

Director of Community Innovation

As Director of Community Innovation, you'll work alongside leaders across sectors on important community priorities. You'll facilitate cross-sector planning and conversations, help shape strategies, bring together resources and investment, and lead the Foundation's work to explore and test new approaches to persistent challenges.

Housing is an immediate priority, with significant collaborative work underway to increase supply. The Foundation is also testing new approaches to rural housing, including alternative construction technologies, development models, financing strategies, and partnerships.

You'll join a team that cares deeply about this community, brings different perspectives to the table, asks hard questions, and turns ideas into action.

The Difference You'll Make

This is a role with unusual range. You'll help turn shared priorities into progress—bringing people and perspectives together, facilitating meaningful discussions, assembling the resources and financing needed to make new possibilities viable, and helping promising strategies and innovations move from ideas into action.

The work is varied, complex, and highly collaborative. The opportunity to make a meaningful difference is real.

What You'll Do

- Design and facilitate cross-sector planning, strategy sessions, and discussions that bring different perspectives together and turn ideas into actionable plans.
- Support collaborative plans with clear strategies, milestones, resources, and measures of success.
- Develop financing strategies and work with public, private, philanthropic, development, and financing partners to improve feasibility, leverage resources, unlock investment, and ensure appropriate accountability and compliance.
- Support major community priorities, currently including collaborative housing strategies focused on increasing supply.
- Lead the Foundation's innovation portfolio, including initiatives, pilots, and partnerships that test new approaches, technologies, financing models, and ways of working.
- Bring together the technical, financial, research, development, funding, and community expertise needed for complex initiatives.
- Guide community-focused grant development and lead significant Community Foundation initiatives from strategy through implementation.
- Measure and communicate the community, economic, and financial return created through investment and action.
- Represent the Community Foundation externally and supervise, develop, and empower the Community Innovation team.

This Could Be a Great Fit If...

- Complex challenges energize you. You see possibilities, make connections, and are curious about new ideas, technologies, financing models, and what could work.
- You're a gifted facilitator - someone who listens closely, asks great questions, draws out different perspectives, and helps people find a productive way forward toward the shared goals.
- You think strategically and act. You're as willing to dig into the details as you are to shape the bigger picture.
- You like figuring out how to make important ideas possible.
- You build trust with different constituents and lead with integrity.
- You want to be part of a team that takes on meaningful work, thinks differently, and turns ambition into results.

Your experience doesn't need to follow a particular path. Curiosity, strong thinking, the ability to work well with people, and a track record of getting meaningful work done matter here.

What You Bring

- Five or more years of experience leading complex work, bringing people together, solving problems, and moving ideas into action. Your experience may come from community development, finance, business, government, consulting, philanthropy, innovation, project management, systems design, strategic planning, or another relevant field.
- Experience leading, supervising, and developing others.
- Demonstrated ability to move strategy into coordinated action and measurable results.
- Strong facilitation, relationship-building, analytical, and problem-solving skills.
- Strong written, verbal, visual, and presentation skills, including the ability to synthesize complex information into clear actions, visuals, and compelling stories.
- Strong organizational, project-management, and technology skills, with the ability to manage multiple priorities and deadlines.
- Adaptability, curiosity, and a commitment to continuous learning.

Tools You'll Use

Microsoft Suite | Asana Project Management | Mapping/Data Platforms | Canva/Adobe Creative Suite

Location and Travel

Based in Muscatine County, local residency required; occasional travel.

Compensation and Classification

Classification: Full-time, exempt

Reports to: President

Supervises: Assigned Community Innovation team

Compensation: Competitive and commensurate with experience, with benefits included

Additional Information

Attendance, punctuality, professional appearance, and professional conduct are required. The successful candidate must consistently demonstrate confidentiality, honesty, and integrity. Candidates may undergo skills verification through TEMP Associates.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine follows an equal opportunity employment policy and employs personnel without regard to race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, pregnancy, veteran status, military obligations, and marital status. This policy applies to hiring, internal promotions, training, opportunities for advancement, and terminations.