

Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

Fall 2015

Above and Beyond Fund Pilot

Lori Mers, Board Member

In May, Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation normally awards individual grants of \$20,000-\$30,000 each in five Interest Areas: Cultural Arts, Education, Environment, Financial Stability and Health. In recent years, we have had more money to invest than our five grantees requested, so the next highest vote-getters received grants until the pool was exhausted.

This past year, we began looking at other ways to apply the "additional" (now called "Above and Beyond") funds to community needs. We held small-group discussions in February and June to consider the future evolution of our granting process. Specifically, we asked "How can we best use the funds left AFTER our pooled-fund grant process?" This led to further in-depth discussions about new ways to build upon IWCF's mission "to foster educated philanthropy through collaboration, pooled resources and individual giving to positively impact the community."

Alternatives generated by these discussion groups were presented to the full membership. In late summer, 144 women voted, with 64 percent choosing Option #2: to create a pilot for a "special" 6th grant (criteria to be determined). Here are a few comments from members as they voted:

- "A pilot will allow us to address emerging needs of our community and provide some flexibility to address issues that haven't risen to the top of the main grants process."
- "This option adds an exciting new dimension to our charitable purpose."
- "Creative vision."
- "By doing something different, we will learn and grow."

A small, ad hoc task force of IWCF members volunteered to meet regularly to research and identify major community needs, then clearly outline them and develop business cases for addressing each one. These will be presented to the Board in December and then to the membership early in 2016. After members vote on what they want IWCF to pursue, we will solicit grant applications and engage in a rigorous Request for Proposal (RFP) process in order to present several viable options for members to vote on in September. The first Above and Beyond Grant, probably \$20K-\$40K, will be awarded at our 2016 Fall Symposium in October.

Please contact Lori Mers at (208) 866-6202 (cell) or lori_mers@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

The Annual IWCF Holiday Party

will be held Thursday, Dec. 17, in downtown Boise at Beside Bardenay from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. A full service, no-host bar will be available, along with delectable appetizers. Your guests are cordially invited to come and share in the spirit that is IWCF! Cost is \$15 per person with RSVP, \$20 per person at the door or included if the Member Meal Plan is purchased prior to event. Beside Bardenay is located at 612 W. Grove St., between S. 6th St. and S. Capitol Blvd. Cheers!



Positive change through thoughtful giving

From the

Board

The Teen Years

Happy 14th Birthday, IWCF! Welcome to the glorious teen years! We're trying new things. Making new friends. Thinking about the future. Checking in on our self-image. We don't know it all, but we think IWCF is most certainly on the right track to make it through the teen years and beyond in strong fashion.

We've talked about the WHY of IWCF, and I've heard many of you sharing your own stories of why IWCF is important to you. In case you missed the recent 14th Birthday Party, here's the David Letterman-style list enthusiastically delivered by 14 members:

Top 14 List – WHY We Do What We Do.

- #14 - Transforming communities – who doesn't want to be a part of that?
 - #13 - Our highly rigorous and transparent grants process
 - #12 - \$1000 is great, but 325 x \$1000 is awesome!
 - #11 - Educated philanthropy: Value-added for IWCF and our community
 - #10 - Susan Smith and our founding members, always looking forward
 - #9 - The leadership of our Board of Directors rocks!
 - #8 - Strategic investment in our grantees and their programs
 - #7 - We are a lean, keen, woman working machine
 - #6 - One woman, one vote – we're all equals at IWCF!
 - #5 - Because collaboration is powerful
 - #4 - 2.8 million dollars granted since 2002!
 - #3 - Proactive, not reactive. . . it's the way we roll
 - #2 - Look around! Spending time with engaged, smart women
 - #1 – Wine and yummy food! Need we say more?
- Those are some powerful WHYS!

With strong parenting from our founders and leaders from our infancy to our teens, we are poised for big things at IWCF. I congratulate the membership for your overwhelming vote of confidence when you said let's try something new in granting. So we did: The Above and Beyond Grant task force is collaborating with community leaders to identify and focus on the most fundamental needs in our community.

In "Four Network Principles for Collaboration Success," a

recent article by Jane Wei-Skillern and Nora Silver, the two UC-Berkeley professors discuss the importance of mobilizing various organizations and resources that together can deliver more impact. Build a constellation, not just stars, they say. Nonprofit networks are forming, and we want to be on the team. With the Above and Beyond grant, we will further realize principles key to our mission.

Let's keep the discussion going about what we believe. Let's keep asking WHY we do what we do. Asking these questions now will pave our path into our 20s, 30s and ultimately our ripe old age. So many more birthdays to celebrate!

