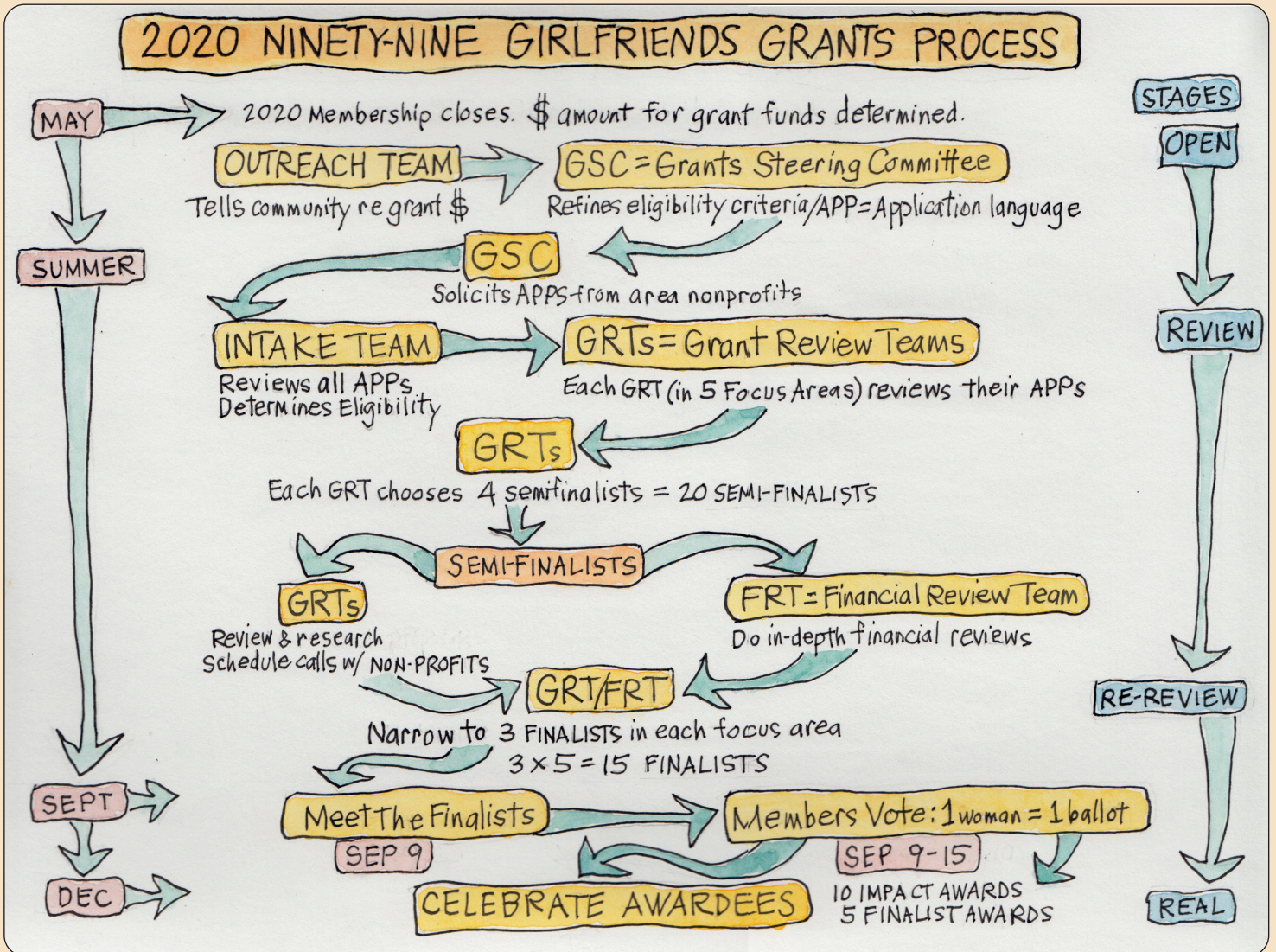


ninety-nine girlfriends

COLLECTIVE GIVING FOR IMPACT: PORTLAND & SW WASHINGTON

2020 VOTER'S GUIDE



Special Thanks to Founding Member Jinx Faulkner for this illustration.

ninety-nine girlfriends

COLLECTIVE GIVING FOR IMPACT: PORTLAND & SW WASHINGTON

Dear ninety-nine girlfriends,

We are thrilled to present the ninety-nine girlfriends Impact Award Finalists for 2020! This year it is our privilege to award \$525,000 in grants plus an additional \$7,500 in support! Read on to learn more.

