



Spotlight on Black Theater

African-American theater is in its heyday in Chicago, says one long-time fan. And its leaders are taking steps to keep it growing. **10**

The Joyce Foundation supports efforts to protect the natural environment of the Great Lakes, to reduce poverty and violence in the region, and to ensure that its people have access to good schools, decent jobs, and a diverse and thriving culture. We are especially interested in improving public policies, because public systems such as education and welfare directly affect the lives of so many people, and because public policies help shape private sector decisions about jobs, the environment, and the health of our communities. To ensure that public policies truly reflect public rather than private interests, we support efforts to reform the system of financing election campaigns.

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For information on programs of the Joyce Foundation, please consult our web site, www.joycefdn.org, or call our offices to request a copy of our annual report or guidelines pamphlet. 312.782.2464

Evaluating School Reform

School choice in Milwaukee and Chicago's decision to hold back low-achieving students both draw national attention. Do they improve learning?

Chicago and Milwaukee represent two approaches for improving education: fixing failing public schools and letting parents choose alternatives.

Milwaukee gives students wide choice of schooling. Publicly funded vouchers enable low-income students to attend private schools. Private schools can become "charter" schools, obtaining public funding while avoiding many of the requirements facing public schools. And students can transfer across district lines to improve achievement or racial balance.

"Vouchers are the hot topic, but the voucher system could very likely be overwhelmed by these public choice programs," says Emily Van Dunk, research coordinator for the Public Policy Forum. With a Joyce grant of \$246,000, the Milwaukee nonprofit will evaluate the results of school choice programs.

Just getting the information from some private schools is a difficult, but important, first step, Van Dunk notes. "We're changing the definition of what a public school is by giving taxpayer money to traditionally private schools. All of a sudden taxpayers want to know what's going on with their money."

The evaluation will examine curriculum and teaching and track the impact of school choice on achievement. Says Van Dunk: "If graduation rates don't improve, test scores don't go up, kids aren't reading better, none of these programs are really going to matter. Meanwhile other things needed to improve achievement may not be getting done. Right now we don't know, but we want to figure that out."

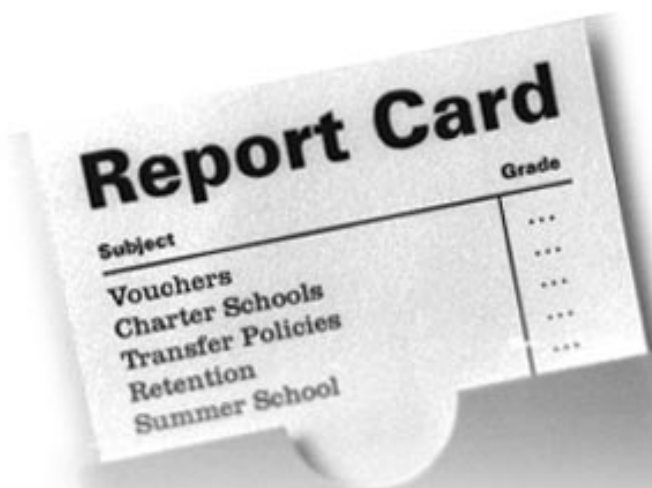
Chicago's schools announced in 1996 that students in selected grades would have to meet minimum criteria on standardized tests to be promoted. In 1997, 41,000 students (34 percent of 3rd, 6th, 8th and 9th graders) failed to meet the standards. By fall 1998, over 1,300 students were repeating grades three and six for the third time.

Schools have long debated how to handle failing students. "I can bang my hand on the table and tell you the worst thing you can do is hold kids back, that it's bad for self-esteem and leads to dropouts," says Melissa Roderick, associate professor at the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. "I can also bang my hand and say the worst thing you can do is send kids to high school doing math two years below grade level."

Instead of banging her hand, Roderick will lead a three-year evaluation, funded in part by a \$150,000 Joyce grant, of how the policy works in Chicago. Evaluators will analyze test scores, survey teachers and principals, and track how five schools handle low-achieving students. They'll also examine how the resources spent on low achievers and the intense concentration on basic skills to boost scores affect the school system as a whole. Says Roderick: "We're looking for signals about what's working and what problems we face, so we can get better policies to bring low-achieving kids up to norms."

Emily Van Dunk, Public Policy Forum, 414.276.8240

Melissa Roderick, SSA, 773.702.1250



Getting Down to Specifics

For all the expectations put on them, the tools most schools have to evaluate their work are surprisingly crude. Test scores come too late in the year to adjust what's happening in the classroom. They're not coordinated with truancy or transfer data that affect achievement. Nor are they broken down to check the results of school improvement plans or specific efforts, say, to raise math scores of Latino girls, increase parent involvement or improve school safety.

