

Bradley Foundation



1997 Report



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*I*n 1903, Lynde and Harry Bradley established a new business in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It took courage and confidence for them to risk resources in a new venture, based only on their judgement of what was and their vision of what could be. The Bradleys' confidence was bolstered by the knowledge that in America, not only were they free to start a business, they could also begin again if they failed. The Bradleys, however, would not fail. Their business grew to become the Allen-Bradley Company.

When the Allen-Bradley Company was acquired by Rockwell International Corporation in 1985, a significant portion of the proceeds was dedicated to establishing The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Although it has no direct ties to the Allen-Bradley Company, the purpose of the Foundation is to commemorate Lynde and Harry Bradley by preserving and extending the principles and philosophy by which they lived and upon which they built the company.

As their efforts succeeded, their business grew and eventually extended far beyond its Milwaukee headquarters. Lynde and Harry Bradley remained devoted to the city where they began their enterprise and in which they lived and worked for so many years. Their foundation will continue the Bradleys' interest in helping to improve the quality of life in the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

The Bradleys lived and worked according to several philosophical principles. They believed that, over time, the consequences of ideas were more decisive than the force of political or economic movements. They recognized the interdependence of human endeavors—cultural, educational, philosophical, economic—and they rejected exclusionary emphasis on any single element. The brothers had an abiding belief in the dignity and decency of each person. They felt that only in an environment of political and economic freedom could individuals develop their talents, hone their skills and intellects, and contribute to the improvement of the human condition. The success of the Allen-Bradley Company stands in eloquent testimony to the enduring quality of these principles.

The Bradley brothers were committed to preserving and defending the tradition of free representative government and private enterprise which has enabled the American nation and, in a larger sense, the entire Western world to flourish intellectually and economically. The Bradleys believed that the good society is a free society. The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation is likewise devoted to strengthening American democratic capitalism and the institutions, principles and values which sustain and nurture it. Its programs support limited, competent government; a dynamic marketplace for economic, intellectual, and cultural activity; and a vigorous defense at home and abroad of American ideas and institutions. In addition, recognizing that responsible self-government depends on enlightened citizens and informed public opinion, the Foundation supports scholarly studies and academic achievement.

General Purposes



The Foundation's Board, on occasion, undertakes to define and redefine its current program interests. At present, the Foundation aims to encourage projects that focus on cultivating a renewed, healthier, and more vigorous sense of citizenship among the American people, and among peoples of other nations, as well.

The free society so central to the convictions and success of the Bradley brothers rests upon and is intended to nurture a solid foundation of competent, self-governing citizens, who are understood to be fully capable of and personally responsible for making the major political, economic, and moral decisions that shape their own lives, and the lives of their children. Such decisions are made on the basis of common sense, received wisdom, traditional values, and everyday moral understandings, which are in turn nurtured and passed on to future generations by healthy families, churches, neighborhoods, voluntary associations, schools, and other value-generating "mediating structures."

This expansive understanding of citizenship is being challenged today, however, by contemporary forces and ideas that regard individuals more as passive and helpless victims of powerful external forces than as personally responsible, self-governing citizens, and that foster a deep skepticism about citizenly values and mediating structures. Consequently, authority and accountability tend to flow away from citizens toward centralized, bureaucratic, "service-providing" institutions which claim to be peculiarly equipped to cope with those external forces on behalf of their "clients." This systematic disenfranchisement of the citizen, and the consequent erosion of citizenly mediating structures, pose grave threats to the free society that the Bradley brothers cherished.

In light of these considerations, projects likely to be supported by the Foundation will generally share these assumptions:

- ⊗ *They will treat free men and women as genuinely self-governing, personally responsible citizens, not as victims or clients.*
- ⊗ *They will aim to restore the intellectual and cultural legitimacy of citizenly common sense, the received wisdom of experience, everyday morality, and personal character, refurbishing their roles as reliable guideposts of everyday life.*
- ⊗ *They will seek to reinvigorate and reempower the traditional, local institutions—families, schools, churches, and neighborhoods—that provide training in and room for the exercise of genuine citizenship, that pass on everyday morality to the next generation, and that cultivate personal character.*
- ⊗ *They will encourage decentralization of power and accountability away from centralized, bureaucratic, national institutions back to the states, localities, and revitalized mediating structures where citizenship is more fully realized.*

Current Program Interests



*I*n addition to these thematic considerations, eligible projects will exhibit these features:

- ⊗ They may address any arena of public life—economics, politics, culture, or civil society—where citizenship as here understood is an important issue. It is important to note that our view of citizenship is not primarily concerned with promoting civics education, voter awareness or turn-out, or similar activities narrowly focused on voting and elections.
- ⊗ They may address the problem of citizenship at home or abroad, where the fall of many (and the perpetuation of some) totalitarian regimes has made this issue particularly urgent.
- ⊗ In light of our emphasis on decentralization, and considering the Foundation’s deep roots in Milwaukee and Wisconsin—areas with proud traditions of innovation and experimentation in democratic citizenship—community and state projects will be of particular interest to us. Such projects will aim to improve the life of the community through increasing cultural and educational opportunities, grass-roots economic development, and effective and humane social and health services, reflecting where possible the Foundation’s focus on the resuscitation of citizenship.
- ⊗ Projects may be actual demonstrations of the resuscitation of citizenship in the economic, political, cultural, or social realms; policy research and writing about approaches encouraging that resuscitation; academic research and writing that explore the intellectual roots of citizenship, its decline, and prospects for revival; and popular writing and media projects that illustrate for a broader public audience the themes of citizenship.

Much of the creative and energetic leadership essential for a renewal of citizenship will be supplied by gifted individuals, who must receive challenging and stimulating programs and instruction at all levels of their education. The Foundation supports programs that research the needs of gifted children and techniques of providing education for students with superior skills and/or intelligence. Research programs investigating how learning occurs in gifted children and demonstration programs of instruction are to be considered.

Current Program Interests



The programs and funding decisions of The Bradley Foundation are the responsibility of the Board of Directors. At the discretion of the Board, the policies set forth herein will be modified in response to changing conditions and priorities.

The guidelines established by the Board of Directors will normally preclude funding for unspecified and undetailed overhead costs. No funds will be authorized for fees payable to fund-raising counsel. In addition, grants without significant import to the Foundation's areas of interest will only under special conditions be considered for endowment or deficit financing purposes.

The Foundation will:

- ☼ Normally award grants only to organizations and institutions exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and publicly supported under section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3);*
- ☼ Favor projects which are not normally financed by public tax funds;*
- ☼ Consider requests from religious organizations and institutions only when the resulting impact of the project is not primarily denominational;*
- ☼ Consider requests for building projects on rare occasions and, in such cases where projects are reviewed, limit grants to only a small fraction of the total project cost.*

Grantees must possess the resources to properly administer grants from the Foundation. The Foundation conducts an annual evaluation of grants, and grantees are asked to provide periodic reports on the progress of their work.

Grantmaking Policies



