For over twenty years, The Eisner Foundation has been committed to providing access and opportunity to Southern California’s most vulnerable citizens. Originally working with disadvantaged children, and later with seniors at risk, we found over time through research and practice that the programs that worked the best were those that served both groups simultaneously and together, creating positive outcomes not only for children and older adults, but for our community and our society. Today, The Eisner Foundation is America’s only foundation focused exclusively on intergenerational programs.

We know from our own family that intergenerational connections can lead to great results, and we see that every day in the nonprofits with which we partner. Older people offer counsel, wisdom, knowledge, experience, and unconditional love, and the young can provide technology assistance, vitality, reduction from isolation, and most importantly, purpose. As long as America is divided, and as long as that division undermines our best interests, The Eisner Foundation will continue our work in this intergenerational ecosystem. We invite you to join us, and hope you will take the time today to learn about what we have learned, and what is ahead. Thank you.

Jane B. Eisner
President, The Eisner Foundation

It is a great honor to work at The Eisner Foundation. Every day, our staff is charged with doing all we can to unite our country across generations by identifying, supporting, and advocating on behalf of great nonprofits that believe, as we do, that our nation must do more to promote intergenerational connections. As a staff, we thank the Eisner family for their vision in identifying this unheralded focus, and the subsequent courage to commit their resources to addressing the inequities that threaten our society when we fail to create a shared vision between the young and the old. We believe that in a society that is being actively and intentionally divided along racial, socioeconomic, and gender lines, we have an obligation as a grantmaker to seek higher ground, and to work to unite people from different generations. It is the only divide in our society where one group becomes the other, with the grace of years. The young become the old. And yet, both groups have so much to give to each other. In 2019, we were singularly focused on finding ways to end that divide between the generations. While progress was made, much work lies ahead. We look forward to 2020.

Trent Stamp
CEO, The Eisner Foundation
Now in its fifth year of exclusively supporting intergenerational programs, The Eisner Foundation works alongside partners and grantees in Los Angeles County and beyond to advance existing programs and spark new efforts.

Los Angeles is a microcosm of the challenges today’s youth and older adults face across the U.S., making the need and potential impact of programs focused on these populations even greater. Through its intergenerational focus, The Eisner Foundation is committed to efforts that leverage the strengths of each age group to create positive, lasting change.

In 2019, The Eisner Foundation invested several million dollars in intergenerational programs to further this goal. These gifts went to initiatives across a wide range of sectors, including education, kinship care, the arts, and more. These programs reflect the breadth of what's possible through intergenerational connections, as well as the increasing sophistication of these models. Practice goes hand-in-hand with research, and in 2019 several ongoing partnerships resulted in new data, recommendations, and events at which to share them with a wider audience.

Intergenerational solutions are increasingly recognized as efficient, effective tools to address societal problems and create stronger communities. Trends toward increased segregation and polarization don't have to continue—and The Eisner Foundation is committed to working alongside our partners to make our society more connected, empathetic, and hopeful.
$7,348,496 Granted in 2019

2019 Grantees

826LA* • Alliance for Children's Rights* • American Ballet Theatre • Angels of the Amazon • Art Production Fund • Asbury Park Music Foundation • Aspen Music Festival & School • Aspen Public Radio • Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation • Aspen Words • Baby2Baby • Band of Parents • Beat the Streets Wrestling • Bet Tzedek* • Beverly Glen Playgroup • Boys & Girls Clubs of the LA Harbor* • California State University, Northridge* • CASA of Los Angeles* • Center for Personal Rights • Center for Reproductive Rights • Children's Health Defense • CicLAvia • Classical KUSC • CODEPINK • College Track • Columbia University • Common Sense Media • Dear Jack Foundation • Duke University Law School • East Hampton Fire Department • Eisner Health* • El Nido Family Centers* • Elizabeth House* • Encore.org* • EngAGE* • FEAST • Foundation for National Progress (Mother Jones) • Friends of the High Line • Garry Marshall Theatre • Generations United* • GOALS* • Good+ Foundation* • Grantmakers in Aging • Harvard University Law School • Harvard-Westlake School • Headstrong Project • Heart of Los Angeles* • House of Ruth* • Immunity Education Group • Inner Explorer, Inc. • JDRF International • KCRW* • Keep Bel-Air Beautiful Program • Koreatown Youth and Community Center* • L.A. Goal • LA Opera Company • Ladies’ Village Improvement Society • Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts • Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation • Los Angeles LGBT Center* • Los Angeles Philharmonic Association* • Lung Cancer Research Foundation • Manhattan Beach Education Foundation • Marat Daukayev Ballet Theatre • Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles* • MBX Foundation • Media Matters for America • Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit • Natural Resources Defense Council • New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra • NPR Foundation • ONEgeneration* • Operation Jump Start* • PACE – Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement • Partners for Children South L.A.* • Points of Light • ProPublica • Putney Open Door Fund • Queensborough Community College Fund, Inc. • Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History • Ronald McDonald House of New York • Santa Catalina School • Santa Monica Bay Junior Rowing Association • ScholarMatch • SCORE • SEEDS Arts and Education • Simon Wiesenthal Center • Smithsonian Institution • Southern California Public Radio (KPPC) • St. Lawrence University • St. Luke’s Episcopal Church • Stanford Center on Longevity* • Tashirat Foundation • The ACLU Foundation • The Allen-Stevenson School • The Aspen Institute • The Center for Early Education • The Heart Foundation* • The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles • The Lawrenceville School • The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society • The Milken Institute • The Museum of the City of New York • The Music Center • The New 42nd Street • The UCLA Foundation • TreePeople • Turnaround Arts CA* • UCLA Division of Geriatrics* • University of Denver • University of Pennsylvania • Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus • USC Kinder2College* • Whitney Museum of American Art • Yale University