Because of the power of our collective contributions, we will be able to positively impact organizations working in the fields of Arts & Culture, Education & Lifelong Learning, Environment & Sustainability, Family & Human Services, and Health & Wellness through unrestricted grants.

From May through August, 60 girlfriends have reviewed narrative and financial information that began with 233 short applications, narrowed down to 20 semifinalists, and then to 15 finalists. We reimagined our process to lighten the load for applying nonprofits, changing to a one-step application process with fewer questions and financial documents. This put the onus on our committed Grant Review Teams to do more research before putting forth their semifinalists. Between the Grant Review Teams and the Financial Review Team, each application was reviewed by at least 8 people with relevant expertise and interest, so you can cast your vote knowing that your peers are offering you excellent choices, each with demonstrated capacity to manage a \$50,000 Impact Award.

Our grantmaking goal for this year is to provide support to nonprofits as they respond to the challenges created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, with special emphasis on efforts to benefit people affected by inequity due to discrimination or exclusion. As a reflection of our values and the respect that we have for the nonprofits in our community, each organization that made it as far as the semifinalist round will receive funding of some sort. Each of the top 10 vote getters (a guaranteed minimum of one per focus area) will receive a \$50,000 Impact Award. The remaining five will each receive \$5,000 Finalist Awards. In addition, the semifinalists that did not make it to the finalist round will each receive a \$1,500 check.

While many members have volunteered their time and talent this year to ninety-nine girlfriends, there are only two things that each of us promises: to make our financial contribution and to vote. You've made your contribution and now it's time to vote. We want to hear from all 505 of you through your ballots! *An important reminder to not lobby other members. Your vote is a personal choice. Ninety-nine girlfriends is committed to parity: one woman, one contribution, one vote. Make yours count by voting.*

Vote online by September 15 at 11:59 PM PST and join us on December 6 to celebrate all of this year's award winners. You'll learn who they are by the end of September.

Yours in collective community action,
Tammy Wilhoite and Holly Cook
Co-chairs, Grants Steering Committee 2020

2020 VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- You can review the information about the finalists online at:
<http://ninety-ninegirlfriends.com/members-only-voters-guide>
- All votes must be cast online.
- Voting opens **September 9, 7:00 pm PST**, and closes **September 15, 11:59 pm PST**.
- Regardless of where you are physically, you can still vote! It just takes a few minutes. We will remind you to vote as the deadline nears. We pride ourselves on having one of the highest voting rates for a giving circle in the country!

VOTING IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3:

1. Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AwardBallot2020>
2. Proceed through the online ballot:

Voting Information (page 1): Enter your full name and email address.

- *Please enter the email address that is affiliated with your ninety-nine girlfriends account.*
- *Your personal information will only be seen by our Ballot Masters, who are sworn to secrecy. They ensure that everyone's vote is only counted once and that only members vote.*

Impact Awards (page 2): Rank the organizations in order of your preference to receive the 10 Impact Awards.

The top 10 voted organizations (a guaranteed minimum one per focus area) will each receive a \$50,000 Impact Award. The remaining five organizations will receive a \$5,000 Finalist Award.

- The 15 finalists are listed by focus area, in alphabetical order within their focus area.
- Rank your top 10 (regardless of focus area). #1 is your first choice winner and #10 is your last choice winner.
- For the remaining five organizations (11-15), you can choose to rank them or check N/A for each box.
- You can use each ranking number only once. Drag the name box to rearrange the rank order and the numbers will automatically update.

