

# FUNDRED DOLLAR BILL PROJECT

## Use Creativity to Fight Lead Poisoning!

What if we told you that there was an invisible element wreaking havoc on our society, poisoning children and causing elevated crime levels, decreased performance in schools, and increased health costs?

### ***Sounds bad right?***

That element is lead, and it's been with us since humans started pulling it out of the ground thousands of years ago. Because we can't see lead in its most pervasive form, microscopic dust, we often only detect lead's presence after a child has been poisoned. At that point, the damage has likely been done. There is no cure for lead poisoning, and its effects may remain with its victims for life.

### ***What can we do?***

In the face of the number one environmental health threat to children, the Fundred Dollar Bill Project is a creative currency that demonstrates how much we value the lives of children and a future free of lead poisoning. Making a Fundred is a chance to express yourself, while together the Fundreds demonstrate the value we collectively place on healthier communities, poison-free homes, and the imagination of all children.



# What are Fundreds?

Fundred Dollar Bills are original works of art, hand drawn interpretations of \$100 bills that represent awareness, hope, and a collective voice calling for the health and safety of our children's futures to be valued.

So far nearly half a million people have created and donated their own unique Fundreds. After Fundreds are created, they get banded together and sent to the Fundred Reserve Vault. As the vault continues to fill, we want the Fundreds' worth applied to solutions to lead poisoning. To make sure that happens we will deliver the drawings to Washington D.C., with the value embodied in them given as a down payment for action to deal with this destructive element, once and for all.

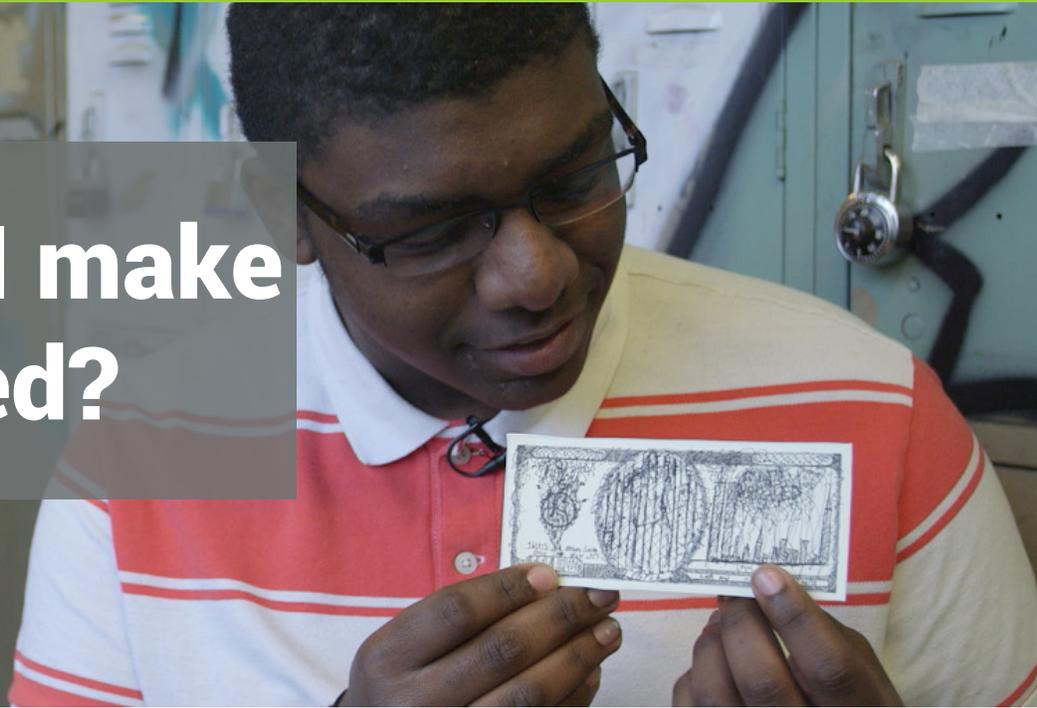
## ***The beginnings of a nationwide art project***



