

First Peoples Fund Announces 2005 Fellows

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The American Indian non-profit organization, First Peoples Fund of Rapid City, S.D., has announced the recipients of its Artist in Business Leadership and Cultural Capital program fellowships.

Meeting the program criteria and stringent review process, the 2005 fellowship class brings diverse visions, maturity, and creative, innovative projects to First Peoples Fund programs.

The Artist in Business Leadership fellows for 2005 are

Leonda Fast Buffalo Horse (*Blackfeet*), a stained glass and porcupine quillwork artist from Browning, Mont.; **Don Montileaux** (*Oglala Lakota*), a visual artist of Rapid City; **Janice Albro** (*Sisseton Wahpeton*), Dakota bronze sculptor of Bartlesville, Okla.; and **Roger Broer** (*Oglala Lakota*), a visual artist residing in Hill City, S.D.

The 2005 Cultural Capital fellowship recipients are **Phillip Whiteman Jr.**, (*Northern Cheyenne*), a story teller of Lame Deer, Mont.; **Lillian Pitt**, (*Wasco/Warm Springs/Yakima*), a contemporary artist of Portland, Ore.; **Deloris Churchill** (*Haida*), a weaver and basketry artist of Ketchikan, Alaska; and **Lyn Risling** (*Yurok/Karuk/Hupa*) a culturalist and painter of McKinnleyville, Calif.

Applications for the 2006 Artist in Business Leadership and Cultural Capital Fellowship programs will be available

by Aug. 5, 2005, by writing to First Peoples Fund or accessing an application on our Web site at www.firstpeoplesfund.org.

Founded in 1995, the First Peoples Fund's mission is to honor and support the creative community-centered First Peoples artists; and nurture the collective spirit that allows them to sustain their people.

Collective Spirit™ is the human spirit that provides awareness and a sense of responsibility to sustain the cultural

fabric of a community. Artists selected for the fund's programs demonstrate a strong desire to give back through teaching and sharing their knowledge.

First Peoples Fund's grant-making initiatives include the annual Community Spirit Awards, Artists-in-Business Leadership, and Cultural Capital Fellowship programs.

The fund is supported in part by the Ford Foundation's Media, Arts and Culture, New Works, and Indigenous Knowledge and Expressive Culture Initiatives; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; the Bush Foundation; and the All Tribes Foundation.

For further information, please visit www.firstpeoplesfund.org. You can contact us at First Peoples Fund, P.O. Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709-2977, or e-mail at info@firstpeoplesfund.org.

Cobell Honored by Lannan Foundation for Indian Trust Fight

SANTA FE, N.M. – Elouise Cobell, who has led a nine-year court fight that is forcing the federal government to give an estimated 500,000 American Indians a full accounting of what has happened to their government-controlled Individual Indian Trust accounts, is one of five winners of Cultural Freedom Fellowships awarded by the Lannan Foundation of Santa Fe.

The foundation recently announced that it is giving \$675,000 to support the work of anti-globalization activist Maude Barlow of Canada, book publishers Bobby Byrd and Lee Merrill Byrd of the U.S., journalist Amira Hass of Israel, and Montana banker Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Nation.

The Cultural Freedom Fellowship Program is designed to recognize individuals whose work inspires their communities, domestic and international, that are struggling to uphold and defend their right to cultural freedom and diversity.

This support is intended to encourage and enhance the recipients' efforts to advance the cause of cultural freedom, a basic human right dependent on political, economic, and environmental justice. The money provided with the fellowship may be used for travel, study, research, or other similar purposes.

A banker from Browning, Mont., Cobell is the lead plaintiff in one of the largest class action lawsuits against the U.S. government, for breach of its trust duties to thousands of individual American Indians.



Elouise Cobell

Her Cobell vs. Norton lawsuit is an ongoing legal attempt to force the U.S. Department of the Interior to fix its accounting system and properly account for billions of dollars it manages on behalf of individual Indians.