3. Click "**Submit My Ballot**".

You'll see a confirmation note that reads "Your ballot has been submitted. Thank you for voting!" That's it—no need to click anything further in SurveyMonkey.

Special thank you to the Voter's Guide and Voting System Teams:

- Member Tammy Wilhoite for editing our Voter's Guide.
- Members Jean Malarkey and Sue Galatz for authoring the descriptions in our Voter's Guide.
- Member Jude Lieberman, who set up and is managing our Survey Monkey voting system.
- Members and Ballot Masters Jude Lieberman and Tong Zhang who will be certifying our election.
- Members Jean Malarkey and Nancy Johnson for our Voter's Guide layout.

For questions about voting contact Tammy Wilhoite at tammywilhoite@comcast.net

Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC)

Mission **Facilitates the work of emerging artists and writers, providing affordable access to space, tools, and resources for creating independently published media and artwork, and building community and identity through the creation of written and visual art**

What they do

- Offer a space for makers to gather and exchange information and ideas, as well as to produce work
- Pre-COVID, programs included 10-month certificate program, residencies for BIPOC artists and writers, open studies, community nights and volunteer opportunities. All are being redesigned with health/safety in mind—limited hours/enrollment, virtual presentation, etc.
- IPRC also provides venues for presentation of risk-taking work through readings and collaborations with partner organizations including Portland Street Art Alliance, Don't Shoot Portland, and ORI Gallery.

Who they serve

- Predominately femme, queer and living on low incomes
- Actively working to increase representation of POC (POC membership grew 7% in last year)

Geography served Clackamas and Multnomah Counties

Opportunity & challenge in 2020 IPRC has had to reinvent programs with safety in mind to continue serving the community during COVID-19. Focus areas include:

- Support 2019-20 Certificate cohort to completion; reimagine program as collaborations to create materials for larger social movements
- Redesign workshops for small-group instruction and virtual formats; offer safe, distanced open studio space to makers, by appointment
- Support 7 recently selected artists through 2020-21 BIPOC Residency Program
- Provide free, virtual opportunities for community and volunteer involvement through special projects and collaborations

In their own words... *"Not all of our members are 'artists'. We very much come from the belief that creative expression is healing and vital in the lives of everyone." IPRC*

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team) **We appreciated IPRC's fast pivot; their use of partners and a collaborative approach; their multiple offers of connecting, training and tools to teach others to share their voice. We were impressed by how they expand literacy and make print communication a possibility for people and communities of need.**

Founded 1998

Finalist video [IPRC](#)

Website <http://www.iprc.org>

PassinArt: A Theatre Company

Mission **Entertains, educates and celebrates African American culture, passing art, history and culture from one generation to the next, while highlighting critical issues impacting our community**

What they do

- Offer quality, affordable theatre to the community
- Provide a platform for emerging and experienced African American and multicultural artists to hone and share their talents
- Offer theatrical workshops for youth and adults
- Promote the performing, visual and culinary arts

Who they serve

- African American and multicultural adults and youth in Portland, and all who are interested in learning and gaining social awareness from an African American perspective
- Predominately serve low- to moderate-income youth and adults

Geography served Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah and Washington Counties

Opportunity & challenge in 2020 Resumption of programming after all spring programs and fundraising were suspended due to COVID. Focus areas include:

- Secure artists and other services and material to virtually produce the African American playwrights readers' theatre series and other programming including their signature event, "Black Nativity"
- Enable rescheduling of August Wilson's "Seven Guitars" for spring 2021—offsetting costs for artists, rent and discount tickets for low-income students
- Seed funds to host PassinArt's Summer Youth Performing Arts Program for middle school students in North/Northeast Portland in summer 2021

In their own words... *"If you want to diversify the workforce, you have to diversify the training. Art is a catalyst for healing and empowerment."* PassinArt

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team) **The most compelling fact about PassinArt to our team is that they are the only Black-created, Black-led organization offering Black theatre in Portland. They are small but they have made an impact with their ground-breaking productions in the past.**

They are important to the Black Lives Matter movement because they demonstrate the enormous talent and contributions to the arts that come from the Black community. They are a Black voice for their community and for the Metropolitan Area as a whole. We support them for their very existence.

