

Words of Wisdom

A Potlatch Fund Publication



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Message from the Executive Director

Like a steam roller, the Council of Foundations (COF) rolled into Seattle for its annual conference. More than 2,200 registered delegates arrived for the official conference program that ran from Sunday, April 29 through to Tuesday, May 1. Pre and post conference activities more than doubled the official conference program, and we here at Potlatch Fund were kept busy establishing new alliances.

The conference opened on the Sunday with an official welcome from the Duwamish and the Suquamish Tribes. Cecile Hanson the Tribal Leader of the Duwamish people commenced proceedings and officially welcomed people to Seattle. Mrs. Hanson was undaunted by the sea of tables as she provided a warm welcome to the delegates who had traveled from as far as Australia to be there.

Leonard Forsman then spoke on behalf of the Suquamish Tribe. Mr. Forsman recounted the connection that the Suquamish Tribe had with Seattle and then introduced Jim Pratt and the Suquamish dancers who concluded the welcome with a prayer and with songs.

A highlight of the COF conference was a tour out to the Suquamish Tribal Reservation on Monday afternoon. A bus load of delegates from the conference took the ferry across to Bainbridge Island where they were briefed on the needs and aspirations of the Suquamish, Lower Elwha, Lummi and other Native American peoples in the Pacific Northwest.

The tour provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the significant needs in Indian Country and the exciting opportunities being pursued by both Tribes and Native non-profits. There was also an opportunity for a frank and honest discussion about the misperceptions that non-native communities have about the funding support that some Tribes receive from the Federal Government and the revenue that some Tribes receive from gaming sources.

The various funders on the bus left the tour much better informed about Indian Country and the opportunities that they can take to partner with Tribes and Native non-profits. As everyone gathered for a final prayer and song, two Bald Eagles flew in to witness the closing. One Eagle landed

in a cedar tree, and whilst the drums rang out the second Eagle circled overhead, calling to its mate, and providing the perfect end note to a great experience.



Potlatch Fund thanks both the Duwamish and Suquamish peoples for all of their help with the COF conference. Together we were able to ensure that these visitors received a unique Northwest experience. We are sure that this experience has opened up even more avenues of support for Northwest Natives.

In the spirit of the potlatch.

Ken Gordon
Executive Director
Potlatch Fund



Calendar of Events

- Jun**
19/20 – *The Journey to Successful Fundraising*
Blackfeet community College, MT
- Jul**
17/18 – *The Journey to Successful Fundraising*
Salish Kootenai, MT
- Aug**
21/22 – *The Journey to Successful Fundraising*
Shoshone/Bannock, ID

Please continue to monitor the online calendar for new updates and schedule changes.



Micah McCarty "Spirits of the Grey Whale"



Did you

Native women are victims of sexual violence

Potlatch Fund
ABOUT US

We are a grantmaking foundation and leadership development organization serving Washington, Idaho and Oregon. We are committed to the art of giving to promote economic development, natural resource protection, education, cultural preservation and community development.

Reason for Giving

As a youth, I grew up in a small town in close proximity to Indian Reservations, and I witnessed firsthand the effects of oppression and discrimination towards Indian people and their culture. The outrage and helplessness I felt as a young girl became a lifelong desire to assist with change. I believe that most change must come from within without apathy and excuses. The Potlatch Fund understands that supporting Northwest Natives in learning how to support themselves is the first crucial step in restoring, maintaining, and enlightening others about the importance of tribal communities. As a believer, participant, and supporter of the non-profit sector, there are always many reasons to support an organization. When it came to a personal choice as to where I wanted to channel financial and volunteer support, the clear choice for myself was the Potlatch Fund.

Nichole Leigh

Intertribal Canoe Journey grants

The Intertribal Canoe Journey seeks to honor centuries-old traditions of transport and trade by the coastal tribes of the Northwest, many of which traveled the waters to meet and gather for festivities. Since 1989, the Journeys have become a major catalyst for coastal Salish people to relearn, strengthen and reinforce their canoe traditions. The Journeys teach people about canoeing, about living, working and achieving in a community, respect for the environment, and about the value of ancient knowledge and hard work.

