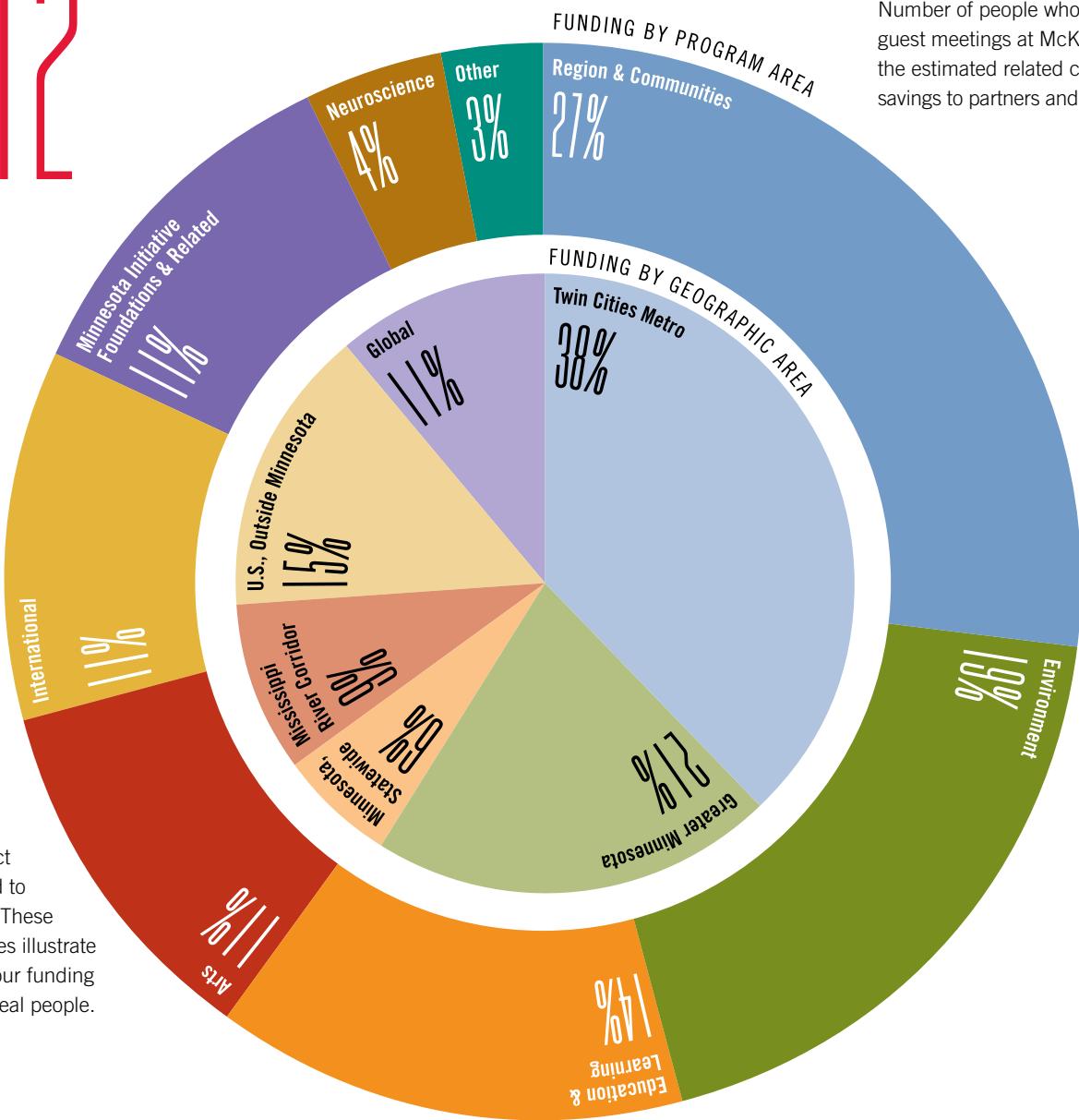


2012

*Year at a Glance*  
ANNUAL REPORT

**4,000 and  
\$255,400**

Number of people who attended guest meetings at McKnight, and the estimated related cost savings to partners and grantees.



**29**

Number of grantee and partner “Impact Stories” posted to McKnight.org. These narrative profiles illustrate the impact of our funding in the lives of real people.


**861 and 3,294**

Respectively, likes of our Facebook page and number of people following @McKnightFdn on Twitter as of December 2012. McKnight uses social media to advance field knowledge, engage with grantees and partners, and expand understanding of our work.


**428,623**

Total number of page views of McKnight’s website during 2012.



