



A Partner With Communities Where Children Come First

May 1, 2023

Dear Mayor Jim Schwartz and members of Marshall City Council:

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation is pleased to express support for the BlueOval Battery Park Michigan development in Marshall.

Our work is centered on ensuring all children have opportunities to thrive in working families and equitable communities. As a proud member of the Battle Creek community since our founding in 1930, we make many investments in our hometown and throughout the region to support job creation as a core means to helping families and children prosper, and to encourage our youngest residents to remain in our community because they can find meaningful careers and enjoy a rewarding quality of life in southwest Michigan. Just in the past 30 years, we have invested \$1.6 billion in our home state of Michigan, with nearly \$500 million of that invested right here in Calhoun County.

We were thrilled to learn that Ford Motor Company will develop the Marshall Megasite into a home for the new BlueOval Battery Park, a development that promises to create 2,500 high-paying jobs for the families of our community, in addition to creating up to 15,000 construction-related jobs that will start in the coming months. To help this once-in-a-generation project benefit our entire region, we are committed to continuing our work with local partners to ensure that the jobs created become opportunities to access the skills, training and career pathways needed for the people of our community. Over the past 4 years, nearly 13,600 low-income Michiganders received foundational job training, and over 50% of them secured a job or better job, as a result of WKKF's targeted job training and intentional employer engagement. We believe this project will have a similar positive impact on the current residents of Battle Creek and the region.

The economic prosperity created through these new jobs, which will generate an estimated total personal income of nearly \$30 billion over 20 years, along with the initial \$3.5 billion investment from Ford Motor Company, will provide an influx of support to existing local contractors, small businesses and entrepreneurs in Battle Creek and across our region.

We have called Battle Creek and Calhoun County our home since the very beginning. For more than 90 years, we have partnered with residents, corporate and community leaders to build on the successes of our hometown and the surrounding region. We join the chorus of overwhelming support for this amazing opportunity to ensure that our children and our families can thrive, now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,  
La June Montgomery Tabron  
President and CEO