

LIVING CITIES

WHO IS LIVING CITIES?

Living Cities is the Action Engine for Equitable Cities.

Living Cities advances economic equity city by city through initiatives that change lives and futures. Inclusive economies are more resilient, productive, and sustainable over time.

As a member collaborative of leading philanthropic foundations and financial institutions, Living Cities works to ensure the U.S. economy becomes more inclusive so more people can participate and thrive.

We focus on business ownership, homeownership, impact investment, and narrative change to remove barriers and expand economic opportunity.

WHY LIVING CITIES EXISTS

No single institution can shift economic systems alone.

Living Cities reduces fragmentation across philanthropy, finance, and civic leadership by aligning capital, policy insight, and narrative strategy into a shared operating model.

Membership is active participation in a national platform that mitigates risk, accelerates learning, and moves solutions from pilot to scale.

In a moment of constrained public resources and rising accountability, collaborative capital is infrastructure. Living Cities provides that infrastructure.

WHAT WE DO

- **Diagnose** structural barriers to economic opportunity
- **Convene** cross-sector leaders to co-design solutions
- **Align** capital to support implementation
- **Scale** solutions into lasting systems change

HOW LIVING CITIES WORKS

Living Cities advances a replicable model where aligned capital and local leadership strengthen communities, drive growth, and deliver fiscal benefits - scaling what works from one place to others.

IN PRACTICE

Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Business ownership among Black and Native/Indigenous residents remained below 2%.
- Living Cities partnered with the City to co-design an entrepreneurship ecosystem intervention through the Ujima training program. This work contributed to a change in state law, removing licensing barriers that kept many entrepreneurs from starting and growing registered businesses, expanding access to investment and wealth-building opportunities.

Blended Catalyst Fund

- Perceived risk limited investment in inclusive strategies.
- Living Cities aggregated philanthropic and private capital into a single vehicle.
- \$25 million leveraged into nearly \$500 million, with full principal repayment ahead of schedule.

IMPACT

- \$500M+ capital mobilized
- Policy change achieved
- Models replicated across cities
- Expanded access to ownership

Living Cities is proving that inclusive economies are measurable, investable, and scalable.