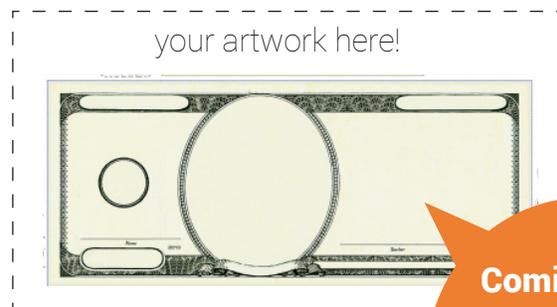
While visiting New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, artist Mel Chin learned about the silent storm of lead poisoning that had been plaguing the city and the rest of the country for decades. Hundreds of thousands of children were being poisoned each year, with far reaching consequences that played out over lifetimes. Recognizing the scale of the problem, he saw that existing resources were inadequate to respond.

Mel believed that children should have a way to express their hope for a lead-free future. Children and families now have The Fundred Dollar Bill Project. Through drawings, their voices can be tangibly represented in a powerful call for the safety of all children.

# How do I make a Fundred?



1. Download the Fundred template or order pre-printed templates, at [www.fundred.org](http://www.fundred.org)
2. Draw your Fundred
3. Mail your Fundred to:  
The Philadelphia Fundred Mint  
c/o The Fabric Workshop and Museum  
1214 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Attn: Christina Roberts



**Coming soon!  
Draw and share  
your Fundred  
online at  
[fundred.org](http://fundred.org)**

Though the federal government has yet to recognize Fundred Dollar Bills as legal tender, Fundreds are a valuable tool to help end childhood lead poisoning. They are even more valuable when people come together to make them!

You can use Fundreds as a tool to:

- Bring people together to learn about lead poisoning prevention.
- Express the value we place on children's well-being and creativity.
- Grow and connect organizations in the movement to end lead poisoning.

# How have Fundreds been used?



## Armored Truck Tour

Throughout 2010, students at hundreds of schools across the country created Fundred Dollar Bills to be picked up in a vegetable oil-fueled armored truck.

As students and educators handed their Fundreds over to truck guards for safekeeping, schools held events that raised awareness of the gravity and persistence of our lead poisoning epidemic. These events gave local elected officials and community organizations a chance to show their support for lead cleanup while giving local press an opportunity to raise awareness even further.

At every stop the armored truck tour connected the national campaign to local efforts. Each event around the country not only provided public and impassioned demonstrations against lead poisoning, but brought people together to make connections around this public health health issue in a fun, engaging way.



## Grand Rapids, Michigan

In the fall of 2014, the Fundred Dollar Bill Project used an art competition in Grand Rapids, Michigan as an opportunity to bring people together to raise awareness of lead poisoning in Grand Rapids.



Because Fundreds are a collaborative project, the Fundred Dollar Bill exhibit gave visitors an opportunity to make their own Fundreds and add their voices to the fight to end childhood lead poisoning. Visitors to the exhibit could sit at bank teller tables and draw their unique Fundreds while learning about lead poisoning. Once drawn, their Fundreds were added to hundreds of others on a wall in the exhibit, making their artful demonstrations for more lead cleanup funding part of the exhibit for its duration.

In addition to creating a public display of action-oriented art, the Grand Rapids initiative brought together local public health specialists, educators, and scientists to talk about the challenges of lead poisoning in Grand Rapids.

## Art Academy of Cincinnati

In 2015, the Art Academy of Cincinnati partnered with the Fundred Dollar Bill Project and the Cincinnati Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to create a course that uses art and design to address and impact issues of lead contamination in Cincinnati.



With the Fundred Dollar Bill Project as a common starting point and inspiration, students launched group projects to increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning and our ability to put an end to it. Students exhibited their projects at a publicly accessible end of semester block party. Students put on a dance performance, created a learning-through-play area, and staged a puppet show. The Health Department shared information about lead, and a public Fundred drawing table provided opportunity for attendees to sit down and talk and creativity put their values in action.

