

Applications Due Soon for Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership

PORTLAND, Ore. — Ecotrust recently announced a new nomination cycle for the 2006 Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership. While the nomination process is open throughout the year, **all nominations for the 2006 awards must be received by April 14.**

The Buffett Award is a recognition program administered by Ecotrust and funded by the families of Peter and Howard Buffett 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. Ecotrust established the award in 2001.

Two Siletz Tribal members have been nominated for the award. Agnes Pilgrim of Grants Pass, Ore., was honored for her achievements as a finalist in 2003. David Hatch of Portland, Ore., was honored as a 2001 Buffett Award finalist.

Individuals are eligible if they are First Nation or tribal members, over age 35, and work or have worked with an indigenous organization or community within the Pacific salmon territory of North America.

The Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership has quietly become one of the most important resources for supporting tribal leaders within the Salmon Nation. It recognizes leaders for their drive as catalysts for better conditions in their communities. There is little, if any, outside financial support for these communities. Under such conditions, fostering and celebrating this leadership is even more vital and necessary.

The award itself makes a modest investment in the mid-career endeavors of these amazing people (\$25,000 to the awardee, \$2,500 each to four finalists). But the award is much more than a simple cash prize.

Ecotrust invests in the work of a wide range of indigenous people from Salmon Nation. Nominators from tribal communities, leader families, and partner organizations gather stories, materials, and letters of support for the Reading Panel. A panel composed of indigenous readers, along with Ecotrust representatives, selects the five finalists from the nomination letters.

The Reading Panel forwards these five to the Final Jury composed of senior tribal leaders along with one non-voting member, Ecotrust President Spencer Beebe. The jury chooses the recipient.

The 2006 Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership ceremony is planned for June 14, 2006, in Portland, Ore.

"Honoring and listening to the people who have lived successfully in this place the longest may be the most important thing we do. The 25 Buffett finalists in these first five years have become a wise council of elders for those hoping to rebuild Salmon Nation," said Beebe. "We look forward to hav-

ing 100 in this council of indigenous leadership in 2021."

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 communities and the environment from Alaska to California. For more information about Ecotrust and all the Buffett Award honorees, visit the Web site www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward/.

To see the complete Buffett Award nomination guidelines and a nomination letter template, visit www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward/guidelines.html.

For hard copy, additional information, 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.

Oregon Women Veterans Conference 2006

**March 23, 2006
Linn County Expo Center
Albany, Oregon
(I-5 exit 234A,
Knox Butte/Fair)**

**For all women who served
in the military.
No cost for conference and
lunch, but reservations
are required.**

**Many women veterans do
not know about all of
their benefits.
Our last conference resulted
in women veterans receiving
thousands of dollars
in compensation or
other benefits.**

**Registration begins at 8 a.m.;
the conference begins
at 9 a.m.**

**For more details or reser-
vations, call 1-800-828-8801
(in Oregon), ext. 2384, 2385,
or 2389; or 503-373-2384.**

Oregonians Donate Record \$2.3 Million to Cultural Trust in 2005

Oregonians Statewide Enthusiastically Support Arts, Heritage, and Humanities Funding

SALEM, Ore. — Gov. Ted Kulongoski recently announced that Oregonians donated a record \$2.3 million to the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2005, which is 16 percent more than the amount they donated in 2004.

The increased giving of more than \$360,000 reflects the growing support for Oregon's culture, arts, heritage, and the humanities, the governor said.

The Legislature approved Oregon's innovative cultural tax credit in 2001, which created a powerful incentive to help preserve Oregon's culture and heritage, the governor explained.

"The record donations speak to the core of who we are as a people," he added. "Oregon's tradition of art and culture is something we can all be proud of — something we must pass on to future generations. Art and culture add to the richness of life in Oregon."

Nearly 4,500 Oregonians contributed to the trust in 2005, an increase of 14 percent over 2004's record-breaking year. Counties in Southern Oregon and along the Oregon Coast saw the largest increases over the previous year, both in dollars donated and numbers of donors taking advantage of the unique cultural tax credit.

Christine D'Arcy, executive director of the trust, congratulated the trust board and its staff for the successful fund-raising campaign.

"In 2005, the people of Oregon again rallied to the vision of the Oregon Cultural Trust through their record donations to the trust's endowment," D'Arcy said. "The public's strong support for the trust will help preserve and expand Oregon's cultural heritage in communities large and small, while strengthening our creative economy."

D'Arcy credits the trust's success to the outreach across Oregon by manager Jim Cox, who met with cultural leaders and spoke to donors and board members of cultural groups in every county in the state. More than 300 cultural organizations statewide partnered with the trust to distribute information and marketing materials.

"Cultural groups from Ashland to Enterprise educated their supporters and donors about Oregon's cultural tax credit, leveraging their own fund raising with those of the trust," Cox said. "Their energy and efforts resulted in increased giving overall in 2005."

Fifteen counties saw an increase of more than 20 percent in total contributions, with seven counties increasing their contributions by more than 50 percent. Increases of more than 20 percent in both dollars donated and numbers of donors occurred in Baker, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Lake, Morrow, Tillamook, and Union

counties. Jackson County saw the largest overall increase in donors, with Multnomah County the second largest.

Fifty-eight percent of money raised by the Cultural Trust goes into a permanent endowment to support Oregon's heritage, humanities, and the arts.

The remaining 42 percent is distributed annually through competitive grants to Oregon cultural non-profits, to county and tribal cultural coalitions, and to Oregon's statewide cultural partner agencies — the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Council for the Humanities, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, and the state Historic Preservation Office.

"It is never too late or too early to contribute to the Cultural Trust," D'Arcy added. "Although the window to take advantage of the 2005 tax credit has closed, donors who give now through June 30 will help increase the amount the trust can grant this summer. Last year, the trust increased its total funding awards by 74 percent, primarily due to increased use of the cultural tax credit throughout the year."

The Oregon Cultural Trust distributed more than \$1.2 million in grants statewide in 2005, awarding competitive grants to a wide range of cultural organizations that include Mission Mill Museum in Salem, Crossroads Arts Center in Baker City, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, the Eugene Ballet Company, Sisters Folk Festival, the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, and libraries in Siletz, Tillamook, and Estacada.

About the Oregon Cultural Trust

The Cultural Trust is an innovative statewide program that raises new funds to invest in Oregon's arts, humanities, and heritage assets. In addition to the creation of a long-term protected endowment, the trust distributes money each year to partner organizations, county and tribal cultural coalitions, and competitive grant applicants.

Donations to the Cultural Trust make donors eligible for an innovative tax credit. Donors are eligible for a 100 percent tax credit for contributions of up to \$500 for individuals (\$1,000 for couples filing jointly) and \$2,500 for corporations.

Because one of the Cultural Trust's goals is to motivate Oregonians to increase direct giving to cultural groups, a donor also must make matching gifts to one or more cultural non-profits in Oregon during the same tax year in order to qualify for the credit.

For additional details or to donate online, visit www.culturaltrust.org.