



# Igniting potential. *Driving progress.*

## **Our 2035 vision**

With the Kauffman Foundation's support, greater Kansas City will become a national model for equitable economic mobility, dismantling systemic barriers and setting generations of historically under-resourced communities on the path to prosperity.

## **Our priorities**

Three strategic areas are at the heart of our mission, prioritized because of their anticipated power to create change.

### **COLLEGE ACCESS AND COMPLETION – equitable opportunities for all**

Students and communities thrive when educational pathways are affordable, high-quality, and attainable for all. We support solutions that prepare students to start and complete college, and transition to good-paying jobs.

Colleges, universities, and community colleges play a critical role in closing the wealth gap for Black, Latino, and low-income communities.

### **WORKFORCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT – at every stage**

Market-ready skills development is vital to individual, organizational, and community growth for those entering the workforce and advancing their careers.

When people have access to training, support, and the opportunity to achieve and progress on a career path, they can attain an equitable living wage, setting generations of people on the path to prosperity.

### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP – supporting and sustaining business ownership**

We believe in the power of entrepreneurship. The success of businesses can strengthen every level of our economy.

When aspiring, early stage, and established business owners are connected to peer networks, training, tools, and resources, we improve conditions for both individual and community economic mobility.

## **We believe it**

Everything we do is grounded in the generosity and love for Kansas City that Mr. Kauffman infused into the heart of our mission. Our vision, strategy, and partnerships embody his intent and commitment to the community. That is why we are dedicated to advancing equitable opportunities spurring economic growth, and creating a model for the country.

## **We dream it**

We dream of a more equitable Kansas City, where economic mobility is a reality for all. Where Black, Latino, and low-income Kansas Citians have access to education and business ownership that closes the wealth gap and builds financial futures.

We strive to uplift opportunities that help people achieve financial stability, upward mobility, and economic prosperity – regardless of race, gender, or geography. By increasing college access and completion, strengthening workforce opportunities, and improving access to business ownership, we're driving equitable economic mobility.

## **We mean it**

When we say that all the money in the world can't solve problems unless we work together, we mean it. We are deeply committed to partnering with community champions, bold changemakers, and innovative organizations everywhere. Collaboration and collective impact are our reality. Together, we can help communities thrive.

We reorganized our structure and processes to better align with the 2035 vision, and are implementing transparent and equitable grantmaking that encourages innovation to drive the greatest impact toward that vision.