That's the impetus behind a new information system, the Quality School Portfolio, to be tested soon in four Chicago schools, funded in part by a \$175,000 grant to the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing at the University of California/Los Angeles.

The Portfolio's computer software combines test scores and other data and monitors each child individually. "It will allow you to ask questions you can't answer now," says

Eva Baker, the Center's co-director. "Do children who are reading well have lower absentee rates? Are children who've been in the school longer doing better at math than kids who transferred in?"

Such information, Baker argues, can help educators zero in on problems. "Right now, you do a school improvement plan, then you get some disembodied data that may or may not be related to what you're trying to do." The new software will let schools match plans to performance. And it will let them design measures to track the results of school improvement efforts.

"We've been trying to get teachers to look beyond the classroom to the individual child," says Philip Hansen, chief accountability officer for the Chicago Public Schools. Hansen says he welcomes resources that help educators use information to improve performance.

Eva Baker, CRESST,
310.206.1530

An innovative Detroit program creates a future out of what were once dead-end jobs.



Landing a job is difficult for people isolated in poor urban neighborhoods where most employers pulled out long ago. Many bounce from one low-paying job to another, with little chance to move up. Now, the Detroit Regional Chamber, a business group, is stepping in to help. Its Business Education/Training Alliance's Job Ladder pilot program places job seekers in entry-level jobs and, through connections with other employers, creates a clear path to higher-paying full-time employment.

"The Job Ladder program helps people to think about starting out and working their way up," says senior director Greg Handel. Employers facing tight labor markets like the program because it gives them access to more qualified people.

The program recruits employers offering entry level jobs—many in fast food restaurants—as well as firms seeking more experienced employees at higher pay. Workers who prove dependable in the "Tier 1" slots move up to the better jobs, which pay at least \$8.00 per hour plus benefits. The program tracks participants' progress. Employers are called after 30 days to make sure the new hire is still working. Those with child care or other problems are referred to agencies for help.

The Business Education/Training Alliance began testing the concept on a small scale last summer. A two-year, \$195,200 Joyce grant will allow it to expand the effort.

Kalad Awada, who manages an auto parts chain store, says his company likes to hire people who live near their retail locations, but was having a hard time finding cashiers. The Job Ladder program provides him with people who are looking for a chance to prove themselves. Since getting to work can be an obstacle for low-wage workers, he places Job Ladder hires in stores close to public transportation. He says he is pleased with his entry-level people and wants them to stay on at the end of the nine-month trial period. He plans to offer the better salary and benefits needed to keep good employees who now have options for other jobs.

Sarah Preisinger is vice president and staffing manager at National City, a bank. She has found that “the best candidates don’t walk in the door anymore. You have to find programs like the Job Ladder that produce them.” How does fast food experience prepare someone for work as a teller? “At Burger King, cashiers take orders, handle money, and sell. Those are skills tellers use. People who complete Tier 1 have the right attitude and proven attendance.” Once they prove themselves in Tier 2 at National City, “we can move them up within the bank.”

Handel hopes the project will lead to welfare-to-work programs adopting the Job Ladder model as policy at the local or state level. Agencies would help people get their first job and set a requirement for the second. “The Job Ladder program helps people develop long-term thinking,” he adds. “We are pioneering the concept that there is a better job after the first one.”

Greg Handel, Detroit Regional Chamber, 313.596.0331

Asking Job Seekers What They Need

What services do welfare recipients really need to help them find work?

Starting in early 1998, the state of Minnesota required welfare recipients to contact a state-funded employment counseling service to get help in developing a plan for finding a job. Those who don't meet with counselors risk losing from 10 to 30 percent of their welfare benefits. Despite the sanctions, some haven't bothered to meet with a counselor or have dropped out of the program. Hennepin County, where Minneapolis is located, has the highest welfare caseload in the state; officials there wanted to know why some people are not using the help offered and what they can do to improve services and get people the help they need.

A Joyce grant of \$20,000 plus county and state funds will allow Professor David Hollister of the University of Minnesota's School of

Social Work and a team of researchers from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs to look for solutions. They plan to ask people on welfare what services they think they need in order to make the transition from welfare to work and how they think existing programs can be tailored or improved to help them.

Preliminary results are expected to be released in February, in time for consideration by the Minnesota state legislature. The findings could shed light on possible policy changes for employment training, child care and transportation, according to Hollister. "This study will help give us a handle on what can increase the success rate of welfare reform," he says.

David Hollister,
School of Social Work,
612.624.1553

Chicago's African-American theater groups tackle the nitty-gritty tasks essential for growth.