A young boy with glasses is smiling and giving a thumbs up in a classroom. He is wearing a grey polo shirt. In the background, other students are seated at desks, and the wall is covered with colorful educational posters and charts.

# More ways to take action

## If you're an educator...

- PREVENT**
- Talk to your students' parents and guardians about the Fundred Dollar Bill Project and how they can keep an eye out for potential sources of lead exposure.
  - Check out your school's/county's/city's/district's policies on lead hazards. If your school is older, work with others to find out if there are lead hazards in the school itself.
- EDUCATE**
- Go to **[www.fundred.org/classroom](http://www.fundred.org/classroom)** to find Fundred templates and lesson plans.
  - Download a sample letter to parents at [fundred.org](http://fundred.org), and ask your health department if they have local information to share with families.
- INCREASE AWARENESS**
- Talk to your students' parents and guardians about the Fundred Dollar Bill Project and how they can keep an eye out for potential sources of lead poisoning.
  - Talk to your school district's administrators about the importance of lead poisoning education and eradication.

## If you're part of a concerned family...

- PREVENT**
- Have your children tested for lead poisoning - ask your doctor for more information.
  - Take steps to prevent lead contamination: remove outdoor shoes before coming inside, mop hard floors instead of sweeping, wet clean window sills and window wells, clean your children's toys, make sure your family is washing their hands regularly, feed your children a healthy diet.
  - Look over your home and play areas for any visible signs of lead contamination: deteriorated paint, bare areas of soil, accumulations of dust.
  - Use simple lead paint testing kits to investigate further.



**IF YOU  
FIND LEAD  
IN YOUR  
HOME**

1. If you find lead in or around your home and have young children prone to playing on the floor or putting things (like hands, toys, or furniture) in their mouths, leave and find a safe place to stay until the lead is cleaned up.
2. If you can afford to have the lead cleaned up, hire a lead safe contractor to safely remove lead hazards from your home.
3. If you can't afford to have the lead cleaned up, get in touch with your local or state health department to see if they can help.
4. If your landlord refuses to clean up lead paint, talk to a lawyer to discuss your options. If you can't afford a lawyer, get in touch with your local Legal Services or Legal Aid.

- INCREASE AWARENESS**
- Talk to other parents about childhood lead poisoning to help raise awareness.

- ADVOCATE**
- Connect to your elected officials to inform them of the dangers of childhood lead poisoning and encourage their advocacy for lead hazard cleanup.

## If you're part of a community or advocacy organization...

- EDUCATE**
- Research local lead contamination issues. Has lead ever been a major industrial emission by a site in your city? Where do older homes more likely to contain lead paint exist? Does your city have lead hazard remediation funding available?
- INCREASE AWARENESS**
- Hold a meeting to discuss the 100% preventable causes and 100% permanent effects of childhood lead poisoning. Create Fundreds as a group to be counted as standing for funding solutions to lead poisoning.
- ADVOCATE**
- Join the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition, and sign onto a letter seeking full funding of HUD and CDCs lead programs and find resources on how to invite local representatives to lead safe events.
  - Reach out to local elected officials to talk about the presence and impact of lead contamination amongst their constituents.

## If you're part of an arts organization...

- INCREASE AWARENESS**
- “Use the Fundred Dollar Bill Project as a way to connect to your community through art – partner with local organizations working to prevent lead poisoning.
  - Develop other creative projects and events in parallel with the Fundred Dollar Bill Project to highlight the gravity of our lead poisoning epidemic and bring new audiences into the movement.

