



The Arthur
Vining Davis
Foundations

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Investing in Our Common Future



Michael J. Murray, Ph.D.

President's Letter

Dear Friends and Partners of AVDF,

I am often asked: how do the various funding areas that AVDF supports hang together? What is the common thread? The answer to that question can be found in our tagline: “Investing in Our Common Future.” Since its founding, AVDF has supported what I describe as “pillars” of American culture which, when healthy, strengthen our democracy. These pillars include: Education, Healthcare, Spiritual Communities, and the Environment. Sustaining or strengthening these pillars is vital to our well-being individually, and collectively.

Over time, our investments in these pillars have shifted in emphasis. Here are two examples: Our investments in healthcare are currently devoted to **palliative care**. Prior to that, our funding supported health professionals to develop more compassionate modes of patient engagement. Our work related to spiritual communities currently focuses on **interfaith leadership and religious literacy**. Before that, it had focused on theological education. Approximately every five years, the Boards at AVDF pause to review our investments in these pillars and ask whether we should continue with our current emphasis, or pivot to a more strategic opportunity.

In recent years we have been supporting three streams of work within three different Program Areas which collectively aim to promote a healthier pluralistic society, to decrease polarization across lines of difference, and to promote constructive collaboration and engagement.

The first area of work is within our **Public Educational Media** portfolio where we have created a vertical of funding that supports local journalism. Local journalism is vital for citizens to be able to understand their community and to hold their leaders accountable. It also, unlike much national journalism, can bring people together. Rather than foregrounding national party differences, local journalism invites citizens to consider how they can steward the assets they hold in common: schools, roads, parks, housing, etc. These are the main topics addressed by local journalists and they represent the common interests of all residents of these local communities. AVDF is specifically investing in helping to grow and strengthen local reporting by local public stations. These stations blanket the nation, have a robust stream of federal financing, and have widespread local support through station members. Public stations have infrastructure and financial resources to fill gaps in local journalism which are large and growing.

The second area of work grows out our **Interfaith Leadership and Religious Literacy Program Area**. This stream of funding seeks to leverage the findings of intergroup contact theory which show that bringing people together across lines of identity difference, when done in the right way, can reduce tensions and build positive alliances. Towards this end, to give one example, AVDF is funding campus student religious groups with microgrants that support engagement between two or more religious groups. Grants to Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish, and Hindu groups are active and Muslim led projects are in development. These projects are underway on hundreds of campuses reaching thousands of students each year. And we have seen that in cases where these activities are underway, campuses have been better equipped to navigate the friction between religious groups that has emerged on other campuses in the wake of hostilities in the Middle East.

The third area of work is supported by our **Private Higher Education Program Area**. This stream of work supports skill building for students and faculty and helps create campus norms related to civil discourse. A growing body of evidence over the last decade has made it clear that students and faculty lack critical skills when it comes to engaging each other productively across lines of difference. With AVDF funding, institutions have been able to tap into powerful evidence-based resources to help build these skills and strengthen these norms. These efforts have also been critically important on campuses, many of which are torn apart, especially as students wrestle with the current war between Israel and Hamas.

Through investments of these sorts, AVDF aims to create, sustain, and strengthen the conditions that allow individuals to thrive and democracy to flourish. In doing so, we are **INVESTING IN OUR COMMON FUTURE**.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murray, President

2023 GRANTMAKING

DURING 2023, the the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations paid \$12.1 million in grants and approved \$8.9 million in new grants, with a total of 52 new program grants. Non-program grants totaling \$342,000 were awarded to 77 nonprofits for general support. Funding was awarded across 28 states with New York, California, and Virginia receiving a larger amount of funding than other states.