There was no sign outside the church announcing that night's performance; no uniformed ushers taking tickets; no glossy, ad-filled program. Upstairs, the same young woman checked phoned-in reservations, sold tickets, and handed out programs. The theater space was modest, with eight rows of seats on platforms a few feet from the stage.

And the play—Onyx Theater Company's "East Texas Hot Links"—was dynamite. A powerfully written play, a strong cast across the boards, evocative lighting and set: all made for first-rate theater. Critics called it "rich fare" and a "terrific inaugural offering" for Onyx.

"We have the product," says artistic director Ron OJ Parson, who directed "Hot Links." "Every show we've done has been critically acclaimed. Now it's just a matter of organization. That's what we need to take it to the next level."

Four-year-old Onyx is a relative newcomer to Chicago's theater scene. But it's joined a distinguished cast of flourishing African-American theaters. And while each company has a unique history and mission, they're taking on an array of organizational challenges in planning for the future.

Onyx is focusing on the basics. Founded in 1994 by Parson, Alfred Wilson, and eight other veterans of mainstream Chicago theaters, Onyx has been operating on a show-by-show basis ever since. "We've been limited in our ability to announce a season, have a schedule, get the same audiences coming back each time, because we don't know



Marsha Estell and Willie B. Goodson are members of a South Side Chicago family in the turbulent 1960s in "The Sty of the Blind Pig," a 1996 Onyx Theater production of Philip Hayes Dean's play.

about our funding," says Parson. "For us, the issue is organization, staffing, general operations. We need that in order to do what we're accustomed to doing show-wise."

Parson is tackling the nitty-gritty tasks of developing a board, raising money for office staff, and applying for nonprofit status (a \$9,000 grant from Joyce to support the recent restaging of "Hot Links," its 1995 hit, was made to a financial intermediary).

Not far from Onyx on Chicago's North Side is the Black Ensemble Theater, known for top-notch musical productions like "The Other Cinderella" and "Doo Wop Shoo Bop," which have left critics "wondering how anything can be this good." Its issue is space—the company has outgrown the 150-seat theater it's been renting for ten years. But its recently completed planning process made clear that moving to the next level will require not only maintaining its current audience but increasing its base.

"We have a very diverse base racially," says veteran Chicago actress Jackie Taylor, the artistic director. "In age, our audience ranges from 30 to 55. That's characteristic of theaters all over the country—most theatergoers are boomers. So there's room for expansion, to develop a youth audience and attract seniors, as well as increasing support from baby boomers."



“Doo Wop Shoo Bop,” Black Ensemble Theater’s current reprise of its 1995 hit revue, features Melvin Abston, Chester Gregory, Vince Harris, and Sophia Perkins.

A two-year, \$70,000 Joyce grant will enable Black Ensemble Theater to tackle audience expansion. Plans include developing productions specifically geared to attract new audiences. (Taylor holds out great hopes for “Elvis Presley Was a Black Man,” set to open in late January. “I guarantee it’s going to create a buzz,” she says.) The company will also seek to boost its citywide visibility by producing plays in other theaters around the city, including a revue featuring the work of singer Mahalia Jackson at the South Side’s New Regal Theater and an outdoor production at downtown Navy Pier on Chicago’s lakefront. Meanwhile, Black Ensemble works in schools year-round to help build young audiences.

The South Side’s 14-year-old Chicago Theatre Company is also gearing up for growth. A recent strategic planning process reaffirmed the artistic mission—developing and presenting strong drama that portrays the African-American experience—and called for more emphasis on financial planning, fundraising and marketing. A one-year, \$35,000 Joyce grant will support those efforts.

Like the Black Ensemble, Chicago Theatre is trying to build out from its current audience. “Black women between the ages of 20 and 85 usually make up our audience,” says Luther Goins, the company’s

energetic executive director. “Men come with the women. But we’ve also found that a lot of our repeat audience is men. We’re trying to figure out what we’re doing right so we can do more of it.”

One strategy to boost its visibility is joining forces with other companies. Goins hopes to announce plans for a co-production with a major Chicago theater this spring. The company also works with the schools. Students from ten South and West Side high schools get an in-school preview and study guide, then come to the theater for weekday performances. “Excited children get their parents to support the theater,” says Goins.

The company has a new board chair and is making board development a priority. That’s a challenge for many arts groups, says Allison Sciplin, director of Business Volunteers for the Arts, which helps arts organizations find volunteer consultants. “It’s very difficult for any theater to find appropriate board members, people from the business community and the arts community who have time to devote to this.”

Meanwhile, Chicago’s oldest and largest black theater, ETA Creative Arts Foundation, continues to produce a steady stream of successful productions for its large and passionately loyal audience. ETA, a 1997 Joyce grantee, holds fast to its core mission of promoting the work of African-American playwrights.

