Fall Issue 2008

A Potlatch Fund Publication

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Annual Meeting

Potlatch Fund held its fifth Annual Meeting on September the 16th. The most significant change made at the meeting is that Antone Minthorn (Umatilla) stepped down as President and was replaced in this role by Jim Thomas (Tlingit). Mr Thomas said "it is a great honor and responsibility to take on this role and I thank Antone for leading us during these last two years".

Mr Minthorn was appointed as Vice President replacing Natalie Charley who resigned due to work and other community commitments.

Meredith Parker took over the role of Secretary from Colleen Jollie. Ms Jollie will remain on the Board.

Four new Boards members were also appointed at the Annual Meeting. The new Board Members are:
Ms Heather Johnson-Jock
Ms Dawn Houle
Ms Anna Huntington-Kriska, and
Mr Bryan Mercier

With the appointment of these Board Members Potlatch Fund has concluded a two year process to expand its Board size to 15 members.

"We felt that it was necessary to move in stages from six to 15 Board Members, so that the Board could better reflect and represent the geographic and Tribal diversity of our region. I am excited to work with this group of committed volunteers to fulfill Potlatch Fund's mission of inspiring the Native tradition of giving and expanding philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country" Mr Thomas said.

Two intern Board Members also participate in our regular quarterly meetings. Bree Saimons joined the Board in June of this year as a intern from the University of Washington's MBA program. Stephanie Wood, from Grand Ronde, was added as a second intern during the Annual Meeting.

The full list of Board Members and their affiliations are shown on page three of this newsletter.

In the spirit of the potlatch.

Ken Gordon
Executive Director

Calendar of Events

Oct 16/17 – ***The Journey to Successful Fundraising Nonprofit Start-up***
Seattle, WA (Potlatch Fund)

Nov 6/7 – ***Financial Management for Nonprofits***
Seattle, WA (Potlatch Fund)

20/21 – ***The Journey to Successful Fundraising***
Cow Creek, OR

Dec 18/19 – ***The Journey to Successful Fundraising***
Crow, MT

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

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Potlatch Fund

We are a grantmaking foundation and leadership development orga
Our mission is to inspire and build upon the Native tradition of givin

Reason for Giving

Dena Levine from DML Insurance looks after our insurance needs. She does a great job in keeping us protected from all manner of risks and has also been a regular supporter of the annual Potlatch Fund Gala. Recently Dena was also the bearer of great news. Dena applied to Safeco on our behalf for one of their broker directed grants and Safeco decided to award Potlatch Fund $10,000!

We want to thank both Dena and Safeco for all of their support. Knowing that we are well insured helps to remove some of our concerns. This $10,000 will directly support our educational work throughout Northwest Indian Country.

The Potlatch Fund Annual 2008 Gala will be held in Seattle on Saturday, November 15 at the Grand Hyatt. For sponsorship opportunities or tickets, please call Lawrence at (206) 624-6076.

2008 Native Arts Grant Round

One of the innovative programs run by Potlatch Fund is to award grants to northwest Native artists and Native nonprofits. This program, which has been made possible through funding from the Ford Foundation, is a way to recognize excellence, encourage emerging artists and support community-based activities that promote Native art throughout the Northwest. This year 31 applications were received for the Native Arts grant round requesting a total of $156,052.

This year's review committee includes native artists Aurolyn Stwyer (Co-Chair), Roger Fernandez (Co-Chair), Colleen Jollie, Preston Singletary, Perri McDaniel, and Susan Balbas. Ken Gordon, Potlatch Fund's Executive Director, also participated in the review which was facilitated by Jill Arnow (Potlatch Fund's Community Building Grant program chair). 21 applications were recommended for funding. The Board of Directors approved the awards totaling $37,500 and ranging from $500 to $5,000.

The staff wishes to thank the Ford Foundation for their continued support of this important program and the volunteers who spent considerable time reviewing and discussing the applications. The awardees will be officially announced at the 2008 Annual Potlatch Fund Gala on November 15.

New Media Training

Potlatch Fund ran its first media management training on August 24. This training came out of a suggestion from one of our long time supporters Elaine Nonneman from the Channel Foundation. Elaine was concerned about the media coverage of the Makah whale shooting, and felt that there was a need for Native communities to be better able to respond to the media in the future.

This training brought together a number of subject experts and experienced media people to share how to think, plan and strategize media management. Kathleen Warren and Megan Hilfer from Parsons Public Relations commenced the day and discussed the advice that their firm gives to non-profits that are looking to improve their media profile. Former Potlatch Fund Communications Director RedWolf Pope and ED Ken Gordon then shared their own personal experience with managing the media and organizational profiles. Jon Doll from United Way discussed the ways in which media works hand in hand with development plans. The day was concluded with Linda Mapes from the Seattle Times talking candidly on a reporters view of the world, what to expect when you deal with a reporter and some dos and donts to be aware of when working with reporters.

Participants left the day buzzing about the opportunities to work with the media to better tell our Indian Country stories.

Potlatch Fund's New Office

We have some good news and we have some bad news. The bad news is that the really great deal that we enjoyed from the Norton Building had to come to an end as a new tenant will be moving into our old space. The good news is that we did not have to move very far. The Norton Building moved us one office to the west. Our new space is very cozy, allows us to significantly reduce our rent expenditure, and permits us to keep our old address and phone numbers!

