



a society more humane –
a world more livable

Contact Richard Simon
973/540-8442 extension 102
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**LEADERSHIP TRANSITION ON THE HORIZON
AT THE GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION**
President & CEO David Grant to Step Down in June 2010

Morristown, New Jersey
Tuesday, June 9, 2009

The President & Chief Executive Officer of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, David Grant, announced today that he will be stepping down from that position within the next year, but no later than June of 2010.

In a letter to Foundation grantees and other foundation leaders, Mr. Grant affirmed, “I have loved being at Dodge -- and continue to love being at Dodge. I am blessed with outstanding colleagues on the staff and Board, and my life is immeasurably enriched through knowing so many of you, and the work you do, personally. But by the summer of 2010, I will have been in this job for almost twelve years. I would like to take on some new challenges and want to set a date when I will be available to consider them.”

Grant assumed the executive leadership of the Dodge Foundation in the fall of 1998. The Foundation, which was established in 1974 through the foresight and generosity of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, has grown, under Grant’s leadership, to be one of New Jersey’s most influential private foundations. Its mission, “to support and encourage those educational, cultural, social, and environmental values that contribute to making society more humane and our world more livable,” has been put into action through focused grantmaking throughout the state of New Jersey in the areas of the Arts, Education, and the Environment, as well as the Dodge Poetry Program, and local initiatives in Morristown, where the Foundation’s offices are located.

During Grant’s tenure, the Dodge Foundation has significantly expanded its impact on the non-profit field in New Jersey. In addition to making over \$200 million in direct grants, the Foundation has been acclaimed for the extensive technical assistance and

capacity building programs offered to their grantees. Chief among these has been Grant's signature Assessment Initiative, which provides non-profits with tools to measure what matters most in their work and plan backwards from what success will look. This workshop series and follow-up online training opportunities have benefited scores of grantee organizations, their staffs and their boards.

"The New Jersey arts and non-profit community was given a gift of a teacher, philanthropist, partner and advocate when David Grant came to the Dodge Foundation," said John McEwen, Executive Director of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, a long-time grantee of the Foundation. "He has challenged us to think differently by introducing concepts of assessment and sustainability that provided tools to help us be more strategic in service of our missions. As a result, an entire learning community has been born in this state."

Grant's impact on the philanthropic community in New Jersey has also been notable, having served on the Board of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers for six years, as its Chair for two years, and as the driving force behind "New Jersey Together," an effort to have the state's philanthropic organizations work collaboratively. "David is a force of nurture," stated Nina Stack, President of the Council. "He has brought such a vision to the role of philanthropy in our state, and we have been so fortunate to benefit from his enthusiasm, encouragement, and deep involvement."

In December 2008, the Dodge Foundation moved into their new LEED-certified, "green" offices at 14 Maple Avenue in Morristown. Built by the Morristown Parking Authority, and housing a half dozen non-profit organizations, the building brings to fruition a vision that Grant first had back in 2001 to design office space that would reflect the Dodge Foundation's values. "The decisions we make today about how we live and the resources we use impact what tomorrow's world will look like," Grant stated. "The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has always been committed to keeping citizens focused on preserving our natural resources and growing in a sustainable way. The new building beautifully reflects that commitment."

On accepting Grant's decision to leave, Robert LeBuhn, Chairman of the Board of the Dodge Foundation, commented, "We do this with a mixture of apprehension and sadness for ourselves and joy for David as he contemplates a next chapter in his personal and professional life. We are very grateful that Dodge, and the non-profit world of New Jersey

and beyond, have benefited from David's leadership, intellect, energy, and grace since 1998. David has assembled a program staff of experts in their fields who work together with him as one team to advance Dodge's mission, and the Board has been very proud of their accomplishments."

At its June 5th meeting, the Dodge Board defined a search process and the Foundation will engage a search firm by the end of the summer. The search consultants will interview a number of Dodge grantees and community leaders before publishing details about the position in the fall.

Grant plans to return to Vermont, where he lived for sixteen years before accepting the position at Dodge. He hopes to find "a new organizational or academic home from which I can teach, write and speak about the social and educational issues I care most about."

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