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Seattle area women philanthropists earmark \$125,000 in grants to three nonprofits tackling inequities in marginalized communities

SEATTLE, Washington (August 30, 2021) – Three small, local, community-based nonprofit organizations that serve marginalized populations received a total of \$125,000 in unrestricted funds from [Impact 100 Seattle](#). The top award from the nonprofit women’s collective giving group, a \$100,000 grant, went to the [Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group](#).

At its annual meeting, held virtually, the 125 members of Impact 100 Seattle cast their votes on grant allocations for three finalists who made the cut from an initial pool of 57 applicants.

The other two finalists each received a grant of \$12,500. Those recipients were [FEEST](#), a youth-led group working to improve food equity in schools, and [The Good Foot Arts Collective](#), a youth violence prevention through arts education program.

Members of Impact 100 Seattle harness their “intellectual, emotional, and financial resources” to make lasting, transformational change in the Puget Sound region, explained co-president Anne Janda. She said the all-volunteer organization operates on the principle of “one woman, one vote” and subscribes to the tenets of trust-based philanthropy. It also strives to amplify its giving in ways beyond the check by promoting volunteer opportunities and amplifying the voices of their grant applicants and grantee partners.

The giving criteria used by Impact 100 Seattle are centered on community-based, nonprofit organizations that work with under-served populations and seek to reduce inequities in the communities they serve. This year, only organizations with less than \$2 million in annual revenue were considered. Operationally, applicants were expected to address one of five areas: arts and culture; health and wellness; education; environment; or children and families.

This year’s grant process, led by Grants Strategy Chair Melissa West, an experienced policy and advocacy professional, was conducted over a 90-day cycle. It included bias training for all members of the grant review team, evaluating each application to select seven semi-finalists, and then creating profiles on the three finalists for presentation to the membership.

“Our high-impact, collective grantmaking is designed to support small, under-resourced nonprofits while addressing some of the unhealthy power dynamics in traditional philanthropy,” stated Anna Graves, co-president of the two-year-old Seattle group. “We focus on community-based organizations that address root causes of issues and inequities and are structured in ways that enable them to pivot quickly and respond to needs efficiently.”

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Graves and Janda, co-founders of Impact 100 Seattle, said membership has grown quickly since its launch in November 2019. It attracted 101 members and more than \$100,000 in funds in its first five months, and then grew 25% by its second funding cycle.

Women who join the 501(c)3 organization pay an annual membership fee of \$1,000, all of which is earmarked for grants. Members are encouraged to consider additional donations to help defray operating expenses and for underwriting “impactships.” Like a scholarship, “impactships” are available to applicants who want to participate in Impact 100 Seattle but do not currently have the financial means to cover the fee. This year 13 women received “impactships.”

From the beginning, the organization has pledged to practice [trust-based philanthropy](#), an increasingly popular concept that incorporates unrestricted funding, simplified paperwork and reporting requirements, being transparent and responsive, and offering support beyond a check, such as mentoring, volunteering, or assisting with strategic planning. It also promotes mutual learning while aiming to address power imbalances between foundations and nonprofits.

Last year, responding to the pressures of the coronavirus pandemic, the inaugural members of Impact 100 Seattle voted to accelerate the timeline for awarding its first round of grants. Five Seattle-area nonprofits were awarded a total of \$100,000 in unrestricted grants. From inception, the organization vowed to be agile, empathetic, and responsive to community needs, according to Graves.

“We are excited that the organizations our members voted to fund, both last year and again this year, are led by people from the communities they serve.” Graves also noted six of the first eight organizations that received grants are led by women, something that resonated with donors.

The Seattle chapter is part of the [Impact 100 Council](#), which was started in 2001 to unite and empower women philanthropists who strive to be thoughtful, well-informed donors. Through collaboration and collective giving, the members use “democratized philanthropy” (“one woman, one vote”) to help grant recipients whose transformative ideas and services make an impact locally and globally. The Council currently comprises 60 chapters worldwide that have granted more than \$80 million.

Women who are interested in learning more about the Seattle chapter are invited to attend a Recruitment Happy Hour at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21. The venue (whether live or virtual) is to be determined and more information can be found on the website in the events section.

Seattle and several other Impact 100 chapters are also affiliated with the Philanos Network, which “serves to catalyze the movement of women in philanthropy by connective women’s collective giving granting organizations.” Philanos does not make grants, but instead promotes informed grantmaking to nonprofit groups making transformative change in their communities.

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The 2021 recipients of Impact 100 Seattle grants:

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2021 Recipients of Impact 100 Seattle grants:

[Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group](#) (\$100,000 grant)



DRCC/TAG encompasses residential, tribal, environmental, and small business groups affected by ongoing pollution and cleanup of Seattle's Duwamish River, a 5.5-mile-long EPA SuperFund toxic hazardous waste site. The alliance manages a community-based, holistic approach to improving life for people, animals, and climate along Seattle's only river. The unrestricted Impact 100 Seattle grant will help this BIPOC group further cultivate relationships while completing its transition from an environmental organization to one that is better able to holistically tackle the intersectional issues of climate, racial and social justice.

[FEEST](#) (\$12,500 grant)



Under the lived experiences and leadership of youth of color, FEEST (Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team) works to improve the health of low income, refugee, immigrant, and BIPOC youth at Chief Sealth, Evergreen, Rainier Beach and Tyee high schools. It strives to eliminate barriers for people to live physically, mentally, socially, and culturally healthy lives. Core programs include youth leadership development, healthy snacks, meal delivery and mental health curriculum. Grant monies would assist expansion efforts, further development of advocacy agendas focused on food equity and social justice, and changes to food offerings and choices throughout the Seattle School District, and eventually, beyond.

[The Good Foot Arts Collective](#) (\$12,500)



The Good Foot Arts Collective's mission is to provide youth violence prevention advocacy through arts education. Staff and leaders envision youth of marginalized communities equipped to end violence before it begins, become expressive in the arts, become empowered through mentorship and to acquire skills to become advocates for healthy relationships and violence prevention in the South Seattle communities they serve. Programs include CLAY (Creative Leaders Affirming Youth), events that demonstrate how art can contribute to violence prevention, and dance classes. The Impact 100 grant would support staff additions for expanding Good Foot's reach.