*Competitive grant
At Elizabeth House, experienced mentors work with young pregnant women and new mothers to set them up for future success.

Elizabeth House's Residential Program in Pasadena provides holistic care for these women that addresses physical, emotional, and economic needs. Most of the women served by Elizabeth House have experienced trauma of some kind, and have experienced foster care, homelessness, violence, and poverty. While at Elizabeth House, these women have a safe place to live and benefit from a wide range of services so they can sufficiently care for themselves and their children—breaking what is often a multigenerational cycle of poverty and abuse.

Volunteer mentors are an important element of the program’s success, building relationships with these women to celebrate their accomplishments, give advice, and create community. Mentors who are mothers themselves are also able to share their own experiences and knowledge, especially valuable to the young women who are pregnant for the first time and don’t have family or friends to turn to for guidance.

With the support of an Eisner Foundation grant, Elizabeth House was able to hire a volunteer coordinator to implement new technology and processes to enhance volunteer operations. By building a robust community of young mothers and mentors of all ages, Elizabeth House has created a supportive intergenerational community that will facilitate success for these mothers and their children.
Following the successful opening of their new Anita May Rosenstein Campus in April 2019, The Eisner Foundation renewed its partnership with the Los Angeles LGBT Center in 2019 to support their Culinary Arts Program.

Housed on the new intergenerational Rosenstein campus, this program trains low-income seniors and homeless youth for employment in the foodservice industry while creating hundreds of meals each day for the seniors and homeless youth on the campus.

This intergenerational program takes populations that face tremendous barriers to employment that include a lack of experience, a lack of soft skills, discrimination, ageism, homophobia, and transphobia, and equips them with the confidence, skills, and connections needed to secure fulfilling employment.

While there have been significant gains for the LGBT community in recent years, members of the community still face significant challenges. LGBT youth face higher risk of abuse, homelessness, and educational underachievement. Seniors also face significant challenges, facing hard economic circumstances due to lifelong discrimination within their families, the workforce, and the housing market.

With the opening of the Center’s new campus and the Culinary Training Program, both groups can work side-by-side to become independent and self-sufficient, and ultimately create a stronger community.
Research continues to be an important aspect of The Eisner Foundation’s work. Qualitative and quantitative evidence of positive impact allows more intergenerational programs to begin, grow, and thrive. But data can also create broader social awareness of how vital these programs are for a community—and engage policymakers and leaders to explore how intergenerational solutions can benefit society at large.

In 2019, we continued our work with the UCLA Division of Geriatrics and Stanford University’s Center on Longevity. At both schools, scholars are developing new ideas and models to approach aging.