Founded 1982

Finalist video [PassinArt](#)

Website <http://www.passinart.org/>

Write Around Portland

Mission **Changes lives through the power of writing, using writing as a tool to build respectful community with a focus on the most vulnerable among us**

- What they do
- Run creative writing and publishing programs at hospitals, shelters, senior centers, prisons, schools and treatment centers, free of charge, for people with the least access to the arts
 - Publish books that share writers' work with the public
 - Celebrate and create access to stories through community readings

- Who they serve
- Write Around Portland is informed by and held for people living on low incomes, often with multiple marginal identities, including:
 - Individuals dealing with health, mental health or trauma issues
 - Isolated populations, including seniors and incarcerated individuals
 - Youth outside of the traditional school system
 - Culturally specific organizations: Indigenous, Black, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latinx organizations—Write around Portland offers workshops in Spanish and English
 - Those in affordable housing, shelters and transitional housing

Geography served Clackamas, Clark, Marion, Multnomah and Washington Counties

- Opportunity & challenge in 2020
- Bring the power of writing to those who are most vulnerable and isolated by COVID-19 and by racism. Focus areas include:
- Adapting programming: providing phone, mail-based and online writing opportunities in partnership with social service agencies, free of charge
 - Supporting anti-racist work, elevating Black voices and creating more space for BIPOC voices to write in community
 - Strengthening organizational capacity and staff resilience to ensure that Write Around Portland can continue to bring art and joy to communities in need

In their own words... *"I want to write because my words are prisoners of my body searching for an escape through my fingertips. I write because I have to, because if I didn't, people like me wouldn't survive."* S, MacLaren Youth Correctional

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team) **We were compelled by Write Around Portland's professional leadership and broad initiatives to enable those whose voices are not often heard to have those voices spread and amplified in their communities and beyond. Respect for all is a written guiding principle of their mission.**

Founded 1999

Finalist video [Write Around Portland](#)

Website <http://www.writearound.org/>

Adelante Mujeres

Mission	Provide holistic education and empowerment opportunities to marginalized Latina women and families to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community
What they do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lifelong educational services—from birth to adulthood▪ Nutritional programs▪ Health/Wellbeing services▪ Small business development
Who they serve	Latinx population who embody a multicultural, racial, and gender or non-conforming community <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ~98% are low or extremely low income▪ majority are female▪ 90% are first-generation immigrants
Geography served	Washington County
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	Continue essential program outreach & support during COVID-19 despite (anticipated) \$400K gap. Focus areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Transition and sustain education program content and delivery—especially while education/schools are disrupted▪ Program access—equitable access to learning (e.g., online subscriptions, Zoom, learning & care packages, technology, etc.)▪ Meet immediate nutritional needs—vouchers, online classes▪ Continue training—e.g., small business development, sustainable agriculture, etc.
In their own words...	<i>"A partnership with ninety-nine girlfriends would be of tremendous support to ensure that we can continue providing equitable access to learning and wellness opportunities for Latinx families and continue to be a safe, supportive resource for our community."</i> Rose Walker, Grants Officer
What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)	The translation—"Women, Rise Up!"—is an apt description of the powerful impact of Adelante Mujeres (AM) as it relates to the Latinx women, children and families they serve. AM serves between 8,000-10,000 individuals a year with life-changing programs including adult and early childhood education, youth programs, small business development, sustainable agriculture, immigrant civic leadership training and support, and mental health services. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the Latinx community. AM pivoted quickly and effectively to virtual & online platforms, providing IT support & supplies and expanding food vouchers to their most vulnerable populations. They were designated an emergency child care provider for front-line workers and have been offering those services since June. We are compelled by the depth, breadth, and proven results of their programs, the community they serve, and the strong leadership and advocacy they demonstrate and practice for the Latinx community.
Founded	2002
Finalist video	Adelante Mujeres
Website	https://www.adelantemujeres.org/

