

# Words of Wisdom

A Potlatch Fund Publication



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## *Potlatch Fund — News in Brief*

**2009 Potlatch Fund Native Arts Grants**  
Native American art in the Northwest has always played a central role in all facets of Tribal life. Artists are important educators and opinion leaders in Tribal communities. Through art, people learn to imagine other ways of seeing, doing, and interacting with each other and the environment.

Twenty-seven grantees in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are receiving a total of \$40,000 with funding from

- The Boeing Company
- The WK Kellogg Foundation
- Supporters of our 2008 Gala

Please visit our website for a complete list of grantees.

### **Volunteer of the Year**

Potlatch Fund Executive Director Ken Gordon was honored to receive the Mary Helen Moore 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award at the recent Philanthropy Northwest Annual Conference.

This Award was given to Ken in recognition of his leadership in building relationships between Philanthropy Northwest, its members and its Native American and Alaskan Native partners. In presenting the Award to Ken the incoming President of Philanthropy Northwest (PNW), Jeff Clarke from the Rasmuson Foundation, made special note

of Ken's involvement in the planning of the PNWs last two conferences, his role in leading breakout sessions on how foundations can work more effectively with Native communities, and his role in facilitating direct connections between funders and Native organizations through Reservation tours and through funder's briefings. Mr Clarke also noted Ken's role in helping to track giving to Native communities through the use of giving trend data.

In receiving the Award Ken Gordon said that it came as a complete surprise. He also felt that he personally was undeserving of the Award as he was carrying out Potlatch Fund's role of helping to both inspire the Native tradition of giving and expanding philanthropy to Northwest Indian Country. Ken did however note that non-profits and Tribes provide essential social and other services, without which society would crumble – and therefore and on their behalf he was humbled to accept the Award.

Philanthropy Northwest has honored one of its members with the Volunteer of the Year Award since the early 1980s. In 2004 the Award was named after Mary Helen Moore after her sudden death. Ms Moore was a beloved community leader, had had a career in corporate giving, had been a pastor, and was also a prominent

leader in the African American community.

### **Potlatch Fund Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Potlatch Fund Board was held on September 8, 2009. At that meeting Shelley Hanson and Heather Johnson-Jock were reappointed to serve three year terms.

The existing Board leaders were also reappointed to their respective roles. These roles are:

- Jim Thomas – President
- Antone Minthorn – Vice President
- Meredith Parker – Secretary
- Chandra Hampson – Treasurer
- Kirby Jock – Officer at Large

Board President Jim Thomas noted the significant progress that Potlatch Fund had made over the last year and noted also that the recent decision to re-appoint Executive Director, Ken Gordon, for a further two year term will give the organization needed stability over what is likely to be a difficult time.

The Board also has three current vacancies due to the resignation of members who have moved out of the area or have had to concentrate on their own organizations. The Board is publicly calling for nominations for these positions. Kindly contact Ken directly at: 206.624.6076 or [ken@potlatchfund.org](mailto:ken@potlatchfund.org).



**Upcoming Trainings**

September 29 Seattle WA

*Media Management*

October 6-7 Usk WA

*Introduction to Financial Management*

October 14-15 Duck Valley ID

*Journey To Successful Fundraising*

October 21-22 Seattle WA

*Journey To Successful Fundraising  
Financial Management*

November 12-13 Portland OR

*Journey To Successful Fundraising  
Nonprofit Startup*

Kindly email Heather Miller ([heather@potlatchfund.org](mailto:heather@potlatchfund.org)) for more information on the trainings listed above or to request a training in your community.



**Heather Miller** (Wyandotte), right, recently joined Potlatch Fund as Program Coordinator. You can learn all about Heather on page 3 of the latest issue of Seattle Native Circle: <http://potlatchfund.org/documents/SeattleNativeCircle.pdf>

**Save the Date: The Potlatch Fund 7th Annual Gala**

**The Northwest's signature event to expand philanthropy throughout Indian Country.**

The Potlatch Fund Gala builds upon the giving tradition of the potlatch by bringing together Tribal and grassroots Native leaders, foundation and corporate representatives and our generous donors. In 2008, over 400 people joined us, including representation from over twenty-five Northwest Tribes, and a surplus of over \$85,000 was raised. The 2009 Gala promises to be our most successful yet, and we have set a fundraising goal of a \$100,000 for the event.

The Gala is a unique opportunity to enjoy and learn about Native Culture, have fun and support our important work. Please join Potlatch Fund as a special guest at the 2009 Annual Gala.

This year's event will include:

- Master of Ceremonies, Gene Tagaban (shown left).
- Cultural performance by Tulalip Drum Group.
- Philanthropists of the Year Awards.
- Leadership Awards to Northwest Native Leaders.

**Saturday, November 21, 2009**

**Grand Hyatt Hotel, Seattle Washington**

**Reception: 5:30PM to 7PM**

**Dinner and Program: 7PM to 9:30PM**

Image courtesy of Victor Pascual  
+PASCUALDESIGN



**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:**

- John Chess
- Charlotte Cote (Nuu-chah-nulth)
- Shelley Hanson (Grand Ronde)
- Anna Huntington-Kriska (Athabaskan)
- Heather Johnson-Jock (Jamestown S' Klallam)
- Colleen Jollie (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
- Bryan Mercier (Grand Ronde)

**Board Interns:**

- Dawn Hamilton
- Stephanie Wood (Grand Ronde)

**POTLATCH FUND STAFF**

**Executive Director:**

Ken Gordon

**Program Coordinator:**

Heather Miller (Wyandotte)

**Operations Director:**

Lawrence Leake

**Bookkeeper:**

Dana Arviso (Navajo)

**Office Assistant**

Bibiana Ancheta (Tulalip)

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