Suzanne Groff Lierz, President

Thank You!

Susan Chalpouka
Suzette Ginther, Emerald Court
Jillian Huang
Suzanne Lierz
Susan May
Ginny Miller
Judy Nicola
Linda Perez
Norma Pintar, Idaho Children's Trust Fund
Jan Riener
Sophie Schwab
Roger Sherman, Idaho Children's Trust Fund
Donna Wetherley

Welcome New Members

Since June 2015

Kathe Alters
Heather Glass
Claudia Hambacker
Rhonda Millick
Scout O'Gara
Gayle Wilde

Visual Arts Program #1

by Laura Simic, IWCF Member

The arts are the soul of a civilization. They define who we are and who tells our story. Through arts education, students learn self-evaluation, creativity, problem-solving, innovation and collaboration.

The state of arts education in Idaho, the importance of arts programming and the challenges of working in art-related fields were the topics of the first of two educational programs about the visual arts. The program featured Michael Faison, Executive Director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts; Melanie Fales, Executive Director of the Boise Art Museum; and Amy Nack, art educator and founder of Wingtip Press. It was held on Oct. 14 in the fitting setting of the Boise Art Museum.

Faison explained that the Idaho Commission on the Arts is one of 54 state-based organizations that work in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Idaho Commission on the Arts supports Idaho arts organizations' public participation in arts and educational programming, with an emphasis on K-12 arts education. Despite the support of the NEA and statewide agencies, local governments are the largest public funders of art in communities.

Faison was joined by his colleague, Ruth Piispanen, ICA Director of Arts in Education, who said National Core Arts Standards have been developed and are being considered by the State Board of Education. These standards are a process that guides educators in providing a unified, quality arts education for students in pre-K through high school. A review group of arts educators has recommended that Idaho adopt the standards.

Fales explained that the 78-year-old Boise Art Museum (BAM) began as a grassroots effort and is now the only accredited, collecting art museum within 300 miles. The museum is a nonprofit organization supported by self-generated revenue and philanthropy. BAM seeks to create educational experiences, to organize and borrow high-caliber art to share with the community, and to provide opportunities for artists to show their work, lecture and teach in a professional museum setting. Through its outreach programs, BAM reaches 6,000 students in schools, and 10,000 students visit the museum annually.

Nack grew up in Illinois with access to art education as a young student. As an adult, she took advantage of community art classes and workshops. She joined an outreach program to provide art lessons in schools and taught art at Roosevelt Elementary School. It was through this teaching experience that she came to realize how marginalized art had become in schools. Nack promotes art as "a way into another way of learning."

After attending graduate school at Boise State University, Nack opened Wingtip Press to offer practicing and emerging artists a place to engage in printmaking and give visiting artists opportunities to teach. Wingtip Press also is the home of Arts Unlimited, an arts education program for children with disabilities.

All of the speakers agreed that with the current trend of standardized testing and emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, the visual arts must be preserved as a means to foster the human urge to create and as an expression of the human soul.

Jo Anne Minnick and Sherry Bithell co-chaired the program and Jena Vasconcellos offered the Membership Moment.

Visit Facebook to see how our 2014 and 2015 grantees are meeting their missions.

* *Boise Urban Garden School*

* *The Cabin*

* *The Cancer Connection Idaho*

* *Feed the Gap, Inc.*

* *Junior Achievement of Idaho, Inc.*

* *Idaho Shakespeare Festival*

* *Life's Kitchen*

* *One Stone*



The What, How and Why of IWCF Grants

by Susan May, Grants Committee Chair

IWCF MISSION

To foster educated philanthropy through collaboration, pooled resources and individual giving to positively impact the community.

THE WHY

Let's start with the WHY. Why do IWCF members serve on grants committees? Responses are generally very personal. For some, it's a way of "giving back" or "making a difference in our community." Others want to connect with women of similar interests, or engage in learning in order to become an educated philanthropist. Whatever motivates you, the grants committees need your involvement and your voice.

THE WHAT

We foster educated philanthropy through our pooled-fund grants and individual grants—this hasn't changed. However, last year we conducted a pilot during which we increased the size of our grants and at the same time provided the opportunity for multi-year awards. Based on its success and feedback from members and a number of nonprofits, we will continue the pilot approach going forward. We remain

committed to awarding a grant in each of five Interest Areas: Cultural Arts, Education, Environment, Financial Stability and Health.

THE HOW

This year, we have an increased focus on HOW we execute the grants process. Again, based on feedback received from focus groups at the end of last year's grants cycle, we have made a concerted effort to educate the nonprofit community about WHAT IWCF does and HOW our process works.