In January 2007, Potlatch Fund attended a meeting of Canoe skippers and requested permission to seek funding on their behalf. The skippers unanimously agreed to our proposal and we set about securing funding. This work resulted in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation contributing \$20,000 in re-granting support this year. A further \$1,000 was found from a private donor, and Potlatch Fund itself contributed \$2,000 from the proceeds of the 2006 Gala.

We received 18 excellent applications this year, with the funds being awarded as follows:

2007 Intertribal Canoe Journey Grantees

Big House Canoe Family (Bellingham, WA)	600	Samish Canoe Family (Anacortes, WA)	1,000
Blue Heron Canoe (Kent, WA)	1,250	Spirit of Raven Canoe Family (Suquamish, WA)	600
Cay-Uma-Wa Youth Services (Pendleton, OR)	1,500	St. Francis Canoe Club (Deming, WA)	1,000
Chinook Indian Nation (Chinook, WA)	1,000	Swinomish Canoe Family (La Conner, WA)	1,000
Duwamish Tribal Services (Seattle, WA)	1,250	The Carvers' Camp (Tacoma, WA)	1,000
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (Port Angeles, WA)	1,500	The Suquamish Tribe (Suquamish, WA)	2,400
Makah Canoe Society, (Neah Bay, WA)	1,500	**to support six family canoes	
Ohileqw-Sen Healing Center (Bellingham, WA)	1,500	Tulalip Canoe Families (Tulalip, WA)	2,400
Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation (Kingston, WA)	1,000	**to support three family canoes	
Quileute Tribal Journey (La Push, WA)	1,500	West Shore Canoe Family (Bellingham, WA)	1,000

Total \$23,000

This Grant Cycle has been a great success with an increase in funding of over 60% and an 80% increase in successful applications. Our very best wishes for all who participate in this year's Paddle to Lummi!

In 2008, the canoes will paddle to Cowichan, BC. If you would like information on the event or to join Potlatch Fund in supporting the canoes, kindly contact Lawrence Leake at: (206) 624-6076.

Native Arts Grant Cycle

2007 Native Arts Grant Cycle

The third Native Arts Grant Cycle opened June 1, with applications needing to be postmarked no later than July 31, 2007. The cycle is open to native artists and native led art organizations in the Potlatch Fund service area. The "Request for Proposal", with complete details, can be found at: <http://potlatchfund.org/grants/index.htm>

**Artists and traditional arts teachers mark your calendars!
Native Arts grant Deadline—July 31, 2007**

u know:

at a rate three times that of any other group

*, Oregon and western Montana. Our mission is to inspire and build upon the Native tradition
ion, civic participation and the overall health of Native people and their communities.*



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New Board Members

Passing the eagle staff

Potlatch Fund had two vacancies on our Board following the resignation of Sonny Davis and Darrell Phare. We advertised these vacancies earlier this year and received several excellent nominations. Following consideration of all the nominees, the Board selected Shelley Hanson and Luanne Belcourt for terms that will expire in September 2008.

Shelley Hanson is the Director of the Spirit Mountain Community Foundation located in Grand Ronde, Oregon.

Luanne Belcourt is a very experienced grant writer and consultant. Ms. Belcourt is Potlatch Fund's first Board member from Montana.

Board President Antone Minthorn stated "Together these two new members bring significant philanthropic, grant writing and management experience. Their appointments were unanimously supported by the existing Board and we look forward to their experience contributing to Potlatch Fund's mission of expanding philanthropy in Indian Country."

Potlatch Fund has also entered into the Board intern program being run by the University of Washington. This program appoints a non-voting intern to the Potlatch Fund Board for a year. Potlatch Fund's board intern for 2007 will be Jeff Pile. Mr. Pile is currently studying for his MBA and is also a member of the US Coast Guard.

Ford Foundation

Ford Foundation has just agreed to provide Potlatch Fund with \$150,000 over the next two years.

