

INSPIRING THE NATIVE TRADITION OF GIVING

# POTLATCH FUND



- April 14, 2015 -

## Shaun Peterson

Three Time Potlatch Fund Native Arts Grantee



Shaun Peterson works on his [Welcome Figure](#) for the City of Tacoma.

Shaun Peterson, has been a longtime supporter of the Potlatch Fund [silent auction](#) and recipient of three grants under our Native Arts grant cycle: [2006](#), [2009](#), [2014](#).

Shaun is a pivotal figure in contemporary Coast Salish art traditions and a member of the Puyallup tribe, has been selected for a commission to create an artwork that recognizes the tribal peoples of this region for Seattle's Central Waterfront project. Peterson will work with the city and its design team to develop a site-specific artwork or artist designed space that reflects the Coast Salish tribes that have a historic connection to this territory. He has major installations throughout the Northwest, ranging from works created in wood, glass and metal.

"Seattle is named after our Coast Salish Chief, and in honor of that I hope that my work will demonstrate that Native art is not static," says Shaun. "Our people are part of this land and its history, but most importantly we are part of the present. The art I create will aim to communicate that, and in the process, create space for dialogue."

## 2015 Strengthening the Circle

Potlatch Fund Participates in the  
Native Nonprofit Leadership Program



Darren Kipp and April Charlo

Bozeman, Montana was the location for the 9th Annual [Strengthening the Circle](#): Native Nonprofit Leadership Program and was held March 30 through April 2, 2015. "Strengthening the Circle aims to build the capacities of experienced and emerging Native-led nonprofit organizations that are working to improve economic development, education, and social services on or near reservations. This Native Nonprofit Leadership Program consists

during the Language Immersion Revitalization Efforts – Sharing our Stories.



*Tachini Pete, Program Director, shares a laugh at the end of the Language Immersion Revitalization Efforts – Sharing our Stories panel discussion.*

of a four-day workshop for forty executive directors and Board members with follow-up training and technical assistance”.

This year Tachini Pete and Maria Griffin provided a two part workshop on Introduction to Individual Donor Development on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. About a dozen people attended the workshop and several participated in the emotional appeal to donors. Quite a few times, the other people in the workshop were close to tears by the passion and stories told by the participants.

After dinner, Tachini participated on a panel called Language Immersion Revitalization Efforts – Sharing our Stories. The other panelists included April Charlo, Executive Director, NK’wusm (a Potlatch Fund grantee); Darren Kipp, Executive Director, Piegan Institute; Melissa Campobasso, Executive Director, Hearts Gathered (a Potlatch Fund grantee); and Michael Running Wolf, President, Buffalo Tongue. We learned about how the language schools work with their communities, some of the struggles they encounter, and why language is important to them. Also, Michael introduced the future of technology and how it will possibly change the teaching and learning of indigenous language.

## 2015 Native Arts Cohort Update

**Nahaan (Vaughn Eide)**



*2015 Native Arts Cohort participants Susie Bennett, Nahaan, Natasha Alphonse in Ft. Hall at Shoshone-Bannock Event Center.*

Nahaan (Vaughn Eide), a 2014 Native Arts Grantee and current participant in the Capacity Building Program’s Native Arts Cohort, has, since 2009, been dedicated and focused on traditional and contemporary Northern formline, basket patterns and chilkat patterns design work as a way to both honor his Tlingit ancestors and help revitalize the language for future generations. Throughout his life he has used many mediums and approaches to give life to his message; his art includes drawing, painting, etching, carving, stenciling, printing, aerosols, acrylics, charcoals, pencils, inks, leads, life drawing, graphic designing and tattooing.

Fostering relationship building with other artists and Native-led nonprofits and creating intentional space to allow networking is a major component of the Capacity Building Program’s training model. As a current participant in the Native Arts training cohort, Nahaan made a heart-felt announcement about the inspiration he gained from listening to the work of other participants in the training program. His deep admiration and appreciation was a powerful encouragement for all the participants. He remarked, “through the trainings provided by the Potlatch Fund, I have built lasting friendships and had continual growth of knowledge in the business aspect of being a full time artist.”

Currently, he is the spokesman for Náakw Dancers, a ƕingít

[Ethnic Heritage Roster](#)

Deadline: May 18, 2015.

community building group that focuses on public presentation of traditional songs and dances of peoples of the Pacific Northwest. A 2014 Native Arts grant for silver carving tools enabled him to record a portion of his clan's history in the written language of carving. With gratitude, he says, "I now have the tools needed to continue making carved jewelry from precious metals."

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**Managing Director**

**Increased Staff Capacity at Potlatch Fund (1 of 2)**



*Lawrence Leake, Managing Director at Potlatch Fund.*

"After an open candidate search, Potlatch Fund is excited to promote Lawrence into this new position that will allow him to combine his years of experience in many different roles within our organization to maximize efficiency and alignment between our core grantmaking areas," Dana Arviso, Executive Director.

Lawrence holds a Master in Teaching degree (Seattle University) and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History (University of California – Santa Barbara). In his nine years at Potlatch Fund, Lawrence has been Executive Assistant, Office Manager, Director of Operations, and Director of Development and Communication. In his new role Lawrence will provide leadership in the areas of Development, Communication, and Grantmaking. "I am humbled by the opportunities the future holds for Potlatch Fund," says Lawrence. "The important work being done by our grantees is a vivid indicator of the rich history and promising future of Northwest Indian Country."

Prior to joining Potlatch Fund, Lawrence spent ten years in Japan, beginning with a four-year stint in the sales and marketing department of Amita Machines. He was also Managing Director of Overseas English Academy, in Toyohashi, Japan. Born and raised in Seattle, Lawrence returned with his three children in 2005 and joined Potlatch Fund in March 2006.



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