Many of the challenges facing black theaters are common to other arts institutions. “Artistic quality is first in their minds, creating a solid product,” says Sciplin. “Creating an organization is something that comes two or three years down the line, when there’s a history and they’re ready to move to the next step.

“But thinking about the mission remains important,” Sciplin goes on. “They need to ask why they’re there, if there’s a place for them in the community, an audience. Questions like that force groups to think about the entrepreneurial or business aspects of creating and sustaining an organization. That takes



Women come together to raise an orphaned girl in Chicago Theatre Company's "Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery." Greta Oglesby, Zelda Pulliam, and Kimberly He'Bert-Gregory starred in Shay Youngblood's drama.

planning, collaboration, a shift in focus, not only for ensemble members but for staff, volunteers, board members. Planning can help arts organizations focus on where they've been, where they're going, and what they need to do to get there."

Such tasks become even more important as mainstream theaters are producing more black-oriented productions and competing for African-American audiences. Co-productions offer one solution. Last year, for example, Onyx's "Let Me Live" at the mainstream Goodman Studio won a Jefferson Award (Chicago's top theater prize) for best ensemble production. Such cooperation can be good for both sides, says Joan Gray of Muntu Dance Theatre, a mainstay of Chicago's black arts scene—"as long as the black theater company isn't subsumed by the larger entity, as long as what they bring to the table is respected and valued."

Chicago Sun-Times theater critic Hedy Weiss agrees that such collaboration can help black theater groups move to the next level in terms of reaching a larger audience. "Certainly some things out of Chicago Theatre Company, for example, should have moved to one of the mainstream theaters. They should be able to get their work done there and seen on a consistent basis."

Meanwhile, whatever the organizational challenges, the theaters are flourishing artistically. “In terms of sheer talent, they’re phenomenal,” says Weiss. “I’ve seen Broadway-level performances from actors that I’ve never seen before. And they’re fabulous.”

“Chicago is in my opinion one of the best African-American arts communities in the country,” says Jackie Taylor, who’s been in the business for 25 years. “We’ve been very free to create and explore here, because we don’t have the kind of expense or critic involvement they have in New York. So we’ve been able to take risks, and our theater survives and thrives. Really, there’s a whirlpool of possibilities and growth.”

Ron OJ Parson, Onyx, 773.561.5672

Jackie Taylor, Black Ensemble, 773.769.4451

Luther Goins, Chicago Theatre Company, 773.493.0901

Allison Sciplin, Business Volunteers, 312.372.1876

Joan Gray, Muntu, 773.602.1135

Programs Showcase Black Artists

Singer Bessie Smith is among the artists profiled in “I’ll Make Me A World: A Century of African-American Arts,” a documentary series coming to the Public Broadcasting System February 1-3. To mark the occasion,



communities around the country are holding programs to explore the heritage of African-American arts and showcase local artists. Chicago events, funded in part by Joyce, include a children’s musical, “The Tallest Tree in the Forest,” at ETA Creative Arts Foundation, and a film series at the Chicago Historical Society. The PBS series is produced by Blackside, Inc., which produced the Emmy-award-winning documentary “Eyes on the Prize.”

More information is at www.blackside.com.



Testing For Toxics

Some 75,000 chemicals are used, in one form or another, in the U.S. economy. How safe are they? For the vast majority, the answer is, no one knows. But that's about to change. Last October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Chemical Manufacturers Association, and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) announced a six-year, \$700 million voluntary testing program that will examine the health effects of every industrial chemical produced in quantities of a million pounds per year or more — about 2,800 in all. The tests will be tracked and the results published on EDF's Chemical Scorecard

(www.scorecard.org) — the Joyce-funded web site that tracks chemical emissions into the environment, the health impacts, and alternatives.

Last year EDF pointed out that nearly three-quarters of high-volume industrial chemicals (as distinct from drugs, food additives, and agricultural chemicals) have never faced even preliminary screening for health effects. The chemical manufacturers first disputed the analysis. But when later studies showed the problem was even worse, they agreed to the voluntary testing. For any chemicals not volunteered, the EPA will mandate tests. "The ignorance-is-bliss era is over," said EDF's senior attorney David Roe.

The EPA also announced in October plans to screen some 15,000 common chemicals to see whether any are acting as “endocrine disruptors.” At issue is the suspicion, based on work by Joyce grantee Theo Colborn of the World Wildlife Fund and others, that some chemicals ingested by humans mimic natural

hormones or disrupt their work. This in turn may cause birth defects, reproductive cancers, or infertility. Colborn’s 1996 book *Our Stolen Future* laid out evidence suggesting such a pattern and called for further study. An EPA advisory group recommended the screening process.