## If you're part of a health department...

### INCREASE AWARENESS

- Integrate the Fundred Dollar Bill Project into your lead education outreach.
- Share and collect Fundreds at public health events.
- Use collected Fundreds to document successful outreach and communicate to local elected officials on efforts to end lead poisoning.
- Invite your local school district to participate in the Fundred Dollar Bill Project



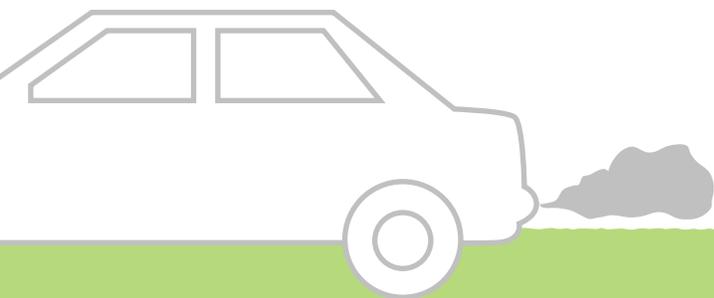
# Where does lead come from?

## 1. Leaded Gasoline

From 1925 to 1996, lead was added to gasoline in the United States.

Exhaust from vehicles using leaded gasoline spewed 4 to 5 million tons of lead across the country, posing a serious threat to human health, especially in urban areas.

Lead from exhaust has since settled, particularly near busy roadways, contaminating soil with odorless, tasteless dust invisible to the human eye.



## 2. Lead-Based Paint

Homes built before 1978 tend to contain lead-based paint, which is a major hazard to children.

How many homes contain lead-based paint? 37 million!

That is  
**35%**  
of homes  
in the U.S.



Lead hazards in homes include:

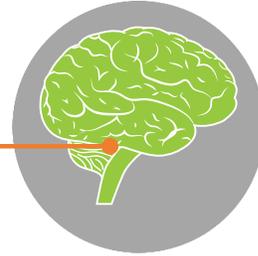
- Lead dust from lead-based paint.
- Chipped paint from walls, furniture, or windows.
- Increased lead dust, air particulates, and paint chips from improper remodeling.

## Did you know?

- An estimated 535,000 children younger than 6 are affected by lead poisoning annually.
- Black children are 2.3 times more likely to have elevated blood lead levels than white children.
- Every dollar spent on lead cleanup can bring up to \$221 in community benefits.

# What are the effects of lead poisoning?

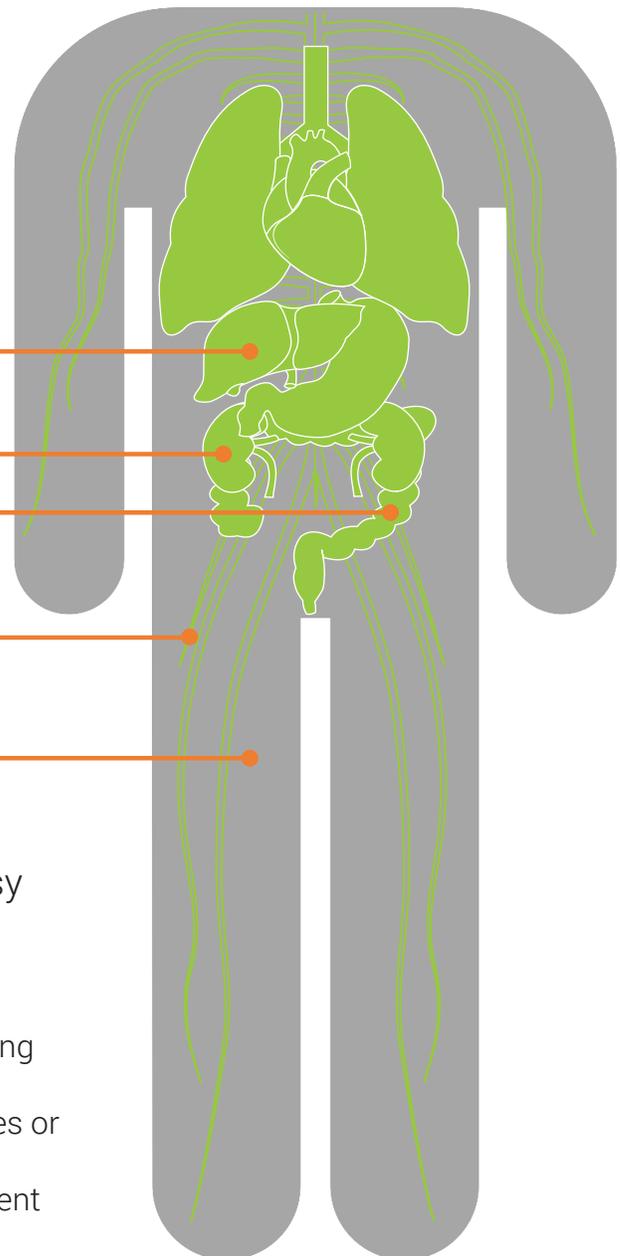
Permanent brain damage  
Lowered IQ  
Swelling of the brain



