“Grassroots Grantmakers is one of the leading organizations that has embraced and advocated for participatory grantmaking as an essential component of philanthropic practice.”
-Dr. Cynthia Gibson

Who Is Grassroots Grantmakers?
Grassroots Grantmakers is a national membership organization that values and leverages resident and civic engagement as a catalyst for creating and driving sustainable community improvement strategies. We are place-based funders, advocacy organizations, community organizers, and residents.

Grassroots Grantmakers provides education and engagement opportunities for our members to improve and maximize community investment strategies, while also developing and promoting effective grassroots leadership and organizing strategies.

Our On The Ground anti-conference — coming up July 16-18, 2019 — is the only philanthropic anti-conference that provides grantmaking practitioners the opportunity to be immersed within a community and get feedback directly from residents.

“The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens.”
- Alexis de Tocqueville

The legacy of Grassroots Grantmakers began over 30 years ago as an outgrowth of the Charles Steward Mott Foundation’s Community Foundation and Neighborhood Small Grants Program. This initiative, operated from 1984 through 1994, linked low-income neighborhoods with community foundations. These partnerships worked to develop resident leaders, build informal alliances, and launch inclusive, small-neighborhood grant programs. Those efforts aimed to engage and empower residents and improve their quality of life and their communities.

This initiative also challenged philanthropic institutions to develop new strategies, tools, resources and skills to identify and support nontraditional community partners to effectively bring about community change.
Ford Foundation’s report “Participatory Grantmaking: Has Its Time Come?” identifies Grassroots Grantmakers as the only philanthropic network in North America that involves nongrantmakers as members.

In the 20 years following the Mott Foundation’s $6.4 million-dollar investment, founding members continued to self-organize, share knowledge, develop community-based partnerships, and expand their professional networks to help encourage the philosophy and practice of what eventually became known as Grassroots Grantmakers.

Today, the goals of Grassroots Grantmakers have remained relatively unchanged. But they are even more critical to philanthropy, particularly place-based funders, as our communities are increasingly more diverse and the field of philanthropy has shifted to being more inclusive in its policies and practices.

“From the American Revolution, abolition of slavery, women’s suffrage, the civil rights movement, and Ban the Box, to the DREAMers movement, significant social change has resulted from voluntary associations, grassroots organizing and resident-led movements.”
– Roderick D.S. Wheeler, Executive Director, Grassroots Grantmakers

**Our Members**

Grassroots Grantmakers’ members include more than 200 philanthropic institutions, grassroots organizations and resident leaders from the United States and Canada.

To become a member, please visit www.grassrootsgrantmakers.org

**What Makes Us Different**

- **We focus on assets, not needs.** Grassroots Grantmakers believes that communities are built by focusing on the unique gifts, talents and skills of residents, and not by highlighting the deficits of a community.

- **We include residents in everything we do.** Grassroots Grantmakers is the only philanthropic-serving organization that involves residents.

- **We seek to build community.** Grassroots Grantmakers believes in building community and neighborhood connections while also investing in service delivery within communities.

- **We empower residents.** By building trusting community relationships and developing resident leadership capacity, Grassroots Grantmakers believes in empowering resident voices and supporting grassroots initiatives as an effective strategy to bring about positive community change.

- **We believe that neighborhoods and communities matter.** Grassroots Grantmakers believes that investing in neighborhoods and small communities is an effective and critical philanthropic strategy that place-based funders should embrace.
“Grassroots Grantmakers has always provided a safe space not only for those who desire to be institutional changemakers within their respective organizations, but also social changemakers within the communities where they live and serve.”
- Janis Richardson, Grassroots Grantmakers Executive Director Emeritus

On The Ground Anti-conference — July 2019

Grassroots Grantmakers’ On The Ground is different from many traditional anti-conferences. On The Ground is a learning-exchange anti-conference that takes place in neighborhoods and is co-led by residents and grantmakers. The event provides community stakeholders with enriching learning and networking experiences. Participants focus on advancing personal and professional goals in transforming community philanthropy and supporting community-based grassroots strategies.

New for On The Ground Indianapolis

The 2019 anti-conference, set for July 16-18 in downtown Indianapolis, will feature:

Multiple “learning journeys” and extended site visits in various neighborhoods.
The launch of Grassroots Grantmakers Institute.
A series of workshops that demonstrate the core principles of neighborhood-based small-grant programs and resident empowerment strategies.
The return of the “marketplace,” an on-demand exchange of knowledge and ideas based on the passions and interests of anti-conference participants.
Other unique professional development and social engagement opportunities.

Don’t miss this amazing convening of grantmakers, grassroots organizations, and resident leaders. We will celebrate the unique gifts, talents and passions of each participant, to develop effective community change strategies. Grassroots Grantmakers members receive a 40-percent discount on the anti-conference registration fee.

REGISTER TODAY
www.grassrootsgrantmakers.org

BROADWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
609 E. 29TH STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46205

Our host and partner for the 2019 On The Ground anti-conference will be Broadway United Methodist Church, an institution with a rich history of using asset-based approaches to empower residents, invest in communities, and champion social justices causes.
Broadway United Methodist Church abandoned traditional practices of faith-based charity as a way of addressing poverty experienced by residents in surrounding neighborhoods. Rather, Broadway United Methodist Church made a concerted effort to transform its practices to positively impact the community by adopting principals of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD). ABCD approaches are committed to:

Discovering gifts, talents, passions and skills of neighborhood residents.  
Asking residents what they are passionate about and are willing to contribute to their community.  
Connecting residents to promote collective action and the sharing of talents to solve community problems from within.

The Rev. Michael Mather is pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church and a faculty member of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute at DePaul University. In his new book, “Having Nothing, Possessing Everything — Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places,” he “tells powerful, life-changing stories about seeing abundance where no one expects it and finding treasures in people and neighborhoods that most of us typically dismiss out of hand.”

Register for On The Ground by May 1, 2019 and receive a copy of Mather’s new book. You’ll also receive a special invitation to discuss with Mather how to shift an asset-based approach incorporating resident leadership.

About Indianapolis
When "USA Today" readers ranked their top 10 convention cities, Indianapolis came in at Number 1. With a reputation for top-notch service known as "Hoosier Hospitality," Indy also ranks as:

- One of America’s Favorite Places with “Travel + Leisure” readers.
- One of the top two cities in Airbnb’s list of hottest destinations around the world.
- The most walkable city in America.
- One of the top 10 places for families to visit.
- One of the best cities for dining destinations.
If you haven’t visited Indy before — or even if it’s been a while — you’ll be surprised by the growth the city is experiencing and everything the downtown area offers. Grassroots Grantmakers will provide alternatives embedded within neighborhoods to experience neighborhood-based growth and residents’ favorite places to visit.

We look forward to seeing you On The Ground in Indianapolis July 16-18

**ON THE GROUND REGISTRATION**

Member Rate: $350 (40% savings)
Nonmember Rate: $600

Remember: Register by May 1, 2019, to receive a free copy of the Rev. Michael Mather’s book “Having Nothing, Possessing Everything — Finding Abundant Communities in Unexpected Places” and discussion time with Mather.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
To learn more, visit www.grassrootsgrantmakers.org.