

## **Potlatch Fund Releases Grants to Tribal Programs**

### **May 17, 2005**

Seattle, Wash. -- In the true spirit of honoring through gifting, the Potlatch Fund achieved a major milestone promoting Native philanthropy. On May 6, the Potlatch Fund board of directors awarded grants to 23 native programs, entities and individuals representing more than a dozen tribes from the Northwest.

The Potlatch Fund, a nonprofit organization, is a Native-led grant making foundation and leadership development entity offering culturally appropriate training and technical assistance.

“We had a great response,” said Andrea Alexander, president of the Potlatch Fund. “We recognize that there is a great need out there, which inspires us to do more to increase and promote economic development, natural resources development, education, cultural preservation, and civic participation in Indian Country.

The awards totaled \$50,000 and went to Tribes, groups, and individuals from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington Native communities. Among the grantees are the Quileute Tribe, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, and the Turtle Island Institute of Tacoma.

The Quileute Tribe received \$5,000 grant to implement an ongoing exhibition carving on Highway 101 in LaPush, Washington. The Tribe will begin the process of rebuilding the art of carving in their community by maintaining a building on Highway 101. In addition, the Tribe wants to develop carvings for both retail and a mechanism for developing carvings for potlatches.

The Coeur d’ Alene Tribe received \$4,000 to assist in the building of a multi-use park so that it is opened to youth of all races. By building the Coeur d’Alene Tribal Quad Park, tribe hopes to establish better relations between people who live there and those who visit their reservation.

The Turtle Island Institute of Tacoma, Washington was granted to support a tribal canoe travel, ceremonial landing, feast and mini-potlatch for the youth during the 28th Annual International Traditional Elder and Youth Circle.

A complete list of grant awards is attached. For more information, contact Elizabeth Whitford, Potlatch Fund Operations Director; [elizabeth@potlatchfund.org](mailto:elizabeth@potlatchfund.org).