

Words of Wisdom

A Potlatch Fund Publication



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The Essence of Potlatch Fund

Here at Potlatch Fund our number one mission is to increase the funds coming into Indian country.

Our research shows that, based on population, Native American groups get about 1/10th of the funds that you would expect them to receive from traditional foundations.

When we talk to the foundations about this they tell us that “we want to give money to Indian projects, but we just do not get grant requests from Indian country.”

For the last four years Potlatch Fund has been working to turn this situation around by teaching people how to apply to foundations for grants.

Ours is a very simple recipe. We go to local communities and reservations, and provide a two-day culturally appropriate training to people who want to learn about how to raise money.

The people who come to our trainings

come from all manner of different backgrounds. We have grandmothers who are keen to do a project to work with their grandkids. We have artists who want to find a way to pass on their knowledge to future generations. We have people who want to work to preserve their language and write the history of their peoples. We have youth clubs, senior clubs, dance clubs. We have people who want to run Pow Wows and convenings. We have people who have a bright idea for a business and they are not sure where to get started.

Any person who is interested in raising money for a project in Indian country is welcome to come to these trainings. Since we started on this project over 400 people, from 95 different locations and 160 different organizations have been trained to become more effective in asking for money. Our follow up evaluations show an eight fold increase in grant requests.

They also average a 35 percent success ratio (which is excellent).

The money is there – if we get better at asking for it – then we can also get better at developing those services and improvements that our people so desperately need.

Our two most recent trainings were in Squaxin Island and Swinomish.

Justin Finkbonner is the go to man at Potlatch Fund for these trainings. He is currently planning three trainings for the rest of the year, one each in Western Montana, Oregon and Idaho (see below). Please call him if you are interested in attending (he doesn't have enough to do).

Also if you would like us to come to your communities then please just let us know! At this stage we are looking to significantly increase our trainings in 2007. Again call Justin – he is waiting for your call: 206.624.6076, or eMail: justin@potlatchfund.org.

Calendar of Events

Save the Date!

OCTOBER

19 & 20 - *The Journey to Successful Fundraising*
Salish Kootenai College.

NOVEMBER

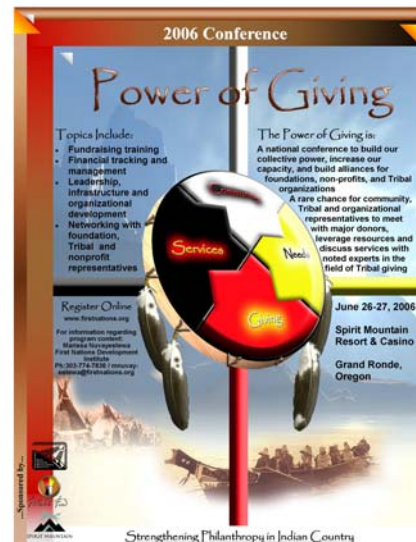
18 - *2006 Annual Potlatch Fund Gala Reception from 5pm-*
Grand Hyatt Hotel Seattle, WA.

28 & 29 - *The Journey to Successful Fundraising*
Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

DECEMBER

14 & 15 - *The Journey to Successful Fundraising*
Coquille Tribe.

Training dates subject to change for information, call 206.624.6076



Cover from the Power of Giving convening (Grand Ronde, OR) June 2006
www.potlatchfund.org



Potlatch Fund

ABOUT US

We are a grantmaking foundation and leadership development organization serving, build upon the Native tradition of giving to promote economic development, natural overall health of Native people and their communities.

Political Activist, Educator, Poet, Actor and Musician

John Trudell - Biography

“My goal is very simple. To communicate the human experience at a level that human beings can recognize and relate to. That may be a personal statement. It may be a political statement. But whatever it is, it all comes from the same point of reference: the experiences we share as peoples of this planet.”

On the subject of his extraordinary and acclaimed work as a recording artist, poet and champion of indigenous issues, John Trudell is as direct and plain spoken as the words he puts to music. A people’s poet in the truest sense of the term, John Trudell’s potent imagery and passionate convictions have established his reputation as a spoken word artist whose international following reflects the universal language of his music...and his message. Simply put, John Trudell is the real deal.