**T**he McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Through grantmaking, collaboration, and encouragement of strategic policy reform, we use our resources to attend, unite, and empower those we serve.

The Foundation was created in 1953 by William L. McKnight and Maude L. McKnight. Today, we develop and adjust strategies and approaches based on continuous learning, new research and data, and emergent knowledge. We invest in efforts to strengthen and sustain communities through support for the arts, education and learning, the environment, the region and communities, and scientific research in selected fields. Our primary geographic focus is the state of Minnesota, with significant support also directed to strategies throughout the U.S. and in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.



## INTERNATIONAL

*Jane Maland Cady, program director*

We use our resources to promote strong rural livelihoods and food security for people with limited opportunities. McKnight's Southeast Asia program, a component of the Foundation's international grantmaking portfolio, completed a comprehensive three-part evaluation in 2012. The evaluation consisted of a program history, a grantee perception survey, and a program implementation consultation meeting with other global grantmakers and intermediaries. McKnight staff will implement strategy enhancement to the program based on learnings and discussions that emerge from the evaluation.

[mcknight.org/international](http://mcknight.org/international)



Percentages of total funding that included support for grantees' general operations.



Percentages of total funding tied to multiyear commitments.

## HUMAN SERVICE AWARDS

Six Minnesotans with long histories of service to their communities received the 2012 Virginia McKnight Binger Awards in Human Service. The \$10,000 awards honor Minnesota residents who give their time to improve the lives of people in their communities. This year's recipients include community activists, youth mentors, healers, and advocates for the immigrant population.

[mcknight.org/awards](http://mcknight.org/awards)



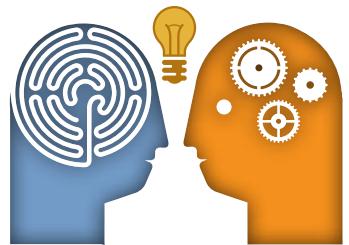
Number of university students in Africa and South America engaged in projects supported by McKnight's crop research program, contributing to a world where all have access to nutritious food that is sustainably produced by local people.

ARTS

*Vickie Benson, program director*

We support an environment in which artists are valued leaders in our community, with access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. The McKnight Foundation has supported more than 1,100 individual artists through its Artist Fellowships program. To mark the program's 30th anniversary in 2012, the Foundation launched a suite of projects — a curated blog, a documentary series, and a datavisualization site and related gallery exhibition — all by, for, and about artists. We also hosted a celebration during the summer with hundreds of artist fellows in attendance, work commissioned from former fellows for the event, and remarks by NEA Chair Rocco Landesman and nationally renowned storyteller Kevin Kling.

[stateoftheartist.org](http://stateoftheartist.org)



# NEUROSCIENCE

*Eileen Maler, program manager*

The McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience works to bring science closer to the day when diseases of the brain and behavior can be accurately diagnosed, prevented, and treated. In 2012, three McKnight neuroscience award recipients (Doris Tsao of Cal Tech, Feng Zhang of MIT, and Gary Yellen of Harvard University) independently were honored with the National Institutes of Health Director's Pioneer Award. This prestigious program complements NIH's traditional, investigator-initiated grants by supporting individual scientists of exceptional creativity whose innovative work has the potential for unusually high impact.

[neuroscience.mcknight.org](http://neuroscience.mcknight.org)



Net change to the length of the McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience Scholar Program application, a direct result of efforts to simplify the application process and attract the best candidates.

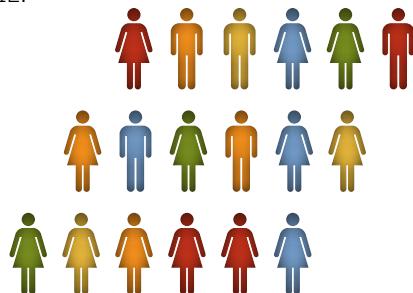
## BOARD AND STAFF CHANGES

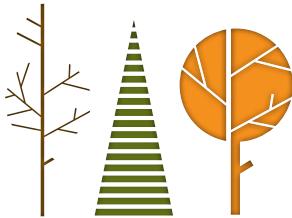
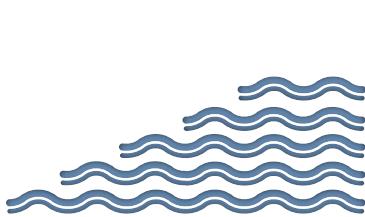
In 2012, McKnight welcomed one new member to its board of directors: Perry Moriearty, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota. Moriearty joined the U of M faculty in 2008 with expertise in clinical legal education, civil litigation, and juvenile justice. McKnight also hired three new staff in 2012 — Kristen Marx, arts program assistant; Jeffrey Tatsuda, part-time receptionist; and Danita Marroquin, part-time receptionist/administrative assistant — and arts program associate Sarah Lovan was promoted to program officer.

