

This presentation will focus on the value proposition, operation, and impacts of the Foundation for Excellence (FFE), a nonprofit foundation established in 2017 in Kalamazoo. This unique innovation in public-private partnership addresses the systemic challenges to prosperity by harnessing a permanent \$500-million endowment in the City. As the leader of FFE, Steve Brown will discuss FFE's impacts through property tax abatement, aspirational investments, and other initiatives to empower Kalamazoo residents. For more info: <https://www.kalamazooffe.org/Home>

## Foundation for Excellence: Community Vision and Transformative Generosity in Kalamazoo

Mr. Steve Brown  
Executive Director  
Foundation for Excellence (FFE)  
City of Kalamazoo



Steve Brown joined the City of Kalamazoo as a Grant Specialist in 2016. Having played a major role in creating the Foundation for Excellence (FFE), he was promoted to the position of FFE Coordinator in 2018 and Manager in 2020. Since 2022, Steve has served as the Executive Director responsible for the Foundation's operation with a special focus on endowment development, strategic initiatives, and community impact.

Born in Flint and raised in metro Detroit, Steve's background is in the arts and arts administration. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and a Master of Fine Arts from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany, where he met his husband.

Recipient of the International Sculpture Center's 2003 award as a student, he has exhibited his award-winning art throughout the United States and in five other countries. His passions and hobbies include anything active and outdoors, museums, music, and spending time with his family.

**March 2, 2023 from 5 to 6 p.m. Via Webex**

<https://wmich.webex.com/wmich/j.php?MTID=mb37dd6524b370a8325ffaeb3dd1aca5f>