



Laurie M Tisch
ILLUMINATION FUND

FIRING IMAGINATION | SPARKING OPPORTUNITY | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Who We Are

“The Illumination Fund reflects my strong belief in the importance of expanding access and opportunity for all New Yorkers by supporting cross-cutting initiatives in areas from education and the arts, to healthy food and economic development and beyond.”

LAURIE M. TISCH, PRESIDENT, LAURIE M. TISCH ILLUMINATION FUND



The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund is a New York City-based foundation that strives to improve access and opportunity for all New Yorkers. Founded in 2007 by philanthropist Laurie M. Tisch, the Illumination Fund plays an active role in supporting innovative approaches to education, the arts, healthy food and civic service in order to illuminate strategies that transform our urban landscape. Ms. Tisch's fundamental belief is that circumstances of birth should not limit life's opportunities.

The mission of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund is to improve access and opportunity for all New Yorkers.

The vision for the foundation is characterized by the word *illumination* – a metaphor for the ways in which the foundation targets philanthropic investments that inspire new ideas and fresh approaches to improve access and opportunity in New York City.

OUR APPROACH

The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund plays an engaged and active role in supporting organizations and leaders who have a positive impact and lasting effect on well-being and community life. While the Illumination Fund does not limit grant making to specific issues or organizations, it consistently champions innovative approaches to **education, the arts, healthy food and service** in order to illuminate strategies that transform our urban landscape.

OUR GRANTS

The Illumination Fund's giving is focused primarily in New York City. Rather than limit its grantmaking to specific issues or organizations, the foundation supports programs that increase access and opportunity across a wide spectrum of fields. **Its program areas are means to achieve impact rather than isolated categories, and many programs cross over traditional boundaries.** For example, its food initiatives include components that advance health, economic development, educational and cultural goals. The Illumination Fund's current grantmaking is focused on the following general areas:

- **Healthy Food:** There are great challenges to accessing healthy foods in many of New York's neighborhoods, and vast disparities in diet-related diseases. The Illumination Fund supports novel strategies to expand availability of healthy foods and promote healthy choices through systemic changes and partnerships with deep-reaching community based institutions.
- **New York City Community:** The Illumination Fund is committed to supporting major cultural institutions and community organizations to increase cultural access and opportunity for New Yorkers. The arts and education play a critical role in forming a quality base for enrichment in New York City through their unique power to inspire minds, stimulate creativity, enhance learning and build quality of life.
- **Service:** Organizations that mobilize individuals toward a shared vision of social change enhance society and strengthen communities. The Illumination Fund supports initiatives that activate the spirit of service and expand the capacity of nonprofits to recruit, manage and retain skilled volunteers.
- **Jewish Life:** The Illumination Fund supports a limited number of projects in the U.S. and in Israel that foster community engagement, constructive expression, cultural exploration and communication.

OUR PARTNERS

The Illumination Fund's grants and impact are made possible by the deeply-rooted relationships it has with dynamic organizations, public sector agencies, businesses and individuals. As the foundation collaborates in multiple ways directly with a partner – learning together and advancing shared goals – it brings organizations together to develop synergies. The experience, knowledge, passion and friendship of these collaborators empowers the Illumination Fund to better support and invest in their ideas.

The Illumination Fund's current partners include **Teachers College, Columbia University, the Aspen Institute and Hunter College, Karp Resources** and the **Children's Museum of Manhattan.**