

Newsletter

Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation

February 2013

Volume 12 Issue 1

IWCF Trip to Mountain Home Senior Center

by Kathy Durbin and Vicki Kreimeyer

Six IWCF members traveled to Mountain Home Senior Center on Dec. 5, 2012 to see the construction work done on the Senior Center building with the \$19,285 grant we awarded last May. We left Boise on an overcast, cloudy morning. When we exited to Mountain Home, the sun broke out of the clouds, and light and warmth increased the closer we came to the Senior Center.

We were greeted with great smiles, warm handshakes and abundant thanks. Our tour guide, Executive Director Ruthada Powell, led us through the building. She proudly showed us new vinyl-clad windows, doors with proper push exits, and a new back door, wide enough for wheel chairs and freight deliveries to be brought into the building at loading-dock level. She saved the best until the end: two new furnaces with adequate capacity to properly heat the building.

Thanks to these improvements, the building is now much more accessible, energy-efficient and safe for the more than 600 members of the Mountain Home Senior Center. This lively community hub is open daily, providing meals on site three days a week, Meals On Wheels for home-bound seniors, a thrift shop, computer classes, and donated beauty salon services for haircuts, manicures, facials and pedicures.

The IWCF grant to the organization makes a critical difference in its ability to provide these services and connections for the growing senior population in Mountain Home. Many members spoke to each of us over the lunch they provided; the smiles given us were sparkling and heartfelt.

All of us left the Senior Center with smiles on our faces and hearts warmed, knowing IWCF members had helped a deserving and critical community organization meet important goals.



Art is Serious Business

by Celinda Snyder, IWCF Board Member

For the past 10 years, terms such as “creative economy” and “cultural economy” have become more and more common among city planners, urban developers, and business and municipal leaders. It is increasingly apparent that the arts—far from being a luxury enjoyed by a few wealthy cities—are essential to economic and cultural vitality everywhere.

This is definitely true for our own community. According to Arts & Economic Prosperity IV, a report published by the Boise City Department of Arts & History, nonprofit arts and culture organizations are a \$48 million industry supporting 1,602 full-time equivalent jobs in Boise alone and generating \$4.5 million in local and state government revenue in Idaho.

Just how does the arts and culture sector do this? In many ways. Arts, culture and creativity can stimulate economic vitality, boost revitalization and build competitive advantage. They

- improve a community's competitive edge
- attract new residents and visitors
- integrate the visions of community and business leaders
- create a foundation for defining a sense of place
- contribute to the development of a skilled workforce

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Positive change through thoughtful giving

From the President

Here we are starting off a brand new year...2013! As you may have noticed, we're in the midst of some changes for this organization we all love.

Through this fall, we've been working on key components of making IWCF an organization that is set up to have many years of success helping people. We're migrating to a new database system to help us communicate more efficiently. And...we're launching a new website – watch for changes!! We're looking forward to an upgrade in functionality.

More changes have included a second part-time administrative assistant in the office. This gives us a more sustainable office system – two bright heads to handle peak workload periods and to keep track of all the little details of our membership. This two-person team provides us with a safety-net system and with so much more flexibility. Jo Wenger, introduced elsewhere in this newsletter, is just the person to help. We're delighted to have found her!

Grants, our reason for being, expanded last year and we put new procedures in place. This year, we're fine-tuning some of them. We're creating flexibility for the individual interest area committees, enabling them to put forward more – or fewer – candidates for the ballot that goes to our total membership. This means that, if one interest area has a large number of worthy candidates, our ballot structure won't limit your option to choose among them.

One thing that hasn't changed is our need for our members. YOU, make this organization what it is and we appreciate you. If you haven't renewed yet please do so – there is still time to help us make an impact. If you have friends who are looking for a way to affect positive change in our community, allow us to introduce them to IWCF. Whether they want to become active or just to contribute financially we're excited for them to participate in a way that's comfortable for them.

Our five interest area leaders began work with their teams in January to evaluate our applicants for the Pooled funds and we are very excited about the possibilities for the grants this year! Thank you, from all of us, to all who are giving their time and talent! This work is why our grant evaluation process has become the model for nonprofit project evaluation in southwestern Idaho.