We introduced our LOI (Letter of Inquiry) online in July (earlier than in previous years). We rewrote our criteria in an effort to provide more clarity, so we can make more effective decisions and our applicants will have more flexibility. Additionally, we conducted two meetings this summer specifically focused on Cultural Arts and Environment nonprofit organizations; more than 40 individuals attended them. We also offered two Insight into IWCF Grants sessions, attended by more than 75 members and nonprofit representatives. In these sessions, information was presented about writing an effective grant application—both in general and for IWCF. For this year's grants review, we received 110 LOI requests!

We need your help to ensure that the best decisions are made—for our community, our members and IWCF. Whether or not you're sure of your personal WHY, please join us on a grants committee . . . and be inspired!

Grants Committee Members Reflect on their Service

"Serving on the grants committee is the true heart of IWCF. I've been inspired by the people I've met working hard to change the world, and have had a great experience working hand-in-hand with talented, dedicated and caring IWCF women!"

Tracy Rowe
IWCF member since 2013

"The ability to serve on a grants committee, and to directly participate in the process of researching local nonprofits and awarding IWCF funds, was really the reason I joined the organization.

Writing a check is helpful, and I know it's appreciated, but it's so gratifying to be a part of the decision-making process. I know exactly why last year's recipients were chosen, what they hope to accomplish, and how each dollar will be spent, plus I got to meet such inspiring people on the site visits. It made me feel very good about Boise; we have a lot of passionate and amazing people working to make our community a better place."

Amy Duque
IWCF member since 2014

Insights into IWCF Grants

Vicki Kreimeyer, Education Chair

For our first Education program of 2015-2016, Insight into IWCF Grants, the Education Committee organized two sessions, one at 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and a repeat from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Both were held at the Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy, Boise, on Sept. 15.

More than 50 individuals attended over the lunch hour: 46 registrants and a dozen additional walk-ins. The evening program attracted 20. In each session, nearly 75 percent were from the nonprofit community. We were delighted to have such great nonprofit turnout!

Program presenters were Ann Sandven and Susan May. Ann

provided an overview of best practices for effective grant writing. She reminded participants that the key to writing an effective and successful grant is to respond to the priorities and interests of the granting organization. She also emphasized the importance of reading and following instructions carefully to ensure that the proposal receives consideration.

Grants Committee Chair Susan May provided the context and an overview of the IWCF grants process. She oriented participants to our mission and values, explained how our process works, reviewed instructions for the Letters of Intent (LOI) and noted key dates on our grants calendar.

In each session, our presenters participated in a lively question-and-answer period. Some participants stayed after the program to ask additional questions, and many expressed appreciation for the informative programs and for having a choice of program times.



*Welcome to Grants event - October 20, 2015
photo courtesy of Kim Liebich*

Why IWCF:

Stacey Nolan, IWCF Membership Committee Member

I'm going to get straight to the point, because wasting time is not a luxury I currently possess. I'm the mother of two small children: a very precocious 5-year-old and an insanely active and bright 2-year-old. My husband works 60+ hour weeks with a constantly fluctuating schedule and out-of-town trips, and all of our family live out of state. Hence, I'm one busy woman, as we ALL are these days.

Like many other women, I feel a moral obligation and a sense of commitment to help improve my local community. But how could I manage large chunks of time volunteering somewhere? Or if I donate money, how do I know my money will be used wisely? Often, we have the desire to do something thoughtful and useful for our community but truly lack the time or direction. Well, this is where Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation (IWCF) is my saving grace!

IWCF is an organization that allows me to give as much or as little time as I have available in any one year. Some years, I have participated in committees, and other years I've done very little more than write a check. However, I have consistently known that I'm part of an amazing group of women who are making a large impact on our community in a very intelligent and well-thought-out way. So I can feel good about this and take pride in helping my community, with the benefit of being able to increase my involvement as time allows. What a great opportunity, right?

If you are thinking about joining IWCF, NOW is the time. If you need to renew, NOW is the time. Because as we all know, time flies fast and is in high demand. By working collectively with effort and finances, we CAN have a great effect on the community and world around us.