\$12.1 Million
IN PAID GRANTS

52
NEW PROGRAM GRANTS

\$324,000
NON-PROGRAM GRANTS

\$8.9 Million
IN APPROVED GRANTS

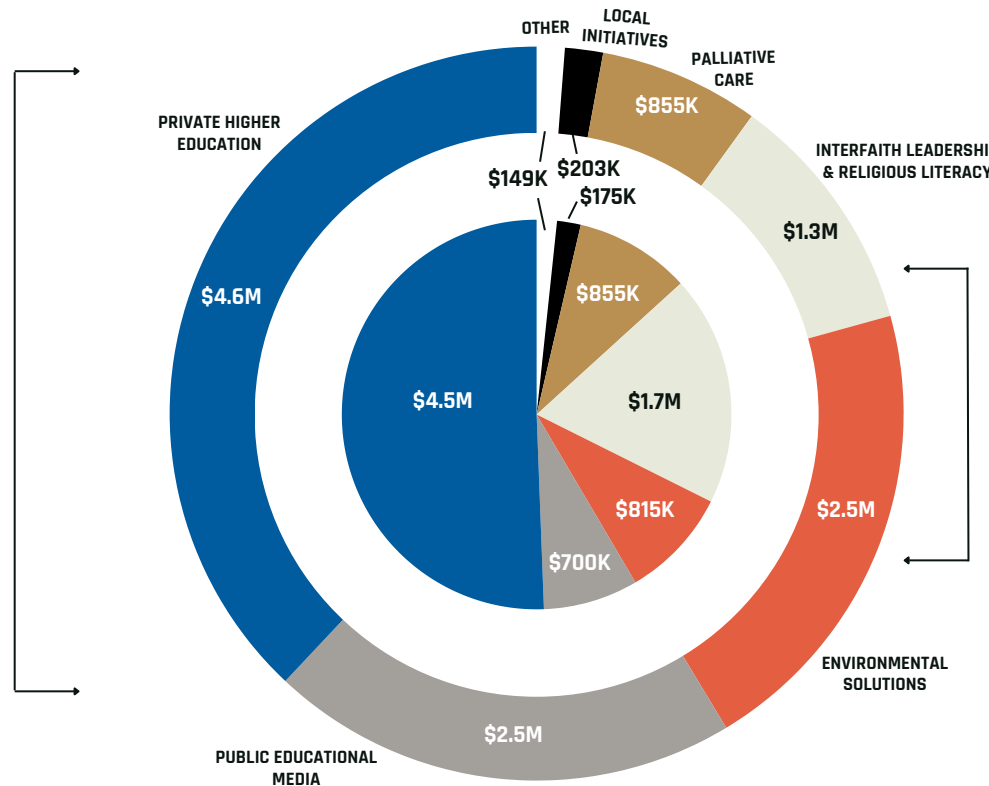
28
STATES RECEIVED GRANTS

2023 Paid Grants by Program Area

- Private Higher Education - \$4.6 Million
- Public Educational Media - \$2.5 Million
- Environmental Solutions - \$2.5 Million
- Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy - \$1.3 Million
- Palliative Care - \$855,000
- Local Initiatives - \$203,000
- Other - \$149,000

2023 Approved Grants by Program Areas

- \$4.5 Million - Private Higher Education
- \$700,000 - Public Educational Media
- \$815,000 - Environmental Solutions
- \$1.7 Million - Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy
- \$855,000 - Palliative Care
- \$175,000 - Local Initiatives
- \$149,000 - Other



2023 GRANT CYCLE

THE 2023 GRANT CYCLE yielded a total of 287 Letters of Inquiry (LOIs) with a total requested amount of \$67.4 million. Of the total number of LOIs, 48 percent was for Private Higher Education and 52 percent was for Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy. LOIs invited to submit a Full Proposal totaled \$3.2 million for Higher Education and \$1.7 million for Interfaith. Proposals were also invited from designated partners in Public Educational Media totaling \$707,000, Environmental Solutions totaling \$750,000, and Palliative Care totaling \$850,000.

