

A Year in Review

By Dana Arviso, Executive Director

March 14, 2018

Giving back and honoring tradition has been at the heart of our work for 15 years.

Since 2002, Potlatch Fund has held over 120 trainings and extended over \$3.9 million in support of Native initiatives through our responsive capacity building and grantmaking programs.

Fundraising Gala & Silent Auction

Thank you to all those who attended our fall fundraising gala and took part in Potlatch Fund's 15 year anniversary! On the evening we raised over \$54,500 through donations through the Raise-the-Paddle ask. We also thank those donors who took part in the Close-the-Gap Challenge after the Gala to help raise an additional \$7,085 to help us meet our goal of securing a total of over \$162,000 to support our mission.

We were also honored to present the President's Award to Andrea Alexander, who is Potlatch Fund's founder and served as its first Executive Director and Board President. We are deeply appreciative of Andrea's vision, hard work, and years of service to our organization.

We continued our tradition of holding a Raise-the-Paddle portion of the evening. To the guests who were the last to donate at each giving level we acknowledged their generosity with a cedar canoe paddle. This year's paddles were created by Phillip H. Red Eagle. The giving and receiving of a cedar canoe paddle is a significant act. The canoe paddle ties together the giver and receiver and symbolizes us always journeying 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: all of our hardworking volunteers; our emcees Chanel Ford and Caleb Dunlap; our auctioneer Jeff Ferguson; our grantee Colleen Echohawk from Chief Seattle Club who gave the ask speech; our stage manager Sky Vasquez; and our board and staff.

Grant Opportunities

In 2017, Potlatch Fund awarded 54 grants across Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana totaling \$532,665. 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.

- 13 Healthy Pathways for Native Youth totaling \$98,750
- 11 Community Building grants totaling \$95,400
- 9 Native Student Success grants totaling \$160,000
- 9 Language Preservation grants totaling \$87,397
- 11 Native Arts grants totaling \$86,118
- 1 Social Innovation Award grant of \$5,000 to Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association

Please visit our website for information about our 2018 grants: <http://potlatchfund.org/grants/index.html>

Capacity Building Program

In 2017, we continued to offer our Capacity Building Cohort program, which provides our grantees with the opportunity to supplement their grant funds with learning opportunities that will help them build long-term sustainability. By combining convenings, webinars, and individualized technical assistance, we provide up to 75 hours of direct instruction and 10 hours of technical assistance to help build individual and organizational

capacity.

Since 2014, Potlatch Fund's redesigned capacity building program helped a total of 51 individuals representing 35 Native-led nonprofit organizations, Native arts organizations, or individual Native artists to strengthen their knowledge, skills, and professional networks. In the fall of 2017, we launched the cohort training and technical assistance in 3 areas: Nonprofit Management, Language Preservation, and Native Arts. We held our initial cohort convening in December in Suquamish, WA with 39 participants and the final convening will take place in April in Polson, MT.

In addition to the cohorts, we continues to offer trainings for our Native and Tribal communities. If you are interested in scheduling a training, please contact Tachini Pete at tachini@potlatchfund.org for a listing of the training modules we offer, training fees, and availability.

Finally, we are excited to bring on a new staff member: Christine Guiao! Christine will be joining our Capacity Building team as the Program Manager to work closely with Tachini on offering technical assistance to our cohort members, completing the planning for our next convening, and beginning to plan for the 2018-2019 capacity building cohort.

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