Half of this money will be used to fund Potlatch Fund's Native Arts Grants. The other half will be used to fund the technical support provided to Arts groups that attend our Journey to Successful Fundraising workshops.

Potlatch Fund Vice President, Natalie Charley, said that "This grant is sign of the significant support that we are receiving from major foundations. It is also a sign of the awareness that is starting to build in the funding community of the needs and the very positive programs being run in Indian Country."

Publications

Potlatch Fund recently wrote an article for the Grantmakers in the Arts Publication "The GIA Reader." This article looked at some of the issues that grant makers need to consider when they work with indigenous communities. Copies of this article can be downloaded from our website www.potlatchfund.org

Amnesty International recently published "Maze of Injustice" a study that examines the failure to protect Indigenous women from sexual violence in the USA. Copies of this disturbing report can be found at: www.amnesty.org



Canoes Landing at the AFSC gala 2007



The 5th Annual Potlatch Gala

Mark your calendars for our signature event!
An evening of celebration and honor
Grand Hyatt, Seattle, on the evening of Saturday November 17

Master of Ceremonies: Jim Thomas, TANF Director, Nooksack Tribe

Keynote Performer: Jana

Winner of two 2006 NAMMY Awards

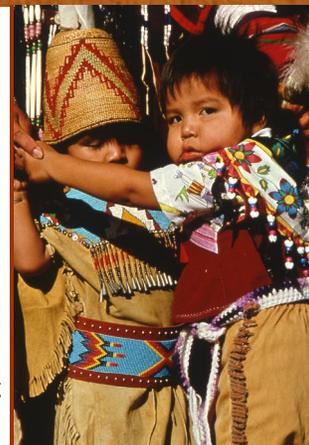
Nominated for a 2007 GRAMMY "Best Native American Music album" for *American Indian Story*

Philanthropist of the Year and Leadership Awards will be presented.

Please join us for the evening, to experience native culture and become part of the greater journey of restoring pride, health and culture to native communities in the Northwest. Help us expand the circle of philanthropy.

Ticket information and sponsorship opportunities are available on our web-site at www.potlatchfund.org

or by calling the Potlatch Fund office at: (206) 624-6076. *Act early as seating is limited!*



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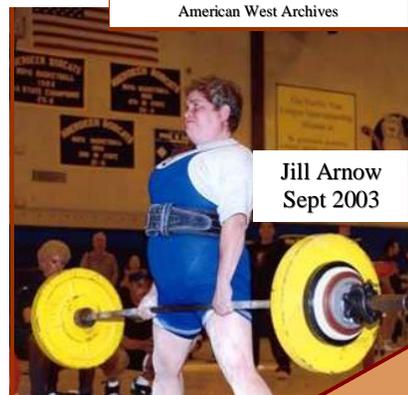
Volunteer Spotlight

Jill Arnow

Powerlifters compete in 3 events: squat, bench press, and deadlift. The score is the total of the three lifts. Jill Competed last October at the International Powerlifting Federation's World Masters Championships in Killeen, Texas (40+ year olds). She won and was crowned World Champion for her age/weight division. In February, she competed at the USA Powerlifting Federation's Womens National Championships in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There she placed first in her age/weight division and second overall for that weight class (all ages). In addition, she also set four new American Records including a squat record of 402 lbs and a total of over 1000 lbs. That win qualifies Jill to represent the US at this year's World Masters Championships to be held in the Czech Republic. She will be traveling in October with three teammates from Seattle and has our best wishes.

In Jill's Words

"I've been volunteering at Potlatch since the organization's beginning. Andrea Alexander and I had worked at ATR (now Social Justice Fund) years ago and share a passion for grantmaking. Also while working with ATR I became familiar with several of the tribal organizations in the Northwest and became interested in working on funding native organizations. I helped design the Potlatch grant programs and have continued to chair the Community Building grant program. Working with committee members to review the grants has been great. Not only is Potlatch awarding grants to worthwhile organizations, but you give new people the opportunity to learn what grant making is all about. It's an exciting process, and one I've been honored to be involved with."



Jill Arnow
Sept 2003



Improving Lives
Building Community

Potlatch Fund

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