"Ms. Cobell's persistence in bringing the charges to trial has shone a bright light on more than a century of government malfeasance and dishonesty. Indeed, the District Court judge presiding over the case called the government's mismanagement of the funds 'fiscal and governmental irresponsibility in its purest form,'" the Lannan Foundation said in announcing the award.

Cobell is the executive director of the Native American Community Development Corporation, a non-profit affiliate of the Native American Bank. She also served as chairperson for the Blackfeet National Bank, the first national bank located on an Indian reservation and owned by an American Indian tribe.

She was one of the lead organizers of the bank and was instrumental in the formation of the Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund.

A member of the Blackfeet Indian Nation, Cobell served for 13 years as the tribe's treasurer. In addition to operating a working ranch with her husband, she is active in local agriculture and environmental issues.

Previous recipients of the Lannan Cultural Freedom Fellowship are Subhankar Banerjee, a photographer and cultural rights activist from Seattle who works to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; Julian Cardona, a photojournalist from Mexico who documents the life of Mexican migrants and residents of Juarez; and John Fogarty and Lucy Boulanger, physicians from New Mexico who work for the protection of American Indian land and water rights.

For further information, please visit these Web sites – www.lannan.org and www.indiantrust.com.

Nominations Open for Ecotrust's Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership

PORTLAND, Ore. – Ecotrust will accept nominations for the 2005 Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership until Sept. 31, 2005.

The Buffett Award is a recognition program funded by the Peter and Howard Buffett families to honor outstanding individuals who serve as leaders in their community in all capacities and whose leadership improves the social, economic, political, or environmental conditions in their community.

On Nov. 30, 2004, Howard and Peter Buffett announced their intention to endow the Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership by donating \$500,000 over the next five years for the endowment fund. Ecotrust administers the Indigenous Leadership award and began awarding the fellowship in 2001.

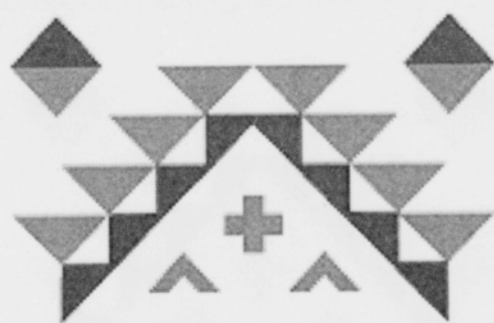
The Buffett Award provides resources for the development and transfer of knowledge in indigenous communities. Nominees are First Nation, Alaska Native, or tribal members over age 35 who exhibit extraordinary community leadership within the Salmon Nation region from Alaska to California.

Buffett Award nomination guidelines and a nomination letter template are at www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward/guidelines.html.

For additional details and assistance, contact Elizabeth Woody at 503-467-0751 or write liz@ecotrust.org or Ecotrust, 721 NW Ninth Ave., Suite 200, Portland, OR 97209.

The 2005 Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership will be conferred on the winner on Nov. 30, 2005, in the Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center in Ecotrust's Natural Capital Center in Portland. The four other finalists also will be recognized at that time.

At the 2004 gathering, Howard Buffett said, "I am amazed at how the Buffett Award has grown in such a short time. It will be great to see it continue to grow, bringing together many people and ultimately inspiring the leaders it honors."



"Honoring and listening to the people who have lived successfully in this place the longest may be the most important thing we do. The 20 Buffett finalists in these first four years have become a wise council of elders for those hoping to rebuild Salmon Nation," said Spencer B. Beebe, president of Ecotrust.

In addition to the Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership, Ecotrust provides a variety of other projects and services through its Native programs.

In collaboration with the Klamath Tribes, Ecotrust has written and published *Klamath Heartlands: A Guide to the Klamath Reservation Forest Management Plan*. Additional projects include land repatriation, Native forestry and timber marketing, Native youth leadership, salmon marketing, and the Elakha Alliance.

Ecotrust is a non-profit organization committed to building Salmon Nation and strengthening the communities and environment from Alaska to California.

For more information about Ecotrust and the Buffett Award honorees, visit www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward/.