Black United Fund of Oregon (BUF)

Mission **Assist in the social and economic development of Oregon's underserved communities and contribute to a broader understanding of ethnic and culturally diverse groups**

What they do

- Youth mentorship (e.g., academic support, coaching, networking, career connections, etc.)
- Post-secondary access workshops (e.g., academic support, essay writing, college transition coaching and guidance) and college scholarships
- Support for nonprofit organizations led by BIPOC and/or female-identified community members

Who they serve

- Low-income, BIPOC youth (14-24 y.o.)—emphasis on first-in-family college students. Note: <50% of students have parents who can be part of the college process
- Minority or female-led nonprofits serving communities of color and addressing systemic inequities

Geography served Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Clark Counties

Opportunity & challenge in 2020

Provide leadership to, by, and for the BIPOC communities during a time of disproportionate impact (including a 53% achievement gap between Black and White students at Portland Public Schools). Focus areas include:

- Mentorship and financial support—expand beyond secondary education to include vocational training and direct-to-career paths
- Expand reach and diversity—purposeful outreach to LGBTQ+ community
- Shift to digital and remote formats
- Develop and test best-practice models with partners

In their own words... *"[This] is what we grapple with every day. Racism—for us, that is the original pandemic in this country, and it can't be escaped."* Ron Herndon, BUF Co-Founder

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)

BUF's presence on Alberta Street is powerful. Formerly a primarily Black neighborhood, BUF is now one of only two Black-owned buildings on the block. They are a staple in the community, have plans to expand, and support other BIPOC-led nonprofits with grants, mentorship, and office space rental.

BUF CEO, Dr. L.M. Alaiyo "Dr. A" Foster, is transformed BUF-alum, and has returned to lead with fierce passion and an open-door policy. Dr. A sees education as "the great equalizer" and is committed to creating new post-secondary support options for BUF scholars, as well as combating intersectional discrimination by expanding BUF's reach toward LGBTQ+ communities of color.

BUF's COVID-19 response has been swift and creative. They've created their own secure platform to deliver scholarship writing workshops, seminars, etc., all online, which has the added benefit of expanding their reach. As a leader in the community responding to COVID, they've adjusted rents for some non-profits to which they rent office space; they were also chosen as an administrator for the CARES Fund that provides financial support to the local BIPOC community.

Founded 1993

Finalist video [Black United Fund](#)

Website <http://www.bufor.org>

Street Roots

Mission **Create income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty**

- What they do
- Create *Street Roots* newspaper
 - Train vendors to sell/distribute the newspaper for income
 - Advocate for housing and employment opportunities/advancement

Who they serve People experiencing homelessness or housing instability—in which BIPOC are disproportionately represented

Geography served Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas Counties

Opportunity & challenge in 2020 Street Roots continues its work in the Portland metro area to serve the needs of citizens experiencing homelessness and economic hardship. Focus areas include:

- Strength the income model for vendors, ensuring that they can continue to sell/distribute *Street Roots* in a safe way
- Continue to elevate the marginalized through Coronavirus Action Team and foster team efforts
- Advocate in the context of both the pandemic and subsequent uprisings against police violence and brutality

In their own words... *We don't judge someone by their worst moment, but by their best future.* Andrew Hogan, Deputy Director

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)

Right at the outset of the pandemic, Street Roots realized their newspaper distribution model was not safe or sustainable during the COVID-19 crisis. Two vendors created an educational, medical, and practical outreach effort: the Coronavirus Action Team (CAT). Entirely comprised of unhoused community members, CAT has been doing street outreach to more than 1,000 people living outside: delivering critical education about the virus and its impacts, hygiene supplies, medical care, and additional resources. Former vendors pivoted from selling papers to supporting their community by providing administrative support, sorting donations, helping unhoused people sign up for and receive their stimulus checks, getting people counted in the census, etc. Vendors rely on the income from selling papers, so Street Roots provided them with critical financial support via weekly stipends. Street Roots' efforts created an informational clearinghouse for the unhoused community and an opportunity for anyone to bring their skills and talents to serve the greater good.