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

TIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTION AWARD 2008 WINNER

nization serving Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana.
g and to expand philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country.

2008 Annual Gala

Planning is well underway for the 2008 Potlatch Fund Gala with Pura Fe as our key note performer. Once again we are limiting attendance at 400 seats. Last year the sold out signs went up two weeks before the event so get in early.

For seats or sponsorship opportunities to this signature event, or tickets, please call Lawrence at (206) 624-6076.

A special event that will happen at this year's Gala is that Potlatch Fund will be presented with the Kellogg Foundation's 2008 Leadership in Action award. This award recognizes the great strides that Potlatch Fund has in inspiring the Native tradition of giving and in expanding philanthropy in Northwest Indian Country. This is a huge achievement for Potlatch Fund and ranks us amongst some of the most well respected non-profits in the Nation.

Ambassador Finkbonner!

Justin Finkbonner was accepted into the Americans for Indian Opportunity Program founded by long time activist Ladonna Harris (Comanche). He has just returned from a week long trip in Washington DC that provided him with lobbying experience on the hill, a trip to United Nations, and meetings with several National Ambassadors from foreign countries. Justin's lobbying efforts will aid Puget Sound Tribes in their efforts to seek emergency relief for the 2008 fishing disasters.

Look for our New Website...Spring 2009

Dana Arviso (Navajo), our Finance and Evaluation Manager, has been working over the last year or so to review the look of our website. As part of this work she learnt about the work of the Taproot Foundation, which recently opened a Seattle office. The Taproot Foundation provides service grants to non-profits to help with leadership, planning and website design. Dana submitted a grant to Taproot Foundation and asked them to help to redesign our website.

Taproot FOUNDATION

The Taproot Foundation has just confirmed that we will be the recipient of one of these service grants, which is valued at $45,000. Craig Pfaff, a volunteer Account Director from the Foundation, will be the leader of this project and he is now busy bringing together a team of volunteers who are experts in web design. This team will work with Potlatch Fund staff and our own web guru Chholing Taha to get this new website underway. We are hoping to launch the new site in the spring and in the meantime we will be looking for volunteers to beta test the new experience. If you are interested in being involved in this project then please contact Dana at 206 624 6076.

POTLATCH FUND BOARD

President:
Jim Thomas (Tlingit)

Vice President:
Antone Minthorn (Cayuse/Umatilla)

Treasurer:
Chandra Hampson
(Winnebago/White Earth Chippewa)

Secretary:
Meredith Parker (Makah)

Officer at Large:
Kirby Jock (Mohawk/Iroquois)

Board Members:
Luanne Belcourt (Chippewa Cree)
John Chess
R. Scott Clements
Charlotte Cote (Nuu-chah-nulth)
Shelley Hanson (Grand Ronde)
Dawn Houle (Chippewa Cree)
Anna Huntington-Kriska (Athabascan)
Heather Johnson-Jock (Jamestown S'Klallam)
Colleen Jollie (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
Bryan Mercier (Grand Ronde)

Board Interns:
Bree Saimons
Stephanie Wood (Grand Ronde)

POTLATCH FUND STAFF

Executive Director:
Ken Gordon
Program Coordinator:
Justin Finkbonner (Lummi)
Office Manager:
Lawrence Leake
Finance & Evaluation Manager:
Dana Arviso (Navajo)
Office Assistant
Bibiana Ancheta (Tulalip)

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Foundation, MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, The Medina Foundation, The Nordliffe Foundation, Washington Mutual, Paul G. Allen Foundation, Verizon and Boeing.

Potlatch Fund in the News

The following is a copy of an article reprinted from the *Glacier Reporter*:

A team from Potlatch Fund traveled to Browning to conduct their second set of trainings with Blackfeet Tribal members, and representatives of new and emerging nonprofits that are being set up to support the Blackfeet community.

Dr. Dorothy Still Smoking of Blackfeet Housing requested the Potlatch Fund training and worked with Barbara Stiffarm from Opportunity Link of Havre to find the funding that allowed the trainings to take place.

Potlatch Fund provided a two-day fundraising training Tuesday and Wednesday, August 12-13. This training emphasized the fact that foundations seek to build relationships with Indian communities. The training covered all aspects of the process of obtaining grants from foundations. Potlatch Fund focuses on helping Native communities raise funds from foundations as, on average, Indian projects only receive about one-fifth of one percent of the $30 billion given out by these organizations each year.

On Thursday Potlatch Fund trainers Ken Gordon of New Zealand and Justin Finkbonner of the Lummi Nation switched gears to review governance practices for nonprofit and other organizations.

The training showed the recognized roles of boards, executive directors and staffs in organizations. While each has distinct duties and responsibilities, on the ground each party will generally show crossing over of roles, a factor that can be positive or negative.

For example, executive directors advising the board on policy and the board advising the directors as to community impact and feedback are appropriate and positive examples of crossover. When executive directors make or assume board policy decisions, or when a board gets involved in day to day management, they assume duties and responsibilities of other parties, to the detriment of the system.

As a new nonprofit, the Blackfeet Tenant Community Development Corporation Inc. of Blackfeet Housing stands to benefit from learning strategies for raising money through foundations.

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Save the Date!

Potlatch Fund's Sixth Annual Gala

Saturday November 15, 2008

Grand Hyatt, Seattle

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