On April 16, we will meet to decide which projects will be on the ballot. That daytime meeting, or the evening Q&A on April 25, are super times to become informed about the possibilities for directing how your pooled grant funding is to be spent. We work hard to make these meetings informative and efficient. Please join us to hear about the great things happening in our community.

By pooling our funding through IWCF, we are able to have a larger impact than any of us could have made as individuals. It's incredible that we can come together like this to make such a difference. On May 13, we get to honor the grantees. Be sure to put it on your calendar!

In gratitude,
Dana Kehr

Welcome New Members

Since November 2012

Diann Bennett	Ginny Miller
Kathi Drew	Janie Modie
Susan Evans	Amy Moll
Kerry Hagerty	Teri Patterson
Tonya Hall	Rhonda Pollock
Robin Hanford	Sara Rengert Smith
Lisa Hecht	Kristin Shaffer
Mary Hindson	Carol Smith
Gail Kirkpatrick	Gerry Soule
Carole Lamet	Christin Steele
Kelly Madison	Lynn Wood
Mary McCowin	Kathy Young
Melanie Michaels	

Thank You!

Brenda Blitman
Kris Erne
Leslie Garrett
Margaret Gorrissen
Darcy Hoellwarth
Dana Kehr
Wayne & Susan Meuleman
Jan Riener
Susan Smith
Cafe Vicino
International Minute Press
Jacqueline Crist - James Castle Collection and Archive
Tom Tompkins - Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy
Stephanie Wilde - Stewart Gallery

It Takes a Village

IWCF has always been driven by it's volunteers. We're going to take a moment here to list some of those wonderful gals that are busy in the background currently. If you would like to participate in the workings of IWCF and meet more fabulous women, please consider joining a committee! There's always room for more.

As you can see there are many, many women sharing their time and expertise. If we've missed you please accept our apologies. It can be a big job but it's more fun together, a HUGE thank you to all of you!