David Roe, EDF,
510.658.8008

Safer Potatoes

Wisconsin potato growers have been working to reduce the pesticides they use to treat their crops, in a joint effort with the World Wildlife Fund funded by Joyce. They’re succeeding. The wildlife group and the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association announced last fall that the growers had reduced use of toxic pesticides (using a measure that combines volume and toxicity) by 25 percent since 1995, with no loss of yield.

The project was started after the pesticide Aldicarb was discovered in the drinking water of central Wisconsin farms. Growers began planting disease-resistant varieties, rotating crops, and carefully monitoring

fields and weather conditions, spraying only when and where necessary. Farmer John Wallendahl reduced his use of synthetic insecticides by 75 percent and fungicides by 33 percent, and still reported solid profits despite low prices.

Such efforts not only reduce human exposure to pesticides, they also protect wildlife. That led World Wildlife Fund to present the growers its Gift to the Earth Award last summer. Now the group is working to convince potato processors, who buy most of Wisconsin’s crop, of the importance of encouraging pesticide-free potatoes.

Sarah Lynch, WWF,
202.778.9781

Cleaner Factories

Two Joyce grantees have announced agreements with major Midwest manufacturers to reduce toxic chemical discharge into the air and water.

The Dow Chemical plant in Midland, Michigan signed an agreement last summer with local residents and the Natural Resources Defense Council to reduce air and water pollution. The Midland plant, where Dow Chemical is headquartered, produces products ranging from pesticides to Saran Wrap. The agreement commits the company to develop plans by April 1999 to reduce discharge of 26 toxic chemicals by 35 percent and to cut overall waste by that figure as well.

The agreement came as a result of a Joyce-funded initiative between NRDC and Dow seeking nonregulatory strategies for reducing pollution. "We want to test the notion that there's a business value to environmental protection," says NRDC senior scientist Linda Greer. "If a company

cuts its emissions by becoming more efficient, that will save money. The government won't have to tell it what to do." Greer is looking for other industries that might be open to trying the same approach.

In Indiana, three important steel producers on the southern tip of Lake Michigan—including the giant US Steel Gary Works—have agreed to reduce or eliminate use of mercury at their facilities. The agreement, signed last September by representatives of the steel mills, the EPA, and the state of Indiana, resulted from efforts by the Delta Institute, a Chicago-based environmental and economic development group funded by Joyce.

Mercury is a "contaminant of concern" in Lake Michigan, notes Delta's Tim Brown, because it accumulates in aquatic animals and fish and causes neurological damage in humans. Although the amount of mercury the mills may be discharging into the environment is below the level that the companies

are required to report to the government, the chemical is present in raw materials and equipment at the facilities. The agreement commits the companies to inventory the presence of mercury at the plants and develop plans to

recycle, substitute, or otherwise address the mercury problem. Plans to carry out the agreement are to be in place by December 1999.

Linda Greer, NRDC,
202.289.6868

Tim Brown, Delta
Institute, 312.554.0900

Reducing Hospital Waste

Another significant step for reducing the discharge of mercury came in the health care sector. The American Hospital Association signed an agreement with the EPA last summer to eliminate mercury from hospitals' waste stream by the year 2005 and to reduce overall hospital waste one-third by then as well.

When products such as thermometers and blood pressure monitors are incinerated, mercury is released into the air and settles onto water. A 1997 EPA study estimated that 10 percent of mercury in fish comes from medical waste.

Campaigning for the hospital mercury agreement was Health Care Without Harm, an international coalition of

more than 100 organizations seeking "environmentally responsible health care." The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, a Joyce grantee, was a founding member of the group.

The Center has also been working with health care organizations in Minnesota to get them to reduce the use of polyvinylchlorides (PVCs) in intravenous bags and medical tubing. When incinerated, such materials emit harmful dioxins. Medical groups including the Minnesota Medical Association and the Public Health Association have called for less harmful substitutes for PVC products.

Bob Eleff, MCEA,
651.223.5969

Controlling Smog

The announcement by the EPA last fall of plans to reduce smog in much of the Eastern half of the United States was a major victory for environmentalists including Joyce grantees. The EPA rule calls for reducing smog-causing nitrogen oxides by 28 percent—some 1.1 million tons—per year. States are required to submit plans to reduce emissions by September 1999 and implement them by 2003.

Smog is the most pervasive air pollutant in the United States, according to the EPA, one that aggravates asthma, reduces lung capacity, and makes plants more susceptible to disease. While states have flexibility to choose strategies to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, much of the reduction is expected to come from power plants, which can cause air pollution hundreds of miles away.

Working with the EPA on the plan was the Clean Air Task Force, whose members included a Joyce-funded group, the Citizens Commission for Clean Air in the Lake Michigan Basin. Alex

Johnson directed the coalition, which represented a broad range of environmental and public health groups in the Great Lakes region. He called the EPA rule “the most cost-effective, expeditious means of improving environmental and public health in this region.”

