



IMPACT 100
SEATTLE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATIONAnna Graves, co-founder, 201-232-0354 or anna_graves@impact100seattle.org

SEATTLE, Washington (February 4, 2020) – Impact 100, a nationwide women’s collective giving group, now has a chapter in Seattle. Since a “soft launch” late last year by Madison Park residents Anna Graves and Anne Janda, the nonprofit, volunteer-run organization is more than halfway to its goal of recruiting 100 members by March 31.

The co-founders of [Impact100 Seattle](http://Impact100Seattle.org) will host a free “mix and learn” evening in Seattle on Wednesday, February 12 (*see box*). A similar informational networking event on the Eastside is also being organized.

With the addition of Seattle, Impact 100 now has more than 50 chapters around the country, plus in Australia and the United Kingdom. Each chapter raises at least \$100,000 annually and disburses grants in five broad areas: Arts & Culture; Education; Family, Health & Wellness, and Environment.

“Mix & Learn Evening”
Network with members; Learn about collective grant making
DateWed., Feb. 12
Time..... 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Location..... Seattle Public Library
Free to attend (registration requested)
Register
https://tinyurl.com/Impact100SeaFeb12

“Our vision in Seattle is to create a new, community-centric charitable platform that connects women to each other and to local nonprofits. We strive to harness the intellectual, emotional and charitable resources of our members to enable learning and collaboration. Together, we’ll make transformative differences around Puget Sound,” explained Graves.

Before starting the Seattle chapter, Graves and Janda wanted to adapt it to the area’s unique needs. After researching and listening to local nonprofit leaders, they were convinced there was an opportunity to create a first-of-its kind organization built on the values of empathy, empowerment, and community.

Janda said that Impact 100 Seattle will practice trust-based philanthropy--streamlined grant applications, unrestricted funds, and a long-term relationship approach. “Through community outreach, recommendations, self-nominations, and our members we will identify potential nonprofit partner organizations that could benefit from a significant grant. Members will then have an opportunity to learn and collaborate with various local nonprofits. Their involvement in the process will foster better understanding of critical needs while empowering women to become a thoughtful giving force in our community,” Janda explained.

“We hope this partnership approach will allow small, under-served organizations to be highlighted, and will enable our members to truly understand underlying issues in our communities,” added Graves. “We are committed to creating an environment in which everyone will experience a sense of belonging and worth, and in order to do that we are striving to attract women with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Together, we can stretch and take part in transformative change,” said Janda.

The Impact 100 model “democratizes philanthropy” via communities of women who donate \$1,000 each and are able to make a significant impact with a collective grant.

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Seattle's chapter, like others, is designed so that 100% of each \$1,000 donation will be granted to local nonprofits, according to Graves and Janda. Chapter leaders invite pro bono services, in-kind support, sponsorships, and supplemental donations from members to help offset operating expenses, such as website hosting and maintenance, government filing fees, insurance, a CRM management system, and meeting-related costs.



[Impact100](#) was founded by Wendy Steele, a banking industry executive, in 2001. She believed women's roles in philanthropy needed a new way to be expanded and encouraged. She launched the organization with the goal of empowering women to see themselves as activists through utilizing large grants to make an impact within their communities.

By 2002, Impact100 received nonprofit status and donated its first grant of \$123,000. Thanks in part to a report in *People* magazine, the model was quickly replicated. Steele describes it as "a place for women who care deeply, who dream wildly, and who believe that, together, they are an unstoppable force for good."

Steele said she designed Impact 100 to be an open source model that is shared freely, with no fees or licensing requirements. Individual chapters may modify the model to suit their particular community. Impact 100 and many of its chapters, including Seattle, are affiliated philanthropic organizations of Catalist, initially known as Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network, which was formed to accelerate the power of women's collective giving. Since 1995, member organizations have invested more than \$120 million into their respective communities.

Each chapter of Impact100 is its own autonomous entity, operating complete independently of any parent affiliation. The national "council" provides chapters with the necessary tools, including training, branded materials, and technology support, and also shares best practices.

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Tags: @impact100, @impact100Seattle

Impact 100 Seattle is a tax exempt nonprofit organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.