[mcknight.org/about](http://mcknight.org/about)



Total number of fellowships awarded to Minnesota artists in 12 different artistic disciplines in the history of McKnight's artist fellowship program, which celebrated 30 years in 2012.





32,500

Number of acres of critically important Louisiana coastal wetlands secured for permanent protection by a \$6.5 million program-related investment, facilitated by McKnight grantee The Conservation Fund.



## EDUCATION & LEARNING

*Neal Cuthbert, vice president of program*

Within the cradle-to-career continuum, we focus on increasing the percentage of students reading at grade level by the end of third grade; and increasing access to high-quality learning beyond the classroom so that all Minnesota's youth thrive. With multi-year grants totaling over \$9 million, in 2012 McKnight strengthened its early literacy support by expanding the portfolio of school sites receiving funding. As of mid-2012, three Twin Cities school districts (Brooklyn Center Independent School District #286, Minneapolis Special School District #1, and St. Paul Public Schools) and two St. Paul charter schools (Academia Cesar Chavez and Community of Peace Academy) were receiving McKnight support to implement new or refined initiatives to improve early literacy.

[mcknight.org/literacy](http://mcknight.org/literacy)

## ENVIRONMENT

*Ron Kroese, program director*

We use our resources to restore the water quality and resilience of the Mississippi River; and to avoid catastrophic climate change and help the Upper Midwest provide a significant portion of the nation's renewable energy supply.

Forty years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, the McKnight-funded State of the River report — a landmark analysis on the health of the portion of the Mississippi River that runs through Minnesota — shows that progress has been made, but there is cause for serious concern as new issues emerge. Released by McKnight grantee Friends of the Mississippi River and the National Park Service, the report examines the status and trends of 13 key indicators of the river's health and water quality, including bacteria, phosphorus, nitrate, and sediment content, as well as the river's viability for recreation, fish, and wildlife.

[stateoftheriver.com](http://stateoftheriver.com)

7

Number of Twin Cities school sites working with McKnight in 2012 to improve PreK – 3rd grade literacy, using data to improve classroom instruction and statewide advocacy to advance shared stakeholder goals.



19

Number of collaborating funders (including McKnight) in the Northside Funders Group, working to improve education, economic, and health outcomes in north Minneapolis.



42,126

As of December 31, 2012, total number of jobs created or retained in Greater Minnesota by all six Minnesota Initiative Foundations since their inception.

## REGION & COMMUNITIES

*Lee Sheehy, program director*

We work to increase efficient and sustainable regional metropolitan development that creates livable communities and expands opportunities for all to thrive. In August 2012, Cermak Rhoades Architects of Minneapolis received the inaugural AIA Minnesota/McKnight Affordable Housing Design Award, a new annual award recognizing innovative, high-quality designs for affordable housing. The firm received the award for its Higher Ground – Homeless Shelter & Permanent Housing Project in Minneapolis, based on four criteria: responsiveness, community connection, asset-building potential, and design quality.

[mcknight.org/region](http://mcknight.org/region)

# MINNESOTA INITIATIVE FOUNDATIONS

*Neal Cuthbert, vice president of program*

Through our support of the six Minnesota Initiative Foundations, we work to make Greater Minnesota stronger and more prosperous. In 2012, McKnight made a three-year grant of \$900,000 to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for the Minnesota Early Childhood Initiative (ECI). Building on the 10-year history of this collaborative effort of the Minnesota Initiative Foundations, the new grant represents a refined strategic direction for the ECI, strengthening its alignment with McKnight's early literacy goal of improving pre-K to 3rd grade outcomes for children statewide. The ECI is composed of 90 coalitions based in more than 300 sites, each coordinating activities tailored to their specific region.

[greaterminnesota.net](http://greaterminnesota.net)

## THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

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The McKnight Foundation is committed to the protection of our environment, a philosophy that underlies our practice of using paper with post-consumer waste content and environmentally friendly inks. This annual report was printed on paper containing 100% post-consumer fibers. Additionally, we partner with printers and use paper that are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified. The FSC standards represent the world's strongest social and environmental systems for guiding forest management and the use of paper resources toward sustainable outcomes.

The numbers in this report are pre-audit. To download the Foundation's most recent financial statements, view a full staff listing, or submit anonymous feedback about our work, please visit our website at [McKnight.org](http://McKnight.org).