Street Roots impressed us with the astonishing flexibility, creativity, and dedication to the learning potential in each and every one of the people they serve. Vendors spoke of actualizing their dreams, of experiencing a powerful sense of community love and support from each other, and of being "an organization of dreamers" who show up for each other amid the most challenging circumstances. Their approach evokes a powerful sense of potential and belonging among our region's most marginalized people.

Founded 1999

Finalist video [Street Roots](#)

Website <http://www.streetroots.org>

Climate Solutions

Mission	Accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis and contribute to a thriving, equitable Northwest, powered by clean energy. Inspire others to transition to sustainable prosperity
What they do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Build momentum for local, state and regional climate actions by:▪ Championing transformational policies and market-based solutions▪ Catalyzing powerful partnerships and a diverse movement for climate action and accountability▪ Communicating a bold vision for solutions at the scale required by climate science
Who they serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Citizens of the Pacific Northwest, including those in the 4-county Portland metro area▪ Through coalitions and partnerships, involve communities that are most impacted by pollution and climate change
Geography served	The entire Northwest, including Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah and Washington Counties
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	To advance strong, equitable policies on the path toward 100% clean energy and transportation in Oregon, even in the face of precipitous declines in public transit revenue and ridership and sales of electric vehicles. Focus areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Advocate policies to electrify cars, buses and heavy-duty vehicles along with other solutions to reduce fossil fuel use—especially important for low-income and BIPOC communities, as Oregon has become a dumping ground for older diesel equipment from other states with stricter regulations▪ Launch a strategic communications campaign to promote the benefits of clean energy and transportation; amplify the voices of diverse communities▪ Lead effort to ensure that Metro's transportation funding includes strong support for climate-friendly transportation, including electrification of the TriMet bus fleet and access, service and affordability for communities of color and low-income communities
In their own words...	<i>"[The COVID-19 pandemic has] brought a broad shift in our awareness of the interconnectedness of the challenges we face...I believe more strongly than ever that the best way to stave off devastating and deadly climate change and have a resilient economy with local good jobs and address long-term racial inequities is to build an economy that runs on 100 percent clean energy." Gregg Small, ED, Climate Solutions</i>

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)

Climate Solutions brings together diverse coalitions to work collaboratively on climate issues, from grass roots to implementation. They are great at tapping into and mobilizing activists and communities to show up in mass when needed. They have a strong vision and their EDI goals support working towards equity within the diverse communities who are most impacted by poor air quality and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Guidestar's Philanthropedia listed Climate Solutions as one of the nation's top 18 high-impact nonprofits working on climate change.

Founded 1998

Finalist video [Climate Solutions](#)

Website <http://www.climatesolutions.org/>

Community Energy Project (CEP)

Mission	Ensure that everyone can live in a safe, healthy and energy efficient home regardless of income
What they do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide education and hands-on training to homeowners and renters about how to make their homes safer, healthier, more energy efficient, and more comfortable to live in▪ Distribute weatherization and lead poisoning prevention materials▪ Provide weatherization and critical home repairs to seniors and people with disabilities▪ CEP home advisors help householders make energy smart upgrades to their homes▪ Conduct Home Energy Scores audits for new homeowners
Who they serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Low-income, elderly and disabled citizens▪ More than 70% of clients are BIPOC▪ 66% are very low-income▪ Materials are translated into 12 languages
Geography served	Multnomah County
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	<p>To provide uninterrupted energy efficiency education and services in a time of severe need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ With the order to shelter in place, the need for home repair, air quality enhancements, and weatherization for seniors, low-income families, and people with disabilities, is more critical than ever▪ Energy bills are also rising as people stay home—many households are having to make hard decisions about which bills to pay, especially when facing job losses. CEP provides citizens with education to keep their homes more affordable and comfortable, reducing the need to relocate▪ CEP also hopes to expand its Low-Income Water Heater Replacement Program (replacing older gas water heaters in low-income households with more efficient electric pump water heaters) to reduce energy bills and improve indoor air quality in older homes
In their own words...	<i>"I want all of you to know that I had to take the extra blanket off my bed. With the plastic the crew put on my windows it was too warm in here. What a great term: 'Too warm!' In the future, when I go to pay my gas bills, I will think of you. Thanks so much!" Sue E</i>