287
LETTERS OF INQUIRY

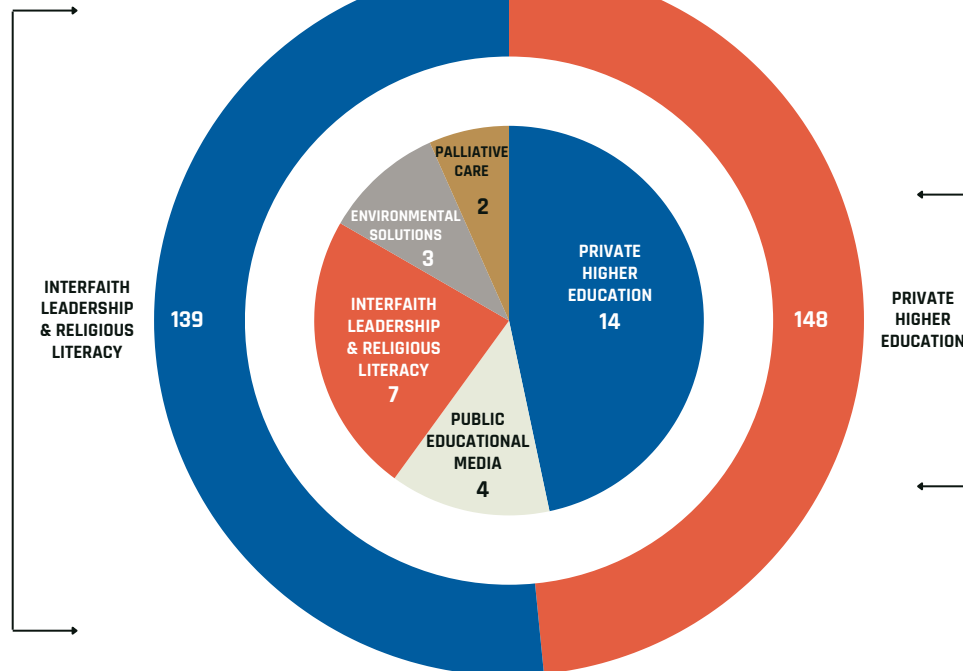
\$67.4 Million
REQUESTED

48%
PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION

52%
INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP
& RELIGIOUS LITERACY

2023 Letters of Inquiry Received by Program Area

- **Private Higher Education**
139 LOIs
\$36.7 MILLION
- **Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy**
148 LOIs
\$30.7 MILLION



