




VISION

The Lemelson Foundation celebrates and supports inventors and entrepreneurs to strengthen social and economic life.

MISSION



The Lemelson Foundation recognizes and celebrates accomplished inventors. We inspire and mentor young people and grassroots inventors and entrepreneurs. We disseminate technologies that improve people's lives and generate entrepreneurial opportunity. And we research and share information that illuminates the value of invention to society.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Power of Invention: Invention, innovation and entrepreneurship are powerful forces that catalyze real and meaningful improvements in people's lives.

Inspiring to Invent: Creativity and inventiveness are found in people the world over; recognizing and nurturing these traits helps the global community flourish.

Starting Early: Inventive and entrepreneurial qualities should be cultivated from an early age to maximize potential.

Bottom-up: Successful programs are intentionally designed to fulfill community-defined priorities and are respectful of local culture and conditions.

Sustainability: Invention and innovation should enhance economic opportunity and community well-being without creating harmful financial, social and environmental consequences or compromising the ability of future generations to live healthy and productive lives.

Idea to Impact: Ideas spring from individuals. Teams of diverse perspectives, disciplines, and talents help maximize their impact.

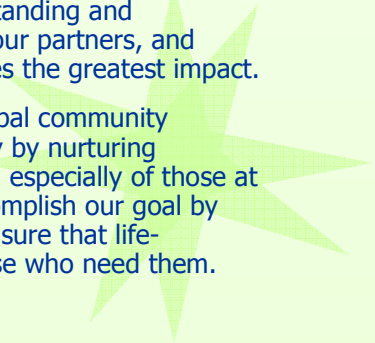


VALUES

Imagination: We believe in the power of ingenuity to improve lives. Our grantmaking in the U.S. and developing countries has taught us the importance of helping people to fulfill their innovative potential.

Integrity: We are committed to integrity in everything we do. This commitment requires us to be self-reflective, open to new knowledge, and honest about impacts of the projects and organizations we support. We are committed to continual self-evaluation as a means of assuring our integrity.

Empathy: We believe that empathy is the basis of effective collaboration. We have learned that understanding and identifying with the needs and priorities of our partners, and those of the communities they serve, creates the greatest impact.



Community: Our goal is to serve a global community striving for equity, justice, and sustainability by nurturing inventors whose technologies improve lives, especially of those at the base of the economic pyramid. We accomplish our goal by working with a community of partners to ensure that life-improving technologies are available to those who need them.

THE LEMELSON FOUNDATION

improving lives through invention