“Some people call me a poet,” John Trudell concludes. “Others say I’m an activist. Some say my poetry and music is political. Others say it’s about the spirit of my people.” He laughs. “I don’t buy into any of those labels. I may be a little bit of all those things, but I’m more than any of them. We all are. That’s what makes us human.”

In the case of John Trudell, it’s also what makes him an artist.

For more information, please visit the John Trudell website: johntrudell.com

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You are graciously invited to spend an evening with
John Trudell at the

2006 Potlatch Fund Gala

Grand Hyatt Seattle

November 18, 2006

From 5PM~

Experience the Heritage and Culture of Northwest Indian Country

Please go to www.potlatchfund.org/gala/
for more details, or
call Lawrence at 206.624.6076

Seats are being pre-sold at \$75
and are subject to availability.

Any remaining seats will be \$80 at the door.

Key funding for Potlatch Fund provided by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation

g Washington, Idaho, Oregon and western Montana. Our mission is to inspire and
al resource protection, education, cultural preservation, civic participation and the

2006 Annual Potlatch Fund Gala

Urgent Need, Strong Response

The Potlatch Fund Gala is the paramount opportunity to recognize and applaud the philanthropy that occurs within Northwest Indian Country. The event builds upon the giving tradition of the potlatch by bringing together tribal and grassroots native leaders, foundation and corporate representatives and our generous donors.

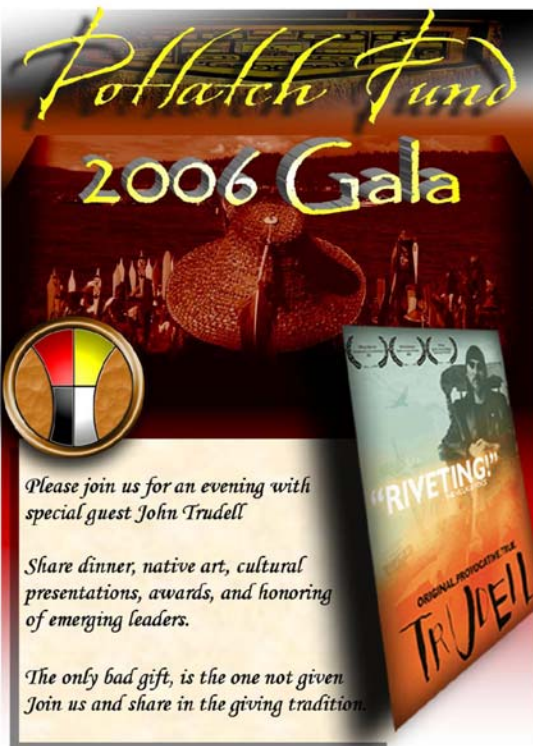
This year's event will be held at the Grand Hyatt Seattle, on November 18, with 400 attendees taking part in an evening of celebration and honor. The Gala, a *Seattle Signature Event*, will highlight native culture through song & music, and recognize native leadership throughout Northwest Indian Country.

In the spirit of the potlatch: proceeds from the fourth annual Gala will go directly towards the 2007 grant program.

Patricia Whitefoot (Yakama Nation) will be the Master of Ceremonies.

John Trudell, long time poet, artist, and activist for Native rights, will join us for the evening as Keynote Speaker.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us for the evening, experience native culture in its finest element and become part of the greater journey of restoring pride, health and culture to native communities in the



Northwest. Detailed information is posted on our web-site at: www.potlatchfund.org or by calling the office at 206.624.6076.

With appreciation to our confirmed sponsors as of 10/02/06:

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Wells Fargo
Wildhorse Resort and Casino
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
DML Insurance Services, Inc.
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Jill Arnou



POTLATCH FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Antone Minthorn
(Cayuse/Umatilla)

Vice President: Natalie Charley
(Quinalt)

Treasurer: Chandra Hampson
(White Earth Chippewa/Winnebago)

Secretary: Colleen Jollie
(Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

Officer at Large: Kirby Jock
(Mohawk/Iroquois)

Board Members:
Andrea Alexander (Makah)
John Chess

Reason For Giving



Tim Otani

*FVP & Regional Manager
Corporate & Employee Giving Department
Washington Mutual*

Simply stated, Potlatch Fund is the region's premier organization working to promote giving from and to Indian Country in the Northwest. For too long the needs of native communities have been ignored or grossly under-funded by mainstream funders, this effort is a critical step in the process to change that.

