

## Next General Council meeting will be May 5

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awards that money to nonprofits in 11 northwest Oregon counties to fund efforts in the areas of arts and culture, environmental preservation, education, health, historic preservation and public safety, and to the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon under the fund's Tribal Grants program.

Large grant awards are \$50,000 maximum for program requests and \$100,000 for capital requests, and small grants are a \$7,500 maximum. Annual Tribal grants are a \$100,000 maximum. All grants are for a 12-month period.

Schlappie presented a 2023 funding breakdown and information about the Youth Grant-making Program, which began in 2022 as a way to engage Native high school students with philanthropy and community service.

In 2023, the Community Fund awarded 41 small grants totaling \$281,000, 71 large grants totaling \$2.95 million, seven Tribal grants totaling \$700,000 and five youth grants totaling \$25,000.

Schlappie also discussed the Hatfield Fellowship program. Spirit Mountain Community Fund annually sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office. Placement of the fellow rotates through the Oregon delegation to enhance mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

Fellows are provided an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of how to navigate the political process in Washington, D.C., while working on issues that affect Native Americans.

Applications for the 2024-25 Hatfield Fellowship program are being accepted through Tuesday, April 30. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and have a bachelor's degree.

No questions were asked after the 35-minute presentation was completed.

"Thank you to the Community Fund staff for representing the fund," Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said.

"It's a very worthwhile thing the Tribe decided to do years ago. We knew then there are many worthy organizations out there that didn't receive funding... This follows our cultural beliefs to be giving and generous people."

In other action, door prize winners were Bill Stephens, Lee Ann Huffman and Brendyn Smallwood, \$100 each; and Tyla LaGoy, Jack Giffen Jr., Kameron Crosman, Les Houck and Ester LaGoy, \$50 each. Giffen donated his winnings to Canoe Journey.

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 5, on Zoom and in Tribal Council Chambers. It will feature a report from the Education Department.

The entire meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government's website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

## Tribal Council approves \$20 million EPA grant application

By Danielle Harrison & Michelle Alaimo

Smoke Signals staff

Tribal Council approved a \$20 million grant application for an EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant at its Wednesday, April 3, meeting.

If approved for the grant, the Tribal Engineering, Public Works and Community Development Department will use the funds to provide additional facilities to support population growth in the community and provide services to increase the Tribe's self-sufficiency while supporting the Tribe's cultural values for environmental stewardship.

According to the EPA website, these grants will be awarded for environmental and climate justice activities to "benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input."

"I have a very exciting grant to bring before you today," Tribal Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, April 2, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "Because of the scope of our identified projects, today I am requesting a resolution for the first of two grant applications. I will be coming back to you in a month to request a resolution for the second application."

The Tribe is allowed to pursue two grants for this project, with each grant totaling up to \$20 million.

The first grant services the Tribe by providing funding for the construction costs and materials for the resident recreation center. The

second grant will focus on energy efficiency and weatherization.

The new facility will provide a safe place for the community to gather during climate events, such as smoky days caused by wildfires, or other weather-related incidents.

"For the purposes of this grant, our emphasis is on obtaining funding for the facility that can increase the Tribe's overall climate resilience," Sparks said.

The project also includes entering into an agreement with the Energy Trust of Oregon, who will serve as the Tribe's partner. The Energy Trust will provide guidance on appropriate use of energy efficient and climate resilient materials that will be used for this project.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a first reading of the Governmental Corporation Ordinance amendment changing the budget reporting date for corporate boards from Oct. 31 to Oct. 1;
- Approved a first reading of the General Council Ordinance amendment changing the date on which Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors presents an overview of its operations from the September to the March General Council meeting. This will allow a prior full-year review of Spirit Mountain Casino and a look at what's to come in the current year;
- Approved an application to the Oregon Department of Education Grow Your Own grant program for \$375,000 to provide additional continuing education funding and support services for staff;
- And approved enrolling three minors into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government's website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and click on the Videos tab. ■

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, April 20th

Earth Day  
Rez Clean Up!

CTGR Youth Council

Women's Healing Circle

A safe space to come together and support one another through community healing.

Monday April 22nd  
From 10am-12pm

4445 SW Barbur Blvd  
#101  
Portland, OR 97239