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MADISON PARK **LIVING**

A Social Publication for the Residents of Broadmoor,
Denny Blaine, Madison Park and Washington Park

ANNA GRAVES & ANNE JANDA

INTRODUCE **IMPACT 100** TO SEATTLE

Photo by Jacquelyn Paneque



cover spotlight

By Anne Janda | Photo by Jacquelyn Paneque



TWQ MADISON PARK RESIDENTS START A **FIRST-OF-ITS KIND COLLECTIVE GIVING ORGANIZATION**

Anna Graves and Anne Janda are both relatively new to the Pacific Northwest. “When we moved here, we wanted to help out in our community, but found it hard to connect with small, lesser-known organizations that could use our support. We felt that we were not alone—wanting to do more than just give money—we wanted to make an impact and make connections within the community. That was the catalyst that pushed us toward founding Impact 100 Seattle.”

Impact 100 Seattle is a women’s collective giving group that supports positive change in our community through transformational grants presented to local nonprofit organizations. Our vision is to create a community centric platform that connects women to each other as well as local nonprofits, enabling learning, partnership and transformative change in the Puget Sound.

Graves and Janda didn’t invent the concept of Impact 100. “Wendy Steele is the original founder and creator of the Impact 100 model, which brings transformational grants to the communities it serves,” said Janda. “At its simplest, it is a giving circle where 100 or more women come together, each one giving \$1,000. Combined, those individual donations amount to \$100,000 that will support local nonprofits in furthering their mission.” Impact 100 is fully volunteer-run, and 100% of the \$1,000 donation goes towards the grant.

Steele founded Impact 100 in Cincinnati in 2001. Since then, it has grown to more than 50 chapters around the world that have granted close to \$70 million. Graves and Janda felt that this organization could benefit the Puget Sound, but they wanted to make sure that it is adapted to the unique needs of this area. After researching and listening to the nonprofit thought leaders, they felt that there was a unique opportunity to adapt the model and create a first-of-its-kind organization built on the values of empathy, empowerment, and community.

Unlike traditional grantmakers, Impact 100 Seattle will not have a formal grant application, which often takes hours of time from the already stretched nonprofits. “Instead, we, the members of Impact 100, will share in the burden of creating a grant proposal for a few organizations with which we will partner,” said Janda. “This approach will put us on a level playing field with the organizations we’re trying to support. We will be partners who help them strategically plan for a sizable grant, instead of asking them to jump through hoops during a laborious application process.” After a period of learning and collaboration, the membership will come together at the annual meeting and hear the plans that were developed through these partnerships. The membership will then vote to determine how funds will be allocated; each member gets one vote. All partner organizations

will receive a donation to thank them for the time they spent working with us. “One of the most important aspects of the Impact 100 model will remain unchanged: one woman, one vote. We all have an equal voice,” said Graves.

The benefits of this approach extend beyond saving nonprofits valuable time. “We know our members have a lot to contribute,” said Graves, “and at the same time they want to understand the underlying issues affecting Puget Sound communities. This partnership approach will enable both sides to benefit on multiple levels. We also hope that it will allow small, underserved organizations to be highlighted and recognized. These may be organizations that simply don’t have the know-how or staff to apply for large grants.”

Impact 100 Seattle is currently recruiting its first community of women with the goal of 100+ members by March 31, 2020. “We are committed to creating an environment in which everyone may experience a sense of belonging and worth; in order to do that we hope to attract women with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We feel that together, we can stretch and empower each other and take part in transformative change,” said Graves.

“We have already assembled a dynamic, smart, and caring team of women. We can’t wait to see how the membership takes shape,” said Janda. Graves and Janda are dedicated to creating a community of thoughtful philanthropists who can empower each other and their community partners. In order to achieve that, Impact 100 will host both social and learning events throughout the year. “We will do our best to meet our members where they’re at. Some women will attend all events offered, others may come to just one or two. The level of involvement is up to each member,” said Janda. “Come as you are, is what we like to say.”

If you are interested in finding out more about Impact100 Seattle, please contact joinus@impact100seattle.org or reach out to Anna or Anne directly: anna_graves@impact100seattle.org and anne_janda@impact100seattle.org. You can also visit www.impact100seattle.org to register for a membership event where you can learn more about joining. If you know of organizations that could benefit from a \$100,000 grant, please e-mail grants@impact100seattle.org.