Johnson noted that the Great Lakes states are both sources of the smog that plagues Eastern cities and victims of pollution coming from the south and west. “Even if we eliminated all emissions from Muskegon or Milwaukee, we would still have smog problems,” he said. “So we needed to address this on a broader regional basis.” His group joined negotiations with groups in 38 states that resulted in the final rule. “We pushed for aggressive controls from power plants upwind of Lake Michigan to assure that our communities get the same benefits that the Northeast corridor will get. And we made sure that we in our region did our share.”

Alex Johnson, Delta Institute, 312.554.0900

Informed Consumers

One way Illinois residents will be able to do their share for clean air in the years ahead is by choosing their utilities wisely. Another Joyce grantee, the Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest, is making sure they have the tools to do that.

The Center won a provision in the Illinois law deregulating the state's electric utilities, passed last year, to require utility companies to inform consumers about the sources of their electricity. Four times a year, starting this spring, companies will send consumers a chart showing what percentage of their power comes from coal, nuclear power, as well as other cleaner and safer sources. The chart will also list average amounts of emissions and nuclear waste generated as a result.

"Most people don't think where their



electricity comes from when they flick the switch," says the Center's Deborah Anderson. "People are surprised when they find out most of it comes from coal or nuclear power — many people say they'd rather see renewable energy, like solar power. We think this will raise people's consciousness so that, in another couple of years, when they get to choose their suppliers, they'll look for greener sources."

Deborah Anderson, ELPC,
312.673.6500

Gun Violence

Polls Back Gun Regulation

Eighty-eight percent of Americans support legislation requiring all new handguns sold in the U.S. to be childproof, according to a survey released last fall by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, and the Joyce Foundation. Americans want laws requiring new handguns to be personalized so only authorized users can fire them (71 percent) and to have indicators to show if the guns are loaded (73 percent). *The New England Journal of Medicine* published the poll results in September.

“A substantial majority of Americans support technological measures to make guns safer [and] tougher general safety standards,” said NORC survey director Tom Smith.

Midwest surveys found similar responses. In Wisconsin, 85 percent favor handgun safety legislation and 76 percent oppose allowing carrying of concealed weapons, according to a survey by the Milwaukee nonprofit Public Policy Forum. The poll, released in

October, also showed support for amending the state constitution to guarantee the right to bear arms, which voters approved in November.

Forum executive director David Meissner says the results suggest that “the public is beginning to think about handguns within the framework of consumer product and public safety issues, and they would like the legislature to address these concerns.”

In Iowa, 89 percent of residents favor requiring handguns to meet safety standards and 86 percent want owners to pass safety programs, in a poll released in October by Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence.

The group’s coordinator, John Johnson, says “many politicians have been afraid to touch the gun regulation issue. Our results indicate, for example, that there would be support for a child safety lock in Iowa. So far, no such laws have been proposed.”

www.norc.uchicago.edu

David Meissner, Public Policy Forum, 414.276.8240

John Johnson, Iowans for Prevention of Gun Violence, 319.851.7426

GrantsApproved

The following grants were approved at the December 1, 1998 meeting of the Board of Directors:

Education

Marquette University, Institute for the Transformation of Learning

Milwaukee, Wisconsin \$354,000

To promote systemic school restructuring in urban areas and school-community partnerships that focus on improving student achievement (2 yrs.)

Northwestern University, School of Education and Social Policy
Evanston, Illinois \$60,000

To evaluate the impact of proposed school finance strategies in Illinois (1 yr.)

Public Policy Forum, Inc.
Researching Community Issues

Milwaukee, Wisconsin \$246,000

To evaluate the performance of charter and choice schools in Milwaukee (2 yrs.)

University of California,
Los Angeles, National Center
for Research on Evaluation

Los Angeles, California \$175,000

To train Chicago public school faculties to collect and analyze data in order to measure educational progress and prepare school improvement plans (16 mos.)

The University of Chicago, School
of Social Service Administration
Chicago, Illinois \$150,000

To examine the effects of the Chicago Public Schools' new "no social promotion" policy on students, parents, teachers, and on the way instruction is delivered (16 mos.)

Total Education \$985,000

Employment

Jane Addams Resource Corporation
Chicago, Illinois \$150,000

To work with six other job training and placement programs to develop and test new approaches for helping inexperienced job seekers develop non-technical skills necessary to succeed in the workplace (2 yrs.)

Business Education/Training Alliance
Detroit, Michigan \$195,200

To develop and test the Job Ladder project, an effort to help workers in low-wage, entry-level jobs move into higher-wage jobs (2 yrs.)