Our UCLA partnership centers on three core programs that contribute to quantitative intergenerational research while serving older adults and students. Generation Xchange places older adults in classrooms across South L.A. to improve reading and math skills. Unlike other in-school programs, GenerationXchange is also monitoring key health indicators of the adults and academic achievement of the children, demonstrating a clear win-win: the adults are healthier, the children are performing better, and the teachers are reporting increased job satisfaction. TimeOut@UCLA offers seniors with dementia the opportunity to interact with UCLA students, and allows caregivers a break for themselves. As the seniors enjoy socializing in a safe environment, student volunteers considering careers in geriatrics or medicine gain experience interacting with older adults with dementia. Underpinning these efforts, the UCLA Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care Program lends support to patients and family members. By emphasizing the benefits of family support and understanding the pressures put on caregivers, patient health outcomes have improved and caregiver stress levels have lessened.
At Stanford University, the New Map of Life project at the Center on Longevity is exploring how the idea of aging is changing in our society. Premised on the fact that our longer lives are both a great challenge and opportunity, this five-year project will reevaluate everything from our education system to how we define “work” and “retirement.” One of the seven Fellows evaluating these challenges is exclusively focused on how intergenerational models can benefit a New Map of Life.

Our longstanding partnership with Generations United furthered research on intergenerational shared sites in 2019. For the past several years, this partnership has produced new public opinion data and best practices for creating sustainable and engaging shared sites across the country. Building on this foundation, the 2019 report not only showcased exceptional shared sites, but also created toolkits for organizations to start their own, and educated policymakers on how they can support these efforts. The following pages describe this partnership in more detail.

By supporting research alongside direct service, The Eisner Foundation acknowledges our responsibility as champions of intergenerational solutions. Quality data and the wide distribution of its implications is crucial to replicating quality intergenerational programs across the country and world.

Intergenerational shared sites make common sense: they reduce social isolation, create livable communities, and positively impact participants’ lives. People of all ages have built-in opportunities to create meaningful relationships, find motivation, improve skills, and feel the joy of connection. In addition, shared sites create cost-efficiencies of sharing space, resources, personnel, rent, and more.

A previous report, “All in Together,” found that while Americans overwhelmingly like the idea of shared sites, few knew of one in their own community. As a result, a key question emerged: why aren’t shared sites more common?

To answer this question, the 2019 report digs deeper into the challenges that may be inhibiting the creation of more shared sites in the United States. Through in-depth interviews with shared site staff and board members, real estate and policy experts, this report identifies and explores four key phases in the development and operation of shared sites where pivotal factors, challenges and strategies can be critical.
On September 25, 2019 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., our CEO Trent Stamp joined Generations United Executive Director Donna Butts and Senator Bob Casey, Assistant Secretary for Aging Lance Robertson, and St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care COO Diane Beckley for an event on the importance of intergenerational shared sites.

Centering on the 2019 report, these leaders spoke about the importance and efficiency of intergenerational shared sites and policy implications and recommendations to increase the number of these sites in the U.S.

Opening the program, Trent Stamp spoke on the overall necessity of fostering intergenerational connections in our communities, and why policymakers are essential to this work. Donna Butts then gave an overview of the report and provided insight into intergenerational opportunities through the Older Americans Act.

Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator for the Administration for Community Living Lance Robertson, St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care COO Diane Beckley and Senator Bob Casey followed, giving their perspectives on how intergenerational efforts have proven beneficial in their own work. From government agency portfolios to care facility operations to policymaking, each had both personal and professional anecdotes on how valuable intergenerational programs can be.

This event demonstrated the power intergenerational solutions can have across sectors and political divides. There is clear interest and desire to advance these efforts across the country, and The Eisner Foundation is proud to partner with so many who will help us bring intergenerational programs to more communities.
The Eisner Foundation’s unique mission not only seeks to support intergenerational programs, but advocate for them. Despite the foundation’s grantmaking focus in Los Angeles County, our research findings and best practices are applicable to communities interested in intergenerational programs all over the country.

To that end, foundation staff represent this mission through a robust presence at nonprofit and philanthropic conferences and other gatherings, and extensive participation on local and national boards. In the last year alone, The Eisner Foundation staff sat on 11 boards, including Grantmakers in Aging, the Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California, Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, and the Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging; and shared its intergenerational vision at several events and conferences, including SXSW and the Aging in America conference.

While conferences are a good opportunity to bring our intergenerational mission to a wider audience, The Eisner Foundation also embraced the chance to go deeper with a smaller group of peers. In November 2019, the foundation partnered with the Packard Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation to convene a small group of funders to discuss collaborative intergenerational ideas. As other foundations embrace intergenerational solutions in their own portfolios, there’s great potential to have exponentially greater impact together than alone. In the coming years, this conversation will continue as we explore potential shared efforts.
The foundation also took this more intimate, intensive approach in convening grantees working toward similar goals.