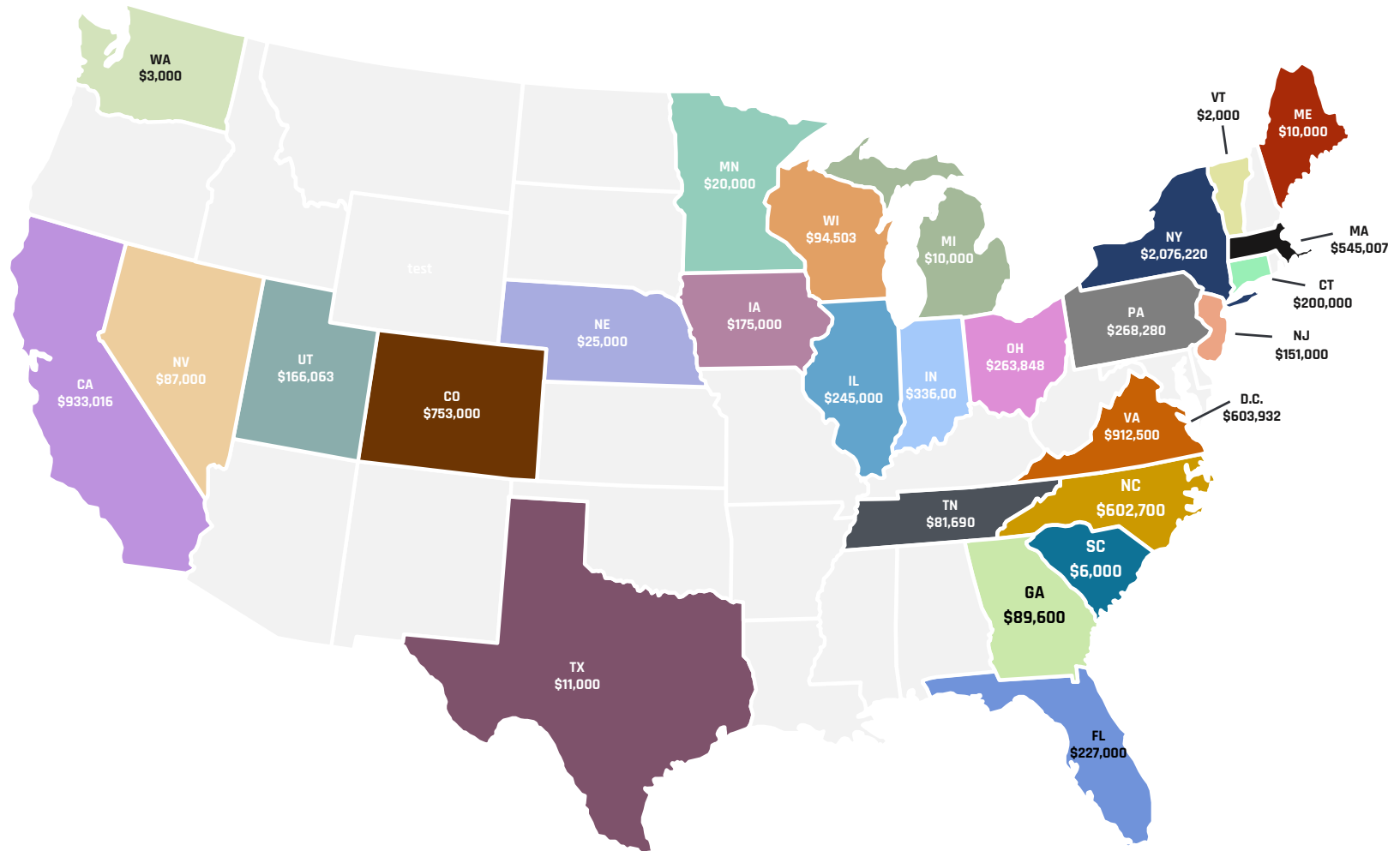
2023 Invited Proposals by Program Areas

- **Private Higher Education**
14 FULL PROPOSALS / \$3.2 MILLION
- **Public Educational Media**
4 FULL PROPOSALS / \$707,000
- **Interfaith Leadership & Religious Literacy**
7 FULL PROPOSALS / \$1.7 MILLION
- **Environmental Solutions**
3 FULL PROPOSALS / \$750,000
- **Palliative Care**
2 FULL PROPOSALS / \$850,000

2023 GRANT DISTRIBUTION

2023 Geographical Distribution of New Grants

- New York – \$2,076,220
- California – \$933,016
- Virginia – \$912,500
- Colorado – \$753,000
- District of Columbia – \$603,932
- North Carolina – \$602,700
- Massachusetts – \$545,007
- Indiana – \$336,000
- Pennsylvania – \$268,280
- Ohio – \$263,848
- Illinois – \$245,000
- Florida – \$227,000
- Connecticut – \$200,000
- Iowa – \$175,000
- Utah – \$166,063
- New Jersey – \$151,000
- Wisconsin – \$94,503
- Georgia – \$89,600
- Nevada – \$87,000
- Tennessee – \$81,690
- Nebraska – \$25,000
- Minnesota – \$20,000
- Texas – \$11,000
- Maine – \$10,000
- Michigan – \$10,000
- South Carolina – \$6,000
- Washington – \$3,000
- Vermont – \$2,000



