

Words of Wisdom

A Potlatch Fund Publication



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Message from the Executive Director

On the evening of November 15, 2008 400 people joined us at the Grand Hyatt in Seattle for Potlatch Fund's sixth annual Gala.

As I stood at the entrance to the Gala venue, I watched peoples' faces as they came around the corner and saw the sea of people who had made it out on a cold November evening to support Potlatch Fund and to celebrate Indian Country.

For us the evening commenced when Mike Evans (Snohomish) once again brought the Blue Heron Canoe into the Grand Hyatt. This act of people combining their strength to help lift this precious vessel into this formal setting is both a highlight of our Gala and a perfect metaphor for what we are trying to do with Indian Country: combining our strengths and skills to introduce the precious needs and opportunities in Indian Country to the mainstream funding worlds.



The pre Gala reception was a resounding success. Peter Ali (Yaqui) played traditional flutes during this reception and the volume in the venue quickly rose as long time friends met and became reacquainted.



Peter Ali

Haida Heritage led the procession of dignitaries into the ballroom with a traditional Haida entrance song and then also provided a welcoming song to the assembled guests. Patsy Whitefoot (Yakama) set the tone for the evening with a formal invocation.



Ken Gordon & Patsy Whitefoot

Potlatch Fund itself was honored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, with Alandra Washington, a Director of the Foundation presenting the Leadership in Action Award to Potlatch Fund President and



Alandra Washington

our MC for the night, Mr James Thomas (Tlingit). Ms Washington was joined on stage by Shaun Petersen (Puyallup/Tulalip) who presented a painting to honor the award to Mr Thomas.



Jim Thomas and Shaun Peterson

In the remainder of this newsletter we will feature some additional highlights from the evening. This event is also of course a fundraiser for Potlatch Fund with \$85,000 being raised to help our programs in 2009. These funds will be matched in part by both the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which will provide another \$102,500 for regranting, trainings and operations in 2009.

In the spirit of the potlatch.

Ken Gordon - Executive Director
 PS: Please visit our web-site to see some wonderful photos from the evening.
<http://potlatchfund.org/photoalbum/index.htm>

Calendar of Events

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

January
 Potlatch Fund is planning to hold two trainings in January 2009. Please check our online calendar in late December for details.

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



Haida Heritage Dancers



Potlatch Fund

We are a grantmaking foundation and leadership development organization. Our mission is to inspire and build upon the Native tradition of giving.

The Show Must Go On

Our key note performer for this year's Gala was Pura Fé. At 2AM on Saturday morning we got a phone call from Pura. "I am really sorry" she told us "but Air France is on strike and I am still in Paris".



After lots of rushed calls we were able to confirm that Pura was on a Delta flight to Cincinnati, and was then going to "hop" to Seattle.

Our Gala reception commenced at 5AM, and there was still no sign. The dinner commenced at 7PM, and we got a text message from her manager who was waiting at SeaTac "The Eagle has landed".

At 8.30PM Pura hopped onto the stage for the world's fastest sound check. At 10.30PM she left the Hyatt very tired, but the show had gone on.

Philanthropists of the Year

Each year Potlatch Fund recognizes individuals or organizations who have done something extra-ordinary to support philanthropy within the Northwest and within Indian Country. This year the award is being presented jointly to:

- Kalispel Charitable Fund
- Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
- The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation.

These three foundations are being recognized because of the way that they have worked to establish clear giving structures, the strategic directions that they have established and because they have both reached out to ensure that their communities are being made stronger.



The Kalispel Tribe of Indians believes in being a positive force in the fabric of the community. As the Tribe continues to grow it is committed to re-investing in the community's greatest assets, the people! The Kalispel Charitable Fund is one of the many ways that the Tribe contributes to the greater Spokane and Pend Oreille Counties.



The Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund provides the opportunity for a sustainable and healthy community for all.

The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation



The Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, founded in 1987, is a family foundation which supports

nonprofit organizations in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of nature, including wildlife and their required habitats. It also supports the institutions that present nature and our rich cultural heritage to the public — museums, libraries, aquariums, zoos and public media. This award is being presented to the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation in recognition of the fact that they regularly grant 30% or more of their grants to projects that benefit Native communities.



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Honoring Leader Awards

The undoubted highlight of our Gala was the 2008 Honoring Leader Awards. The winners were:

- ◆ The 2008 Antone Minthorn Economic and Community Development Award is presented to **Donald B. Ivy.**



- ◆ The 2008 Pearl Capoeman-Baller Civic Participation Award is presented to **Jenine Grey.**



- ◆ The 2007 Billy Frank Jr. Natural Resource Protection Award is presented to **Elouise Cobell.**



- ◆ The 2007 Patricia Whitefoot Education Award is presented to **Denny Hurtado.**



- ◆ The 2007 Fran James Cultural Preservation Award is presented to **Charlene Krise.**



Profiles of each of these Leaders together with a short video, produced by **Native Lens**, are now available on our website: www.potlatchfund.org.

Fundraising

October and November have been great fundraising periods for Potlatch Fund. In addition to the \$85,000 raised at the Annual Gala, the Fund has been advised that it will receive:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - \$300,000 over three years for operating, regranting and evaluation.
- Medina Foundation - \$20,000 for Trainings and Operations.
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation - \$120,000 for a convening, operations and regranting.
- Northwest Area Foundation - \$15,000 for general support.
- Orinoco Foundation - \$5,000 for general support.
- First Nations Development Institute - \$56,000 for the LEAD Leadership development program.
- Boeing Foundation - \$25,000 for Native Arts program.

We are humbled by all of this support. This year's Gala was a record for us in two ways - firstly this is the most that we have ever raised. Secondly, there were 150 individual contributions for the Gala. We have included the full list of contributors as an insert to this newsletter.

We give our thanks to you all.



LEAD Leadership Development Program

In 2007 Potlatch Fund received funding from First Nations Development Institute (FNDI) to commence the inaugural LEAD Leadership development program. This program aims to provide Native people who are already involved with non-profits with the skills that they need to be successful non-profit leaders. The year long program included: fundraising and development; governance; human resources management; financial



Jenine, Kelly, Janeen, Dana, Tracy and Gail

management and hands on mentorship. The first group of six leaders to graduate from the program were: Dana Arviso, Janine Comenote, Kelly Gemmell, Jenine Grey, Gail Morris, and Tracy Rector. Sarah Vermillion Ecohawk and Montoya Whiteman from FNDI were present for the graduation. We were joined by Anne Xuan Clarke from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation who gave the keynote address.

This was also an opportunity to commence the orientation of the incoming LEAD cohort. Potlatch Fund generated significant interest for this year's cohort when this was announced earlier in the year. We had 34 enquiries and are pleased to announce

the following 12 LEAD Leadership development cohort members for 2008/09:

- Shaista Cano-Martin
- Loretta DeLora
- Greg Harrison
- Kris Hohag
- Dawn Houle
- Leslie Johnson
- Jenna Losik-Gonzales
- Pamela Masterman
- Jessica Porter
- Bridget Ray
- Crystal Viken
- Laura Wong-Whitebear

We wish you all the best with this exciting program this year.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter at a different address or are receiving this newsletter in error please inform us. At (206) 624-6076



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