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team) **We appreciate how embedded the Community Energy Project is in the community they serve. They personally get to know their clients while they work towards creating safer, more functional, healthier homes for mostly BIPOC and the elderly.**

- **They have proven themselves to be great community partners.**
- **They have been working on improving the environment and saving energy for decades.**
- **They support a marginalized population which is the focus of this year's grants.**

Founded 1979

Finalist video [Community Energy Project](#)

Website <http://www.communityenergyproject.org/>

Soul River Inc.

Mission	Uplift and strengthen communities by connecting inner city youth of color and veterans in the outdoors through transformational outdoor experiences
What they do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Forge strong connections between youth and veteran mentors on challenging yet rewarding adventures—at zero cost to participants▪ Integrate education in outdoor skills and time on the river to build powerful relationships—and through them, personal healing and leadership skills for the future▪ SRI's deployments to wild rivers have been as close to home as the Willamette River, and as far away as the Florida Everglades and the Arctic (working alongside indigenous people)▪ During the pandemic, SRI is continuing to offer training and virtual deployments
Who they serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inner city youth of color from the Portland metro area▪ Veterans
Geography served	Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah and Washington Counties
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	To continue to provide youth and veterans with transformative experiences connecting with the outdoors, even during the pandemic. Focus areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Modify curriculum and create virtual deployments that include online presentations, films, discussions and live video with indigenous communities, in order to comply with pandemic guidelines issued by the Governor▪ Build out preparation clinics for youth, their parents and veterans who will participate in deployments, whether those deployments are virtual or, if circumstances allow, are conducted in person
In their own words...	<i>"I love the vets. They're extremely amazing mentors. Chad went through a lot of rough times. And he's here now and he's a leader. I really admire that. [I'm inspired] that you can do what you want if you dream about it and you aspire to be that person." KW, 15-year old SRI participant</i>
What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)	Passion. We were inspired by Soul River's stories: of a youth—now enrolled at PSU—who was given a second chance in court when a group of veterans showed up on his behalf; of a youth who was selected to be an intern in Senator Wyden's office; and another youth currently attending Cornell U in Ornithology. SRI's work is enabling marginalized youth and veterans to change the trajectory of their lives, allowing them to find passion, their voice and to realize their full potential.
Founded	2014
Finalist video	Soul River
Website	http://soulriverinc.org/