Indiana Coalition on Housing
and Homeless Issues, Inc.

Indianapolis, Indiana \$120,000

To monitor and analyze the implementation of state policies related to welfare reform and workforce development (2 yrs.)

The University of Chicago,
Chapin Hall Center for Children
Chicago, Illinois \$100,039

To analyze the effects of welfare-to-work programs in Illinois (1 yr.)

Total Employment \$565,239

Environment

Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chicago, Illinois \$410,000

To work on regional transportation and air quality policy, linking environmental improvements to new economic opportunities for the region (28 mos.)

Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chicago, Illinois \$235,118

To study what economic incentives and systems might stimulate consumers and various organizations to reduce the air pollution their energy demands create (16 mos.)

**Citizens Action Coalition
Education Fund, Inc.**
Indianapolis, Indiana \$100,000
To advocate for environmental protections in electricity production, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable sources of energy (20 mos.)

Council of Michigan Foundations
Grand Haven, Michigan \$125,000
To help Great Lakes community foundations develop funding and leadership to support environmental activities (2 yrs.)

**Earth Appeal—The Environment
Fund for Ontario**
Toronto, Ontario, Canada \$60,000
To implement and evaluate workplace giving campaigns for environmental groups in Toronto (2 yrs.)

Environmental Support Center, Inc.
Washington, D.C. \$30,000
To strengthen state environmental councils in the Midwest Great Lakes region (2 yrs.)

**Institute for Agriculture
and Trade Policy**
Minneapolis, Minnesota \$175,000
To test its system to measure reductions in pesticide use and to identify ways farmers can benefit economically by reducing their chemical use (20 mos.)

**Natural Resources Defense
Council, Inc.**
New York, New York \$200,000
To work with other environmental groups on the implementation of a federal law that would protect human and environmental health from toxic chemicals used in agriculture (1 yr.)

Ohio Environmental Council
Columbus, Ohio \$122,416
For activities designed to reduce toxic chemical discharges into the Lake Erie basin (16 mos.)

Union of Concerned Scientists
Cambridge, Massachusetts \$166,667
For work in the Midwest to encourage the creation of a market for electricity produced from renewable sources (20 mos.)

**The University of
Maryland Foundation**
College Park, Maryland \$150,000
To bring together state environment policymakers to develop better ways of identifying polluting activity and to improve methods for measuring and communicating environmental quality (2 yrs.)

**West Michigan Environmental Action
Council Educational Foundation**
Grand Rapids, Michigan \$58,000
To support its work with businesses in the Grand Rapids area that are working together to make the region more environmentally, economically, and socially healthy (1 yr.)

World Wildlife Fund, Inc.
Washington, D.C. \$200,000
For work to protect Great Lakes water quality particularly from chemicals that mimic or interfere with hormones (2 yrs.)

Total Environment \$2,032,201

Gun Violence

**Boston University,
School of Public Health**
Boston, Massachusetts \$160,000
For expansion of the Join Together Online Gun Violence web site (19 mos.)

Cease Fire, Inc.
Washington, D.C. \$100,000
To evaluate the efficacy of a public service announcement campaign designed to raise awareness about gun violence and its prevention (1 yr.)

**Harvard University,
School of Public Health**
Boston, Massachusetts \$600,000
For work on the development of a national firearm injury reporting system (3 yrs.)

HELP for Survivors
Chicago, Illinois \$180,476
To educate policymakers, the media, and the public about the effects of gun violence through the stories of survivors (20 mos.)

Johns Hopkins University,
School of Hygiene and Public Health
Baltimore, Maryland \$819,476
General support for the Center for Gun Policy
and Research (28 mos.)

Medical College of Wisconsin,
Department of Emergency Medicine
Milwaukee, Wisconsin \$95,912
To expand its eight-county firearm injury
reporting system to a statewide system (1 yr.)

Michigan Partnership to
Prevent Gun Violence
East Lansing, Michigan \$345,000
To expand its work in conducting survey
research and promoting state policies designed
to reduce gun violence (32 mos.)

National Opinion Research Center
Chicago, Illinois \$183,038
For the fourth annual survey of public attitudes
on gun policy issues (1 yr.)

Total Gun Violence \$2,483,902

Money and Politics

The Brookings Institution
Washington, D.C. \$176,000
To update and expand its sourcebook of
primary and secondary campaign finance
reform documents and to publish it in
both electronic and print forms (2 yrs.)

Protestants for the Common Good
Chicago, Illinois \$174,734
To educate the Illinois religious community
about campaign finance reform issues and to
mobilize support among church activists on
behalf of needed reforms (2 yrs.)

Total Money and Politics \$350,734

Culture

Black Ensemble Theater Corporation
Chicago, Illinois \$70,000
To increase the audience and build
the financial stability of African-American
theater company (2 yrs.)