**!** In acute cases, the effects of lead poisoning can include  
■ convulsions, coma, or death.

Liver damage  
Kidney damage  
Digestive problems

Nervous system damage  
Impaired muscle coordination



Symptoms of lead poisoning are not easy to detect. Symptoms may include:

- Tiredness, weakness, or lethargy
- Irritability or crankiness
- Reduced attention span
- Loss of appetite
- Inability to retain information
- Weight loss
- Trouble sleeping
- Constipation
- Stomach aches or pains
- increased violent behavior

# A history of lead

Since at least Roman times, humans have known lead to be dangerous if ingested.

The industrial revolution made the mining, smelting, and incorporation of lead into consumer products possible on a scale never before seen.

1887

Childhood lead poisoning first identified as health threat in the United States

1904

Childhood lead poisoning linked to lead-based paints



1922

Public Health Service warns against dangers of leaded gasoline.

The League of Nations bans white-lead interior paint, US declines to adopt.

1923

Leaded gasoline goes on sale.



1928

Federal government overturns bans on sale of leaded gasoline



Joe Mabel

1922 -  
1934

Lead-based interior paints banned in Greece, Tunisia, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Sweden, Belgium, Poland, Spain, Yugoslavia, and Cuba.

1930

Ethyl Export founded to export tetraethyl lead and promulgate use of leaded gasoline around the world.

## 1970

Clean Air Act passed. – Sets standards for lead emissions.



Public health professionals joined with community activists and organizations and policy was finally introduced on a national scale to ban the dispersion of lead through residential lead-based paint and exhaust from leaded gasoline.

## 1972

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is formed and proposes phase out of leaded gasoline. The lead industry promptly sues the EPA.

## 1976

EPA standards upheld in US Court of Appeals, phaseout of leaded gasoline in the US begins.

## 1983

“Between 1976 and 1980, EPA reports, amount of lead consumed in gasoline dropped 50 percent. Blood-lead levels dropped 37 percent. Benefits of phase out exceed costs by \$700 million.” (\$1.68 billion in 2015 USD).

Primary phaseout of leaded gas in U.S. completed.

## Present:

In recent decades, great strides have been made through local and national efforts to dramatically reduce lead hazards and instances of lead poisoning. We are almost there - **together we can end childhood lead poisoning!**



**For more information on lead poisoning, visit:**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/)

**Environmental Protection Agency**

[www2.epa.gov/lead](http://www2.epa.gov/lead)

**National Center for Healthy Housing**

[www.nchh.org/](http://www.nchh.org/)

**Green & Healthy Homes Initiative**

[www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/home-health-hazards/lead](http://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/home-health-hazards/lead)

**Lead Safe America Foundation:**

[leadsafeamerica.org/](http://leadsafeamerica.org/)

Additional educational resources and videos on lead and Fundreds can be found at [fundred.org](http://fundred.org)

**Stay connected with the Fundred Dollar Bill Project!**



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The Fundred Dollar Bill Project - [fundred.org](http://fundred.org)

MIT CoLab Empathetic Aesthetics Program - [colab.mit.edu](http://colab.mit.edu)