



POTLATCH FUND

INSPIRING THE NATIVE TRADITION OF GIVING

A Year in Review

By Dana Arviso, Executive Director

January 27th, 2016

Grant Opportunities

2015 represents our largest re-granting budget in the history of our organization and a significant milestone in our efforts to increase philanthropy in Native and Tribal communities in the Pacific Northwest. We awarded 80 grants across Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana totaling \$761,270 and bringing our total investment to \$2.5 million over the past decade. Our grantees are Native artists, Native nonprofit organizations, and Tribes who may be familiar to you. They are the leaders and innovators within Northwest Indian Country and are making their communities better on every level through increasing awareness of Native-led initiatives.

- 10 Native Student Success grants totaling \$487,600
- 31 Community Building grants totaling \$115,000
- 16 Language Preservation grants totaling \$74,800
- 21 Native Arts grants totaling \$72,870
- 1 Cedar Tree Fund grant of \$6,000 to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- 1 Social Innovation Award grant of \$5,000 to Montana Two Spirit Society

In the fall of 2015, we also conducted an outside evaluation of grantmaking program with the goals of introducing our new grant initiative, Healthy Pathways for Youth, and developing our grant portfolio's theory of change. We will continue this work in 2016 along with introducing an online grant application process. For more information about the Healthy Pathways for Youth grant program, visit our website at <http://potlatchfund.org/grants/journey.html> as the Request for Proposals is open until February 17th.

Capacity Building Program

In 2015, we continued to offer our redesigned capacity building program, which provides our grantees with the opportunity to supplement their grant funds with learning opportunities that will help them to build long-term sustainability. By combining a series of convenings, webinars, and individualized technical assistance for a total of 66 hours of direct instruction, we aim to increase knowledge of nonprofit management for our Native nonprofit grantees and small business and provided arts-specific content for our Native artist grantees. In our second year of running the cohort programs, we trained 25 emerging Native leaders working with the Native arts and Native nonprofit sectors, all of which were current or previous Potlatch Fund grantees. We held two convenings in the spring and fall to offer workshops on topics ranging from building a business plan for Native artists to learning about board development and financial management for Native nonprofits. Last October we graduated the 2015 class and over the winter months, we have been assessing their experiences in the program to further refine how we will offer this program in future years. We will launch the 2016 capacity building programs in March with two cohorts: Nonprofit Management and Language Preservation. In addition, we conducted 2 fee-for-service trainings to Hopa Mountain and Quileute Tribe. If you are interested in bringing Potlatch Fund staff to your organization or Tribal community for a training, please contact Tachini Pete at tachini@potlatchfund.org for a listing of the training modules we offer, training fees, and availability.

Fundraising Gala & Silent Auction

Thank you to all those who attended our fall fundraising gala and become a part of Potlatch Fund's history! Your participation in our first raise-the-paddle challenge was greatly appreciated. On the evening we raised approximately \$70,000 through donations from 125 individuals, which represents our most successful ask. The audience was also able to witness the gifting of 8 paddles to winners at each pledge level as well as to our two original Cedar Tree Fund donors.

The giving and receiving of a cedar canoe paddle is a significant act. The presentation of the paddles completed one part of the circle of philanthropy: gifting of the cedar tree to the Makah Tribe, which in turn prompted the gifting of the canoe paddles to Potlatch Fund. In the spirit of the potlatch and to inspire the Native tradition of giving, Potlatch Fund chose to gift the canoe paddles as a thank you for donors who won the raise-the-paddle challenge. The canoe paddle now ties those who received a paddle to Potlatch Fund and symbolizes a new journey on which we embark. As Potlatch Fund continues to grow we hope to maintain our relationship with you and always journey together in a good way.

In addition to all of our guests and sponsors who played integral roles in the success of the gala, we would like to offer special recognition to a few individuals: our fearless and brilliant volunteer staff, our auctioneer, Jeff Ferguson, and our stage manager, Caleb Dunlap. Furthermore, we especially recognize our donors responsible for the creation of the Cedar Tree Fund, and the Makah Tribe for their act of reciprocity in their generous gift of the canoe paddles.

Operations

In spring 2015, Potlatch Fund increased its internal capacity by making some key hiring decisions and additions. Damara Jacobs-Morris joined Potlatch Fund as our new Development and Communications Manager after a move from Vancouver, British Columbia. Damara has worked extensively within her own community and with cultural and non-profit organizations in the United States and Canada. She has occupied several roles throughout her professional life; she has been a curator, designer, educator, and facilitator. She has been a welcome addition to the staff. In addition, Lawrence Leake was promoted to become our new Managing Director. Lawrence has served on the Potlatch Fund staff for nine years in various roles including Executive Assistant, Office Manager, Director of Operations, and Director of Development and Communication. In this past year, Lawrence has been able to provide leadership in the areas of development, communication, and grantmaking.

In April 2015 we moved into Empire Health Foundation's newly remodeled office known as the Philanthropy Center at 1020 West Riverside Avenue in downtown Spokane. We hosted our board retreat and strategic planning kickoff alongside our inaugural Native Professionals and Friends Night at the Philanthropy Center in May 2015. In 2016 we will complete our strategic planning process and look forward to sharing our future plans with all of our key supporters.

Again, thank you for your support. We could not do our work without our trusted philanthropic partners, Native nonprofit partners, grantees, LEAD cohort alumni, and key donors and supporters. We raise our hands to you for your generosity and reciprocity.