Chicago Sinfonietta, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois \$80,000
To continue to increase the audience
and improve the organizational strength
of this multi-ethnic classical music
organization (16 mos.)

Chicago Theatre Company
Chicago, Illinois \$35,000
To support financial planning, board
development and other organizational issues,
as laid out in the strategic plan of
African-American theater company (1 yr.)

Muntu Dance Theatre
Chicago, Illinois \$87,000
To support space planning and financial
and board development to raise the profile and
increase the stability of group specializing
in traditional and contemporary African
dance (16 mos.)

Parkways Foundation
Chicago, Illinois \$50,000
Continued support to link downtown
museums with new audiences by providing
neighborhood-based programs in nine Park
District buildings throughout Chicago (1 yr.)

Total Culture \$322,000

Special Opportunities

Alliance for Justice
Washington, D.C. \$150,000
Support for its Nonprofit Advocacy Project,
an initiative designed to increase the capacity
of nonprofit organizations to participate more
fully in the policymaking process (2 yrs.)

Total Special Opportunities
\$150,000

**Total Grants Approved
\$6,889,076**

Gun Violence

The **Handgun Epidemic Lowering Plan (HELP) Network** offers state-by-state information on firearm deaths, state purchasing laws, lawmakers' voting records on gun legislation, and local gun violence prevention groups in "Firearm Injury Prevention State Status Reports." 773.880.8170; www.childmmc.edu/help/helphome.htm

The **American Medical Association** is distributing a new "Physician Firearm Safety Guide" to doctors around the country. The booklet offers basic information on guns, details the impact of gun violence on the nation's health, and discusses how counseling by physicians can help reduce the toll. 312.464.5066; www.ama-assn.org

Environment

Physicians for Social Responsibility reports that asthma is now the leading cause of illness among children and is exacerbated by poor air quality. The group's "Children's Environmental Health 1998 Report Card" assesses the merits of legislation and programs to protect children from pollution and gun violence. 202.898.0150; www.psr.org

The **American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy** publishes a resource for states dealing with the environmental impacts of electricity production. "Approaching the Kyoto Targets" examines major policy initiatives to promote energy efficiency, reduce pollution, and save consumers and businesses money. 202.429.8873; www.aceee.org

The **World Wildlife Fund** has added a new toxic chemicals page to its main web site. The page features information on recent scientific discoveries, global policy work on long-lasting pollutants, strategies for reducing high-risk pesticides in agriculture, and an action kit for reducing use of and exposure to toxic chemicals. www.worldwildlife.org/toxics

Money and Politics

The **Center for Governmental Studies** documents the dramatic expansion in the use of computers and the Internet for reporting campaign contributions and expenditures. "Campaign Money on the Information Highway" tells how to access records available to the press and public. 310.470.6590

The **National Voting Rights Institute** and the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico released poll results in November showing that 87 percent of the city's voters favor spending limits on local political campaigns. Albuquerque has had such limits since 1974. Nearly three-fourths of those polled believe local elections are "basically fair," while only 36 percent say the same about national elections. The poll is part of a campaign by the Institute and others to get the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider its 1976 decision that spending limits in national elections are a violation of free speech. 617.368.9100

Joyce Website Goes Online The Joyce Foundation is now online at www.joycefdn.org. Check out the site for information on programs, grants, Foundation-supported initiatives, and updates on important work by grantees. Visitors can also download program guidelines, plus back issues of this and other Joyce publications.



Anthony Earl Joins Foundation Board The Joyce Foundation has elected former Wisconsin Governor Anthony Earl to its board of directors. A partner in the Madison law firm Quarles & Brady since 1987, Mr. Earl was Wisconsin's Democratic governor from 1983-86. Prior to that he was secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources and a member of the legislature. A longtime environmentalist, as governor Mr. Earl won passage of major legislation on clean air and groundwater. He is board chairman of the Center for Clean Air Policy and a board member of the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Mr. Earl joined the Joyce board in November.



New Program Officer in Gun Violence Roseanna Ander joined the Joyce Foundation in November as program officer for the Gun Violence program. Roseanna came to the Foundation from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, where she worked to implement the nation's first child safety gun regulations. A 1997 Soros Justice Fellow, she previously worked at the Harvard Injury Control Center and the Harvard Center for Children's Health. She graduated *cum laude* from Boston University and holds a masters degree from the Harvard School of Public Health. She will be responsible for \$3 million in annual grantmaking on gun violence.

New Guidelines Program guidelines for 1999 are now available. They are posted at www.joycefdn.org/guidelines/guidefs.html, or can be ordered by writing or calling the Foundation. The Foundation accepts grant inquiries throughout the year.

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