IWCF 14th Birthday Party on September 10, 2015 - Emerald Court

Decade Members

Celebrating their 10 years or more of collective and educated giving. Their names have been proudly and gratefully inscribed on a special IWCF plaque. (*The number following each name denotes her years as an IWCF member.*)

Mary Abercrombie 11	Christine LaRocco 10
Mary Adcox 14	Treacy Liebich 12
Susan Allison 10	Marcia Liebich 12
Ann Allyn 10	Kim Liebich 13
Desh Anderson 12	Yvonne Lierz 11
Terry Anderson 14	Kim Lynch 11
Eileen Barber 13	Bernadine Marconi 10
Barbara Bender 11	Sharon McEwan 10
Janet Benoit 11	Lee McKeown 14
Susan Berry 10	Selena Morgan 13
Laura MacGregor Bettis 11	Diane Myklegard 11
Carolyn Casey 10	Esther Oppenheimer 11
Gayle Chalfant 10	Annette Park 11
Susan Chaloupka 11	Susie Parrish 11
Dawn Christensen 10	Suzi Pearson* 11
Vicky Coelho 12	Kathy Pidjeon 11
Lisa Cooper 10	Holly Ponath 10
Viki Dater 11	Marci Price-Miller 13
Gena Delucchi 13	Elizabeth Pursley 14
Marilyn Dorman 11	Georgiann Raimondi 13
Kathy Durbin 10	Vera Rasmussen 14
Claire Dwyer 10	Carol Reagan 13
Frances Ellsworth 10	Marjorie Reedy 10
Shannon Erstad 13	Alicia Ritter 11
Bettie Ferguson* 10	Amy Rustad 14
Patricia Forbes 14	Ann Sandven 14
Theresa Fox 13	Deanna Schmidt 11
Barbara Frizzell 14	Marian Shaw 13
Margaret Gorrissen 10	Marilyn Shuler 10
Linda Gossett 12	Kristin Hoff Sinclair 13
Kay Hardy 12	Susan Smith 14
Ali Hayden 11	Caroline Sobota 10
Margaret Henbest 13	Bonnie Thorpe 13
Iris Hendrickson 12	Jena Vasconcellos 11
Alice Hennessey 14	Dee Warner 11
Margaret Hepworth 12	Paula Warren 10
Mary Jane Hill 11	Nancy Werdel 11
Deb Holleran 14	Donna Wetherley 14
Kay Hummel 11	Jacquelyn Wilson 14
Heather Jauregui 11	Gini Woolley 12
Debbie Johnson 12	Shawn Del Ysursa 10
Diane Kushlan 10	Driek Zirinsky 13
Nicole Lagace' Toeldte 10	

** deceased*

Happy 14th Birthday IWCF



Birthday photos courtesy of Peter Lovera

Volunteer Opportunities

Jillian Huang, Board Member

Have you considered expanding your role in IWCF by volunteering? A variety of exciting and challenging opportunities need your help right now! This is your chance to meet and work with other talented women in our organization as you make a huge difference for IWCF.

Arrangements Committee – This group handles all the arrangements for various IWCF Membership and Education events, organizing the food and decorations. They meet once a month to organize and distribute the tasks. If you like to create or serve food, decorate, and work in social settings, this group is for you!

Education Committee – This group plans and facilitates the various educational events over the year, focusing on the five topic areas in which we grant. If you enjoy organizing such events, helping with content and planning the program logistics, this group is for you!

Operations Committee/IWCF Office help – This group works with our office staff, assisting with tasks of all sorts, from mailings to database entry and more. If you can come to the office and enjoy detail-oriented work, this group is for you!

I'd like to point out that we are grateful for any and all help, and we can work around your schedule. If you are able and interested, just give us your times and we will make it happen. We hope this flexibility will allow more members to be included without feeling the pressure of a big commitment!

We'd love to hear from you if you can help out. Please contact Jillian Huang at (513) 312-4742 or jmsubach@gmail.com.

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Go on-line at
www.IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org
or check your mail for renewal information
sent the first week in November.



**Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation**

P.O. Box 6164
Boise, Idaho 83707

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Join our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation

Save the Dates!

Holiday Social

*Thursday, December 17, 2015
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Beside Bardenay
610 W Grove Street*

Full Proposal Grant Submissions

January 15, 2016, 12:00 noon deadline

Philanthropy/Planned Giving

*Tuesday, January 12, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Location TBD*

Full Grant Proposal Review

*Wednesday, January 20, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., ESPAA*

Book Discussion

*Thursday, January 21, 2016
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Location TBD
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Location TBD*

Annual Winter Membership Event

*Thursday, January 28, 2016
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Headwaters Wealth
Management, 401 W Front Street, Suite 400*



Thanksgiving & Christmas Office Closure

*November 23 - 27, 2015
December 21, 2015 - January 1, 2016*

***Please Let Us Know** - Any time you have a comment or question, feel free to contact us.
Office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org or (208) 343-4923

www.IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org