GRANTS - G

Celeste Miller co-chair – B, GSC

Anne Hay co-chair, GSC, L

Terry Anderson

Amie Bruggeman - L

Helen Carter

Susan Chaloupka - OLT, L

Joanne Clavelle

Marilyn Clemins

Sharon Colby - L

Kathy Durbin - OLT, GSC, L

Susan Evans

Tonia Ginkel

Jackie Groves - B, GSC

Raquel Guglielmetti

Pat Harder

Jane Hardison

Mary Hindson

Sharon Katz - L

Gail Kirkpatrick

Carole Lamet

Sue Linja - L

Susan Mauk – B, GSC

Kelly Madison

Amy McDevitt

Jo Anne Minnick

Ginny Miller - OLT

Lory Nesper

Stacy Nolan

Laura York Odell - L

Camille Olson

Claudia Parcels

Teri Patterson

Linda Perez

Sue Philley

Sue Pierson

Holly Ponath

Mary Reiman

Linda Rodda

Karen Ruttke

Jo-Anne Smith

Kathy Stearns

Anne Sandven

Lisa Stevenson

Barb Turner - GSC, L

Debbie Wachtell - L

Shawn Del Ysursa

EDUCATION - ED

Tena Lokken – Chair, BM

Sharon Colby

Heidi Egerman

Vicki Kreimeyer – B, G, L

Jo Anne Minnick - OLT

Marilyn Shuler

Celinda Snyder - MC

Janelle Wise

MEMBERSHIP - M

Margaret Gorrissen – Chair, B

Anne Brown

Susan Chaloupka

Ann DeAngeli

Leslie Garrett

Mindy Plumlee – Gov

Stella Schneider

FINANCE - F

Tricia Kennedy - Chair

Debbie Johnson - B

Susan Allison

Brenda Blitman

Susan Chaloupka

Kris Erne

Jane Hardison

Lisa Leff Cooper

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS - MC

Beth Markley – Chair, BM

Amy McDevitt - GSC

Lauren Necochea - G

Diane Ronayne

Sarah Smith

ARRANGEMENTS

Jan Riener – Chair, B

Margi Babcock

Laurie Corrick - OLT

Roxanne Traux Cummings

Tonia Ginkel

Linnea Lovlien

Georgiann Raimondi - OLT

Donna Wetherley – G, M, OLT

Susan Smith – B, GSC, Gov, F, M

BOARD DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE - Gov

Jena Vasconcellos – Chair, B

Anne Hay

Cyndi Friend Kay

Suzanne Lierz – B, Gov

Susan Mauk - B

Tina Michael

Kathy Pidjeon - Gov

OTHER LITTLE THINGS - OLT

Dana Kehr – B, F, M, MC

Kim Liebich – B, GSC, M, MC, F

Kay Alsphaugh

Gena Delucchi – G, MC

Gerry Soule

BOARD MEMBER - BM

Grants Steering Committee – GSC

Grants Liaison - L



Positive change through thoughtful giving

The Arts Matter

by Vicki Kreimeyer

More than 80 engaged and enthusiastic IWCF members and guests gathered at Boise Contemporary Theater on Nov. 14, 2012, to learn about the diverse impacts of four performing arts organizations on our community.

Opera Idaho, Boise Contemporary Theater, Balance Dance Theater, and Boise Philharmonic participated in the presentation, sponsored by the Education Committee. Co-planners Jo Anne Minnick and Vicki Kreimeyer asked each organization to do two things in 15 minutes: inform us about their organization and provide a live performance. They also asked that a range of impacts—economic, educational and cultural—be addressed.

Our guest speakers were Opera Idaho General Director Mark Junkert; Boise Contemporary Theater Artistic Director Matt Clark and BCT Theater Lab Director Dwayne Blackaller; Balance Dance Theater Director Leah Clark; and Boise Philharmonic Music Director Robert Franz. Each described their art's effects on the area economy and the overall health of the community, as well as the many positive results for youth and adults who participate as audience members or performers.

Following each speaker came a performance that captured the essence of each art form. We heard the familiar aria, "Habanera," from Carmen (and a male audience member actually received a kiss from Carmen!). Then came a snippet of an original play by members of the BCT Theater Lab. These young actors wrote, staged, directed and acted their own play about a group of high school girls trapped in a ski lodge. Balance Dance Theater teen dancers followed, demonstrating the great strength, grace and sensitivity demanded by contemporary dance. The final performance featured the Boise Philharmonic String Quartet. Following Robert Franz's challenge to be silent and just listen to the space before the performance, we focused and heard the music in a new way.

Following the performances, a lively question-and-answer period allowed us to engage the speakers. Questions prompted our guests to talk about the demands of performing, the growth and learning skills that the performing arts offer youth and adults, and their dreams for the future of each organization.

The Arts Matter tantalized us with opera, theater, dance and symphonic music. Everyone left wanting more!

Information on the many-faceted importance of the arts and culture sector is available on the resources page of the IWCF website.

Good Times!

As you've probably noticed, we seem to be having more social events and they always involve good food, nice wine and great people! We've heard your some of your request for more networking opportunities and we're easing into it.

Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy was the spot for our 2012 Solstice Party was super. Around 60 of us got together to celebrate the longest day of the year – and to have what might have been the final event of the ever-popular Mayan calendar!

Hope you can make the next social event – the Grants Q&A, April 25 and then the Annual Meeting May 13th.



Dana Kehr and Denise Smith



Margaret Gorrissen, Kate Gorrissen
and Chris LaRocco



Susan Smith and Jan Riener
photos by Beth Markley

Grants 2012 - Midterm Reports

We are happy to report that all eight of the organizations that undertook projects with IWCF funding in May 2012 have submitted mid-term assessments. Most projects are on track, and one is already complete!

Boise Bicycle Project received \$12,000. The Work and Ride program has increased BBP's impact on the community by 143 adults in the first 6 months. The program has also created opportunities for 18 volunteers to learn about bicycle repair and safety while giving back to the community. In the first 6 months of the Work and Ride Program, 108 adults participated in the Work portion to get their bicycles running again. Two different groups of refugees (totaling 26) and one group of adults from the Boise Rescue Mission (9 adults) participated in the Ride portion of the program to learn how to ride, more effectively/safely. The goal of both portions of the program is to make sustainable bicycle transportation available to low-income adults. Most of the program participants use their bicycle as their primary source of transportation. The work portion of the program has made it possible for the participants to seek employment and/or get to work.

Family Advocates' Families First program received \$25,000 to recruit, screen and train 16 volunteers to provide a voice in court for abused children and home visits to educate families so that all children are safe and nurtured. The project added 30 Home Visiting volunteers by February 2013. This corps of newly-trained volunteers will serve 30 more at-risk families. The project integrates volunteer management expertise built by the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Early next year, we anticipate training another 12-15 volunteers. This early success should allow them to double the number of families served.

