INSPIRING THE NATIVE TRADITION OF GIVING

POTLATCH FUND
HONORING A RICH TRADITION

Potlatch Fund is a community foundation and leadership development organization. We are dedicated to inspiring the Native tradition of giving and expanding philanthropy within Tribal Nations and Native communities in the Northwest.

Among Northwest Coastal tribes, a potlatch is a coming together in ceremony, celebration and giving. Potlatches have always embodied the best of what Native culture had to offer: community building, food, song, and above all else, sharing.

Today, the spirit of the potlatch—of philanthropy in its most traditional form—continues to thrive in every Native community.

To honor this traditional value of giving, Potlatch Fund was formed in 2002.

We support Native people by sharing tools and resources needed to strengthen communities. We champion investment in our future leaders so they may serve others. We bring the realities of Native America to the philanthropic community. And we share the resources with those dedicated to keeping Native communities, arts and cultures alive.

Our rich traditions live on every day through the work we do.
“ONE’S WORTH IS NOT MEASURED BY WHAT ONE HAS, BUT RATHER BY WHAT ONE SHARES WITH OTHERS.”

POTLATCH FUND BUILDS FUNDERS AND NATIVE COMMUNITIES

SERVING NEEDS

To serve the needs of Native communities, Potlatch Fund works to build the capacity of Tribal institutions and leadership, to bring new philanthropic resources to these communities, and to administer direct grantmaking programs that benefit Native communities.

Despite the vast cultural wealth held by Native American, Native communities continue to be under-resourced and underserved at all levels, from education to the arts, from social services to basic community infrastructure.

In other communities, the philanthropic sector—with its many private, corporate, family and community foundations—serves the invaluable role of addressing such disparities.

These resources have yet to reach Indian Country. Research has found that of every $100 granted by the largest philanthropic foundations, less than three cents goes to Indian Country.

Potlatch Fund works to change these trends.

INVESTING IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Our vision is to empower emerging leaders, Tribal leaders and Native nonprofits to develop the best strategies in nonprofit and Tribal management. Potlatch Fund helps these organizations and programs be able to competitively apply for philanthropic resources.

Building the capacity of communities is our priority. In essence, we share the knowledge and tools that help communities become masters of their own destinies.

Potlatch Fund travels extensively throughout the Northwest, training clients in fundraising, financial management, governance, strategic planning and other areas of nonprofit management.

In the same spirit, we nurture promising young Native professionals by providing leadership training. These leaders return to their communities to give back and to lead these efforts into the 21st Century.

Building capacity within communities.
BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

BUILDING BRIDGES

Traditionally, Native Americans would often travel great distances to attend a potlatch. They knew that community building and celebration came from joining together to bridge the distance between tribes, villages and families.

Today, Potlatch Fund honors this tradition by serving the unique role of bringing the philanthropic community to Indian Country, and educating potential donors about the needs and challenges facing Native communities today.

We share with communities effective ways to approach funders. We educate donors—individuals and foundations alike—about opportunities and meaningful ways to give to Native Americans. And we reach out to the burgeoning sector of Tribal giving programs to help them develop strategic ways to use Tribal resources.

Bridging mainstream funders and Native communities.

ADVANCING NATIVE PHILANTHROPY

By providing direct grants to communities, Potlatch Fund upholds the values embodied in the traditional Native saying, “One’s worth is not measured by what one has, but rather by what one shares with others.”

Our grantmaking supports Tribal and Native nonprofit efforts aimed at community building, arts and culture and the intertribal canoe journey. We also provide mini grants to first-time applicants who have attended one of our training workshops.

Since 2005, Potlatch Fund has extended more than $790,000 in funding to Northwest Indian Country.

Watching our grants at work enriches the work we do.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Celebrating the power of giving has always been the foundation of Native culture. We have long understood that building a strong community depends upon the willingness of its members to share of themselves.

In bringing together community, we strive to uphold the spirit of giving—of sharing the richness of what Native culture has to offer.

Our work is supported by over 40 committed volunteers and through financial contributions and gifts of Native art from more than 300 donors.

You can help Potlatch Fund strengthen Native communities through contributions of your time, talent and treasure. Learn more about our mission and how to get involved on our website potlatchfund.org or call 206.624.6076.
GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

A SAMPLE OF THE MORE THAN 60 GRANTS POTLATCH FUND AWARDS EACH YEAR.

1. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
   $2,000 grant to create a six-week archery camp

2. Coeur d’Alene Tribe
   A total of $8,000 over three years to purchase and install playground equipment at Moetelme Park

3. Native American Language Teacher Training Institute
   A total of $8,000 over three years for general support for an indigenous language revitalization program

4. Quinault Indian Nation Senior Program
   $2,500 grant to support the development of a community garden

5. Big Arm, Dayton & Elmo Community Committee
   $1,750 grant to assist with remodeling the exterior of the Koitqal-qum Art Co-op

6. Grand Ronde Canoe Family
   $1,000 grant to support a newly formed canoe family

7. Makah Tribe
   Granted an old growth cedar tree, purchased from the state of Washington, to the Makah Tribe for cultural purposes

8. The Center Pole
   $5,000 grant for their youth entrepreneur program

POTLATCH FUND  801 SECOND AVENUE SUITE 304 SEATTLE, WA 98104
206.624.6076   WWW.POTLATCHFUND.ORG