2023 FINANCIALS

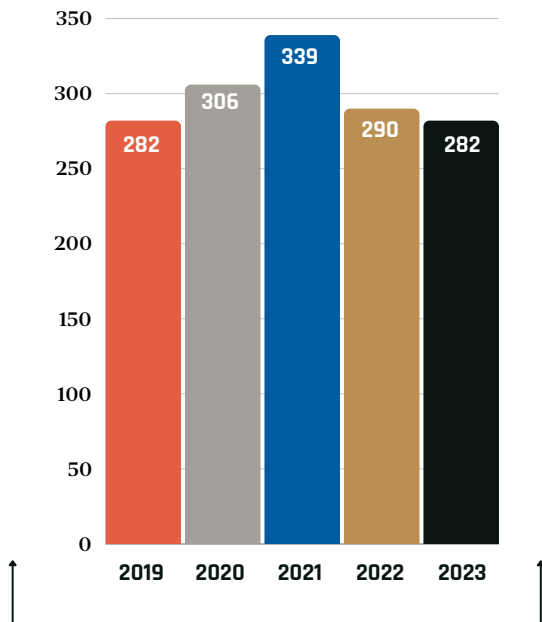
IN 2023, AVDF's endowments decreased to an average of \$282 million due to global market conditions. Nonetheless, with a higher prior-year endowment, AVDF enjoyed its second highest level of grants paid at \$12.1 million.



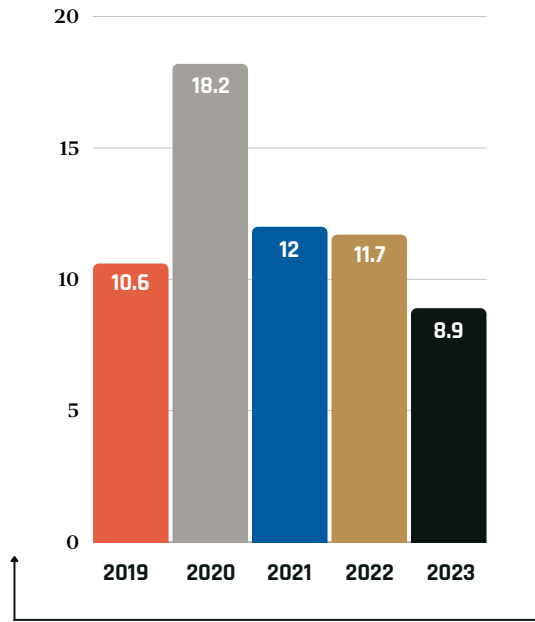
\$282 Million
TOTAL ASSETS

\$8.9 Million
IN APPROVED GRANTS

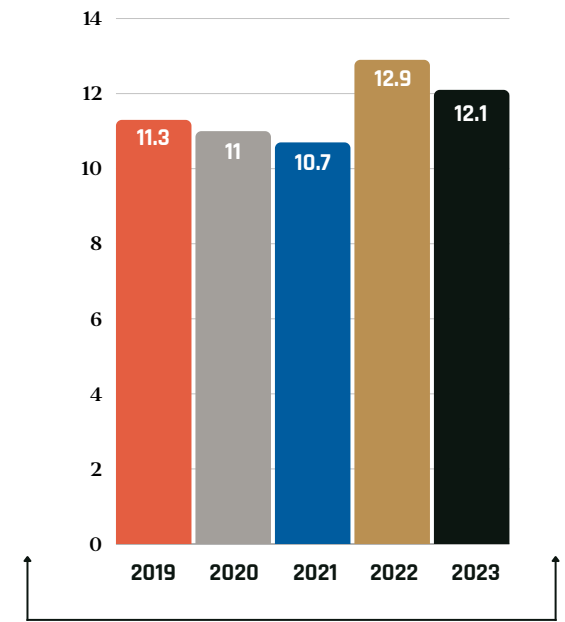
\$12.1 Million
IN GRANTS PAID



Total Assets
in Millions



Grants Approved
in Millions



Grants Paid
in Millions



Investing in Our Common Future



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