Create Common Good's STIR project received \$25,000 for culinary arts training for refugees. In their first six months, they've provided 1300 hours of job training to thirteen at-risk refugees in Boise. Of the thirteen who received training, ten of the trainees have found employment. The remaining three trainees recently graduated on December 5th, 2012 and are in the process of interviewing for jobs. The individuals who have graduated have improved language skills, vocational skills and confidence. STIR has a 95% job placement rate for all refugees who come through their job training programs. As one small example, four recent program graduates were hired by the new Whole Foods and are working full-time jobs with benefits.

Oaths received \$10,000 to expand a program to provide educational support for the 2500 homeless students of the Treasure Valley so that they will have a better chance of enjoying school, succeeding in school, and most importantly, staying in school. Since July 1, 2012 OATHS has spent \$15,850 assisting local homeless kids by providing camp fees, camp supplies, bikes, laptop computers, musical instruments, back to school clothing, athletic gear and camp fees, welding equipment, iPods, clothing, participation fees for extracurricular activities, yearbooks, and fees for drawing classes. Applications for assistance have doubled this fall. IWCF funding allowed the project to expand outside of Boise to help homeless students in Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Kuna and Eagle.

Mercy Housing Northwest-Idaho in Nampa received \$25,000 to create two playgrounds for low-income children. They held a day of drawing dream playgrounds, assembled volunteer teams, and children selected colors and elements of the playground. The project has created a sense of community and ownership in the Comstock development. The first playground is ordered and should be installed in the spring. The two playgrounds have also created jobs for construction workers, and reduced waste the community by using recycled materials. These play spaces will be a hallmark in the high-need neighborhoods and will have a lasting impact on the lives of children by giving them a safe place to exercise and play.

The Peregrine Fund received \$23,000 to design and construct an innovative new exhibit for their interpretive center. Project planning is underway to replace an outdated (1994) display with a new one to educate visitors about four environmental toxins: Lead, Furadan, Diclofenac and DDT. Messages on each of these toxins will demonstrate effects they have on birds of prey

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Peregrine Fund - Funded 2012

Office Team Expands

by Kim Liebich

In January, IWCF welcomed a new addition to the office team. Jo Wenger comes to us from Tacoma, WA, having recently moved to Kuna with her husband and three children (ages 10, 9 and 3).

In addition to working as a health coach, she has been involved in nonprofit work for the past 10 years. Prior to that she provided administrative support for an international finance company located in Tacoma and surgeons' offices before that. Her skill set and personality are a great fit for the current needs of IWCF.

Having been on the requesting side of grants herself, from the start Jo has been very interested in the work of IWCF. "When I first saw the job posting I was so surprised to hear of a group of women getting together to make their community better in a very practical way. I think it's just fabulous what IWCF does to help so many people. I am very grateful to be a part of the great office team at IWCF."

IWCF has added a second person to the office in our movement to make sure that our organization is sustainable. Having two people understanding the inner workings makes a great safety net. We are pleased to have Jo join Susan Dunlap in our office. A huge THANK YOU to Kathy Pidjeon and Susan Mauk for the very successful job search.

Office hours are typically Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stop in and say hi.



Susan Dunlap and Jo Wenger

Art is Serious Business continued from cover

To become aware of and appreciate the substantial economic impact of this industry, we need to understand how arts and culture not only foster beauty, creativity and originality, but also catalyze economic growth.

Many organizations endeavor to quantify the measurable economic impacts of the arts. The Boise City Department of Arts & History is one of them. By providing leadership, advocacy, education, services and support for the arts and history in Boise, the department staff draws public attention to the arts and their positive effects over the years.

The IWCF Education Committee is working diligently on its core responsibility: increasing members' awareness and understanding to ensure IWCF engages in informed giving and pools resources thoughtfully. To that end, we are coordinating an "Art Walk in Downtown Boise" in April. This interactive, informative stroll will highlight and consider many pieces of public art and their contribution to Boise's economic and cultural vitality.



"Squeaky Strings" - Funded 2011

Our guide will be Josh Olsen, Public Art Education and Conservation Specialist for the Boise City Department of Arts & History, whose job is to preserve Boise's public art collection and inform people about this \$3 million city asset. On April 12, please come enjoy this leisurely, thought-provoking stroll and learn the many ways public art can inspire, soothe, provoke, involve and connect us—and, most certainly, contribute to our city's economic prosperity.