Early in 2019, foundation staff brought together key staff members of grantee organizations working with grandparents caring for grandchildren, or “grandfamilies.” Because grandfamilies face unique challenges within the child welfare system, they often do not get the support they need. Our grantees endeavor to navigate the system alongside the families, often doing complementary work. The main goal of this convening was to facilitate more professional relationships across organizations and allow for alignment where possible. As a result, several organizations that attended have collaborated more closely as they assist grandfamilies in need, leading to an improved experience for all involved.

Later in the year, the foundation held a more structured convening of volunteer managers from grantee organizations that leverage the skills of older volunteers on behalf of children. As we heard from multiple organizations that they struggled to find new older volunteers, we aimed to give them the opportunity to learn from each other. By sharing best practices and innovative solutions, attendees left with new ideas and a sense of solidarity among colleagues.
In March 2019, WorkingNation brought together nonprofit leaders for a panel at SXSW EDU in Austin, Texas. Titled “Rethinking Education as We Live and Work Longer,” panelists included Eisner Foundation CEO Trent Stamp, Senior Service America CEO Gary A. Officer, WorkingNation President Jane Oates, and WorkingNation Editor-in-Chief Ramona Schindelheim.

Workers are remaining in the workforce well beyond traditional retirement age for a variety of reasons: some still need the income, while others enjoy working and feel they have more to give. But older workers often face roadblocks to employment, particularly when it comes to ageism. Older workers can be perceived as technologically challenged, unadaptable, or “not a good cultural fit,” even if they have the skills employers are looking for.

During the panel, the experts discussed the great benefits older workers bring to the workforce, including decades of experience and soft skills. In addition, keeping older adults active in the workforce has broader implications for society at large.

Trent Stamp argued that a major shift in perception is needed. “I don’t think any of this works unless we get past the idea that seniors are not an asset to the workforce,” he said during the session. “They bring a unique set of skills and life experiences that can enhance and intensify any work environment and bring productivity to the work environment. At The Eisner Foundation, we look at seniors as assets, as resources, we can utilize for the betterment of our society.”
In addition to SXSW, Eisner Foundation staff presented at several conferences throughout the year to share the wide-ranging possibilities of intergenerational programs.

Our ongoing shared site research with Generations United attracted hundreds of professionals to several conference sessions throughout the year. Alongside Generations United Executive Director Donna Butts and other experts, foundation staff presented at the Aging in America conference in New Orleans and the Grantmakers in Aging conference in New York.

During these sessions, we highlighted our 2019 report with Generations United on shared sites as well as the broader promise of intergenerational solutions. Especially effective were the local leaders of intergenerational programs that we selected for our panels, who brought both data and poignant anecdotes to the conversation.

The Eisner Foundation was also pleased to sponsor Generations United’s biannual conference in Portland, which featured the official release of the aforementioned 2019 report. Attendees heard from experts and practitioners as well as foundation staff about shared site models and best practices.

The conference also included a site visit to Eisner Prize winner Bridge Meadows, a residential shared site for adoptive and foster families and older adults.
Two ongoing efforts that further the Eisner family legacy continued in 2019: a new performing arts center at Denison University, and a new cohort of campers at Keewaydin and Songadeewin.

In October 2019, Denison University formally dedicated the new The Michael D. Eisner Center for Performing Arts in Granville, Ohio. Two years prior, The Eisner Foundation awarded Denison University more than $5 million to build the center. Michael Eisner is a member of the Denison Class of 1964 and a Life Trustee of the college.

With more than 108,000 square feet, the new Eisner Center includes stages and rehearsal spaces, specially-equipped classrooms, department offices, and open spaces. It was designed to not only foster interdisciplinary collaboration in the arts, but also to serve as a place of pride for the surrounding Granville community.

Dedication events included a ceremony on the new lawn and an original stage adaptation of the Netflix show “BoJack Horseman,” which is produced by Michael Eisner’s Tornante Company. Since then, the Center has already brought dozens of performances to the stage, with many more student and professional touring performances to come.
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.

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. Soon, their grandchildren will attend as well.

To identify the campers, The Eisner Foundation works closely with local nonprofit GOALS. Students active in GOALS’ afterschool programs are selected to attend camp based on their potential to benefit from the experience.

After making friends with fellow campers from all over the world, most choose to remain part of the foundation camper cohort for several years, often with younger siblings eventually joining them.

In 2019, The Eisner Foundation sent 16 children aged 11 to 16 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.
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