

The NMAG Journal

*A newsletter for the members of the
New Mexico Association of Grantmakers*

Fall 2010

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www.nmag.org

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**NMAG Conference
November 3 - 5, 2010
Hotel Encanto
Las Cruces, NM**

***Philanthropy in
New Mexico:
Cultures of Giving***

Registration will be available
online beginning September 20,
2010 at www.nmag.org

As New Mexico approaches its 100th anniversary of statehood, the New Mexico Association of Grantmakers prepares to take stock of our state's diversity of giving traditions nurtured in its cultures. At this conference we will explore what Native Americans, Hispanos, and Anglos have contributed to the rich tradition of New Mexican giving, and we will consider together how inter-faith traditions, family philanthropy, and upcoming generations are adding to and shaping the future of philanthropy in our state.

Executive Director's Report

In Victor Hugo's magnum opus, *Les Miserables*, there is scene in which the wealthy born dreamer turned revolutionary, Marius, is drawn to really see poverty and its social perversities for the first time. Having renounced his parents' wealth for his ideals, he moves into a rooming house and though he's lived next door to the Jondrettes for some time, only now finds himself peering into their world. It is a revelation from which he never recovers.

New perspectives and encounters outside our usual experiences can have that effect on us. That is one of the reasons as grantmakers, we go on site visits, and learn to listen with our heads and hearts to the various worldviews that are presented to us in proposals and conversations. It is why also we need to seek our colleagues with very different perspectives and funding objectives to be our associates in this field.

One of the primary tasks I was asked to undertake when I was hired in 2009 was to "grow the organization both in size and grantmaker diversity". With four new members this year, we seem to be well on track. It is a pleasure to welcome Notah Begay III, our first Native American foundation as a member; Wells Fargo Bank, another corporate foundation member; Jessica's Love, a Family Foundation and the Marguerite Casey Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to supporting broad-based civic engagement. Some of you have had the pleasure of meeting two of these new members at our Albuquerque networking breakfast. And with the ample opportunities for knowledge and growth our programming will provide over the next few months, I hope everyone will meet someone new or re-acquaint themselves with familiar friends. At the very least, we expect you to join us at our annual conference in Las Cruces November 3-5th this year.

New members bring new energies and new perspectives to our organization. If we're lucky like Hugo's Marius, it could touch us and educate us in ways that we will carry with us forever.

The New Mexico Native Green Loan Fund

The New Mexico Native Green Loan Fund is a public-private partnership, sponsored by **Confluence Philanthropy**, a philanthropic affinity group that provides organizational capacity and promotes mission related investing within the environment.

The Fund seeks to leverage \$10 million in annually appropriated State Funds for tribal infrastructure projects (i.e., electricity, water, waste water, etc) by a projected \$10 million program related investment fund. The Fund will be structured as a collaborative program related investment that will be implemented by a certified lending institution based in New Mexico. Below market rate loans will be made to tribal entities across New Mexico making this the first inter tribal loan fund and the first 'green program'

Upcoming Programs

October 5: The Lannan Foundation will present a session on their Cultural Freedom and Indigenous Communities programs. Time and location TBA.

October 15: Funders Networking Breakfast, La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, 8:30 - 10:00 am.

Welcome New NMAG Members

Please join us in welcoming these new members:

Marguerite Casey

Foundation: Peter Bloch-Garcia, Program Officer

Jessica's Love, A Family

Foundation: Pamela and Bob Mang, Directors

Notah Begay III Foundation:

Crystal Echo Hawk, Executive Director

Wells Fargo: Jennifer Riordan, Director of Community and Media Relations

Member Benefit: Family Philanthropy Online

Online access to Family Philanthropy Online Knowledgebase. To gain access, go to www.ncfp.org/common/fponline. Enter **nmag-mem** as the login and **nmag-mem** as the password.

We count on you to keep us informed of any news regarding your organization.

Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.

Send to rwhite@nmag.org

within the Tribal Infrastructure Grants Program.

The Loan Fund will augment the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department's (IAD) existing grants program and provide 'green' options to tribal community development projects. Technical assistance to the grantees will be an inherent part of the program through the IAD's Planning Grants Phase and project partners.

Under small grants received from The New Cycle Foundation at the New Mexico Community Foundation and the McCune Foundation, as well as in kind support from The Santa Fe Community Foundation, New Mexico Association of Grantmakers, and IAD, Confluence has secured a licensed financial consultant based in Santa Fe (Drew Tulchin, Social Enterprise Associates) to construct the Fund.

Fund Goals(draft language)

The goals of the Fund are to integrate sustainability and green design elements into proposed state-funded tribal infrastructure projects across New Mexico. Green design has been demonstrated to significantly reduce environmental health risks as well as lowering the on-going maintenance costs of facilities.

A second goal of the Fund is to aid in building the economic viability of tribal communities through infrastructure improvements. Tribal communities within New Mexico are often rural communities, lacking in basic infrastructure such as suitable roads, water access, electricity, and public health facilities. In 2009 the Inter Tribal Council prioritized infrastructure development as the Department of Indian Affairs top program priority. Without infrastructure, economic development is hamstrung.

A third goal of the Fund is to help in preparing New Mexico's tribal communities for climate risk. New Mexico is slated to face severe droughts and flooding in coming years, with mass migration projected to pass through the region from areas south en route to wetter climates. New Mexico's tribal peoples have a long history of living in this semi arid region, demonstrating powerful social and cultural resilience in the face of outside forces. The Fund helps to prepare communities with off-grid infrastructure that will aid in providing water access, electricity, and safety facilities, thus fostering community resilience.

Loan Review Process

Led by Governor Richardson's appointed cabinet secretary, Alvin Warren (Santa Clara Pueblo), the IAD has significantly over-hauled their grantmaking process in order to integrate this Fund. The Tribal Infrastructure Board (TIF) will begin awarding 5 extra award points this year to grant proposals including a green component. The TIF has also added a second application cycle annually in order to expedite planning and technical assistance to green projects.

The IAD will perform due diligence on the loan applicants as regular protocol within their grantmaking process. During this first phase, only IAD grantees will be eligible for the loans, and all IAD projects must be completed within 18 months of the grant award. These factors significantly reduce loan risks.

Once the IAD has awarded a green planning grant, successful grantees may then apply to the lending institution (TBD) for a loan to support the green elements of the project. A loan committee will review applications for due diligence on their ability to re-pay the debts.

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NMAG*

Foundations and individual donors with charitable intent will capitalize the Loan Fund. Once \$1M in capital is secured the Fund will become active.

Innovation and Highlighting Public Private Partnership

The New Mexico Native Green Loan Fund is a unique example of an innovative public private partnership. If successful it may be replicated in other tribal jurisdictions within the United States.

Please join us to learn more about the Fund at the Investors' Orientation and Site Visit, September 28-29 2010, Santa Fe location to be announced.

Please contact: Dana Lanza, Executive Director, Confluence Philanthropy at dana@confluencephilanthropy.org for more information.

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