"Art Walk in Downtown Boise" will start at the Boise 150 Sesqui-Shop, headquarters for the city's 2013 Sesquicentennial celebration. **Join us on Friday, April 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Boise 150 Sesqui-Shop, 1008 Main St., Boise.

Grants 2013 Update

by Celeste K. Miller, Grants Co-Chair

In early October, the Grants Committee kicked off the IWCF 2013 grants cycle. By the November 30 deadline, we received 70 LOIs from area nonprofits. Members will have many great projects to consider when the ballots go out in April!

The digital experiment of the 2012 cycle is now the firmly established method for managing the entire grants process. IWCF members overwhelmingly welcomed the change from paper, whether they participated throughout the process or just voted for the finalists. We really appreciate your patience, input and participation in the pilot year, and we hope that digital continues to serve IWCF well into the future.

Engaging more members to manage the grants workload also proved valuable, and we again have experienced members leading the work groups, site visit teams and contacts with grantees. After evaluating LOIs the workgroups identified approximately 30 projects to submit full proposals. Given the quality of the LOIs and the growing fund we will have to distribute (due to membership growth), the April ballots may provide more voting options than we have had in recent years.

The Board has asked a newly formed Grants Steering Committee to explore and recommend the best funding approaches for IWCF to take as membership and the pooled fund grow. The Board will decide this spring on such options as placing more projects on the ballot or increasing the vote point spread. Other considerations will be effective in the 2014 grants cycle when area nonprofits may be prompted to seek funding for types of projects we have not previously funded.

Grants Committee members interested in signing up for site visits will be able to do so at the next meeting on March 13, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. at the Esther Simplot Academy. This meeting also provides a good opportunity for all members to get a glimpse of our potential grantees from the projects that are still viable at the site-visit stage! It's a great place to learn more about what's going on in the community. Opened to IWCF members only.

Grants 2012 - Midterm Reports continued from page 5

and on humans. Visitors will be able to read, touch and interact with different components of the exhibit. Approximately 35,000 persons will see the exhibit each year, and it will include a specialized school program to emphasize effects of the environmental toxins on birds of prey and humans.

Payette Public Library received funding of \$25,000 for an outdoor amphitheater, that will expand educational events, reading programs and community events for which there is no current facility. The amphitheater will have direct access to the library's large meeting room in inclement weather. Due to contractor delays, the project is behind schedule and is in the process of being re-bid. We've had good communication with them and are still very confident about this project.

Our second-half funding is well deserved by all of our 2012 recipients. IWCF members can be proud of their contributions to the pooled fund and their votes that determined impactful outcomes. Please ask if you wish to see one, some or all of the mid-term reports.

Risks to Youth Panel

Tuesday, May 7, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Concordia Law School

- Falen LeBlanc, Independent Living Program Specialist, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, will represent what happens to 18-year-olds after they "age out" of the Idaho foster care system.
- Detective Ryan Pacheco, Ada County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Division will focus on internet crimes against children.
- Brent D. Reinke, Director Idaho Department of Correction, will discuss risks to children of incarcerated parents.



Please plan to attend this informative IWCF education event. Lunch will be available for \$10.00 to those who RSVP early!

Positive change through thoughtful giving



Idaho
Women's
Charitable
Foundation
P.O. Box 6164
Boise, Idaho 83707



Join our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation

**Please Let Us Know* - Anytime you have a comment or question we ask you to contact us, feel free to use the office email address. It will get to the right place! Susan Dunlap - office@IdahoWomensCharitableFoundation.org or 343-4923

Save the Date!

“Art Walk”

April 12, 2013

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Boise

Risks to Youth Panel Discussion:

*Internet Enticement, Incarcerated Parents,
Aging Out of The Foster System and More*

May 7, 2013

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Concordia University

Grant Site Visit Selection Meeting

March 13, 2013

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. ESPAA

Grants Ballot Decision Meeting

April 16, 2013

11:30 - 1:00 p.m. ESPAA

Pooled Grant Q&A Social

April 25, 2013

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. ESPAA

Pooled Grant Voting Deadline

May 1, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting and Grants Awards

May 13, 2013

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Riverside Hotel