVernay joined Jeff Koons as the 2017 Harman-Eisner Artists in Residence. Since 2006, Michael Eisner has supported this effort to ensure that the valuable ideas and perspectives of leading artists are shared through The Aspen Institute's ongoing work.
Philanthropic Leadership

Throughout 2017, Eisner Foundation leadership promoted our mission through several speaking engagements and board memberships in the philanthropic and nonprofit community.

CEO Trent Stamp spoke at several conferences including Aging Into The Future, the USC Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy's Donors And Their Families Forum, Generation to Generation, and the Grantparents As Parents/CSUN Eisner College of Education conference. He also co-presented a webinar on purposeful aging with the Milken Institute. Program Director Cathy Choi was featured on a panel exploring how increased longevity changes societal approaches to life stages.

Trent Stamp served on several boards in 2017, including the Milken Institute for the Future of Aging, Grantmakers in Aging, the Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California, and Eisner Health, and completed a term on the Southern California Grantmakers board. Trent retired from the Hermosa Beach Little League board this year, and was honored by the city of Hermosa Beach in 2017 with the Rory Wibberley Award for his outstanding service as a youth volunteer. Cathy Choi served as co-chair of the Southern California chapter of Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy and served on the Education Leadership Council for Southern California Public Radio.
Community Partnerships

The Eisner Foundation augmented its grantmaking with two longstanding partnerships with the GOOD+ Foundation.

In August, the Foundation partnered with the GOOD+ Foundation and Project Fatherhood at The Children's Institute, Inc. to send 30 fathers and children to Disneyland. These organizations work with non-custodial fathers to encourage them to be more involved in their children’s lives—a program that helps children perform better in school and motivates the fathers to seek stable employment and maintain a relationship with their children.

Thanks to the generosity of The Eisner Foundation family, including The Tornante Company, Mozaic, foundation staff, and the Eisner family themselves, the annual Eisner Foundation toy drive was once again a great success. In mid-December, foundation staff delivered a truck full of toys, stuffed animals, sports balls and bicycles to the GOOD+ Foundation, who distributed the toys to children and families in need through their partner Eisner Health.