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ndation, MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, Russell Family Foundation, Washington Mutual, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Verizon and Boeing.

Changes at Potlatch Fund

It has been a hectic few weeks for Potlatch Fund. In a wave of welcomes and changed roles, the region's only Native American led and focused community foundation has reshaped their governing board and appointed a new Executive Director.

Long standing President and ED Andrea Alexander has stood down from both roles to focus on her family. However she will continue to serve as a Board member so that we can ensure that her vast knowledge and experience is not lost to the community.

New Board Positions/Appointments

Antone Minthorn has been elected the new President for Potlatch Fund. Antone is of Umatilla descent and is also the Chair of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. He joined Potlatch Fund in 2004 as a founding board member, and has spent the last two years as Vice President. Antone believes it is both an honor and privilege to have been elected by his colleagues to this position. "I wish to acknowledge the major contribution of the Board's founding President and ED, Andrea Alexander. I am confident I can fulfill the responsibility that my fellow Board members have given me, and continue Potlatch Fund's links with the communities that it aims to support," says Antone.

The role of Vice President has been filled by Natalie Charley who is a recent appointment to the Board. Natalie is of Quinault descent and is currently the owner and principal of the Charley Group.

Chandra Hampson (White Earth Chippewa/Winnebago) has been elected as Treasurer taking over that role from John Chess who also remains on the Board. Colleen Jollie (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) has taken over as Secretary from Kirby Jock (Mohawk/Iroquios). Kirby himself has been appointed to the Board's executive committee.

New ED

Potlatch Fund is also excited to announce the appointment of its new Executive Director Ken Gordon. Ken took over from Andrea Alexander during September.

Potlatch Fund President, Antone Minthorn, says "Ken will bring to the role a range of experiences, knowledge and passion for community organizations".

Ken is well known for the leadership that he provided to the community sector at both regional and national level in New Zealand. He was previously the CEO of Trust Waikato one of the largest philanthropic trusts in that country. Under Ken's leadership Trust Waikato was recognized for its innovative approaches to funding and the way in which it worked to improve funding and responsiveness to Maori communities.

Ken comments that "Potlatch Fund is already a highly respected supporter of Native American communities. The role of ED of Potlatch Fund is a wonderful opportunity to support the development of philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country".

Potlatch Fund Board Members and staff are looking forward to the wealth of experience Mr. Gordon will bring to his new position.



Native Arts Grants

One of the innovative programs run by Potlatch Fund is to award grants to northwest native artists. This program, which has been assisted through funding from the Ford Foundation, is a way to recognize excellence, encourage emerging artists and support community-based activities that promote arts.

This year 32 applications were received for the Native Arts awards. A volunteer committee is presently considering those applications.

The committee this year includes native artists Aurolyn Stwyer (Co-Chair), Roger Fernandez (Co-Chair), Colleen Jollie, Preston Singletary, Perri McDaniel, and Susan Balbas. They are joined by Potlatch Fund's new executive director, Ken Gordon and Ken Thompson, a program officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Jill Arnow (Potlatch Fund's Community Building Grant program chair) is facilitating the committee's decision making processes. Jill says that considering the grants is a tough job "we need to compare grant requests from individual artists, formal and informal community groups and tribal organizations. Obviously their needs, resources and abilities differ. We try to take all of these factors into account in coming to the best decision."

Decisions in relation to this year's arts grants will be announced to applicants over the next few weeks, and will be announced publicly at this year's Potlatch Fund Gala, being held on November 18.

"I have no doubt that people will be excited and pleased by the range of artists and organizations, the range of artistic styles and the broad reach of this year's grants" Ms Arnow said.

For more information about Potlatch Fund's Native Arts awards or the Gala, please call Lawrence Leake at Potlatch Fund, ph: 206.624.6076, or eMail: lawrence@potlatchfund.org.