Bienestar

Mission	Build housing, hope and community for the wellbeing of Latinxs, immigrants, and all families in need
What they do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Build affordable housing—own and operate 12 affordable multifamily properties▪ Offer resident services—leadership development programs (Promotores), community outreach, and educational programs for youth▪ Advocate for equitable rights for the Latinx community
Who they serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 95% of residents are Latinx (many immigrants and/or farmworkers)▪ 50% are youth▪ 9 properties are restricted to families in which at least one member earns income from agriculture▪ 3 properties house lower-income families working in any occupation
Geography served	Washington County
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	Increase capacity and resources to provide services and include marginalized voices during COVID-19. Key strategy and focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leverage technology to reach and continue to grow relationships and engagement▪ Resident services—keep 2-way communication flowing (e.g., text messaging system, resident meetings on multiple channels, access and training for Promotores/community leaders, etc.)▪ Internet Access—help residents secure internet access and subsidize first month fees▪ Advocacy—develop accessible, culturally specific, bilingual opportunities for community members to connect with elected officials and engage in public policy discussions
In their own words...	<i>"Our newest Board Member, a recent college graduate, first walked through our doors as a 2nd grader. We are more than just a place for families to sleep—we build deep relationships and thriving communities." Nathan Teske, Executive Director</i>
What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)	<p>Bienestar is the only developer in Washington Co. serving Latinx populations, which are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Many Latinx adults in Washington County have lost jobs, many speak no English, and many families live in multi-generational households.</p> <p>We're impressed by the representation and connection within Bienestar. 60% of the staff are immigrants, and their nimble team of 11 can pivot quickly to meet varying needs, including leveraging the Promotores (advocates) to connect with families.</p> <p>Bienestar is helping its community continue to "do the basics" even during challenging times—e.g., reinventing laundry room procedures so families can stay safe during COVID-19. They are also helping their Latinx clients bridge the digital divide as needs continue to surge, supporting remote learning (when many don't have access at home); running every meeting online (via Zoom) and offering bilingual support.</p>
Founded	1981
Finalist video	Bienestar
Website	http://www.bienestar-or.org/

Black Parent Initiative (BPI)

Mission	Educate and mobilize the parents and caregivers of Black and multi-ethnic children to ensure they achieve success
What they do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ School-based learning communities—improve relationships between families and schools/educators by facilitating culturally specific family engagement and advocacy training opportunities▪ Black Family Resource Center—provide educational resources and advocacy support to meet educational needs▪ Employment services—help clients secure economic stability through employment search and placement support▪ Sacred Roots mobile doula and lactation services—match pregnant women with culturally representative doulas to maximize positive birth outcomes▪ Together We Can home visits—provide young parents with intensive, culturally-specific home visit services, group-based support, education, and community engagement
Who they serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ African American, African, Black, and/or multi-ethnic families▪ Most are young, single women with low incomes and young children
Geography served	Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties.
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	Shift to serve entire families (vs. mothers & children) and their growing needs during time of pandemic and systemic racism. Focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Virtual content, program delivery and group meetings (e.g., lactation demonstrations using FaceTime, student & parent affinity groups, doula groups, etc.)▪ Transition support—providing job search support over the phone to clients who are seeking employment and are especially vulnerable to the financial impacts of COVID-19▪ In-house Community Health Team—provide community support, including education and outreach, referrals for healthcare, access to food, and other wrap-around services
In their own words...	<i>"Right now, in our world, everybody is looking for the bad; they're looking for the criminals. We focus on the beauty; we focus on what we love. We have and will continue to use joy, creativity, and innovation because we have had to make a way out of no way forever. We know there is still good in the world and we focus on the good. BPI is here to help shoulder the weight of these challenges and to be a source of strength and healing during this pandemic. That's why our families keep coming to us." Bahia Overton, Executive Director, BPI</i>
What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)	We're impressed by BPI's innovativeness—for example, that they're working with PSU's Schools of Social Work and Education to create a student intern program to 'blackenize' their training. The aim: turn the services model upside down—Blacks training Whites with the necessary skills to be successful in the BIPOC communities. BPI is relationship-driven and passionate about community. As they say, "We are strong, mighty and sincere: we love our community; and our hearts, energy, will and drive are devoted to advocating for our families." NOTE: Since the grant submission, BPI has started to certify 12 new doulas and hired a new, full-time lactation specialist.
Founded	2006
Finalist video	The Black Parent Initiative
Website	https://www.thebpi.org/

Raphael House of Portland

Mission	Provide a safe haven for survivors of domestic violence and prevent future abuse through education and support
What they do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide emergency shelter to families (including pets) at their most vulnerable—immediately after fleeing an abusive situation▪ Support families to move from the shelter to stable housing or another safe alternative via comprehensive services▪ Raphael House's Advocacy Center offers support groups, emergency resources, youth programming, housing and employment assistance, counseling and wellness activities. It is also a thriving community center where families build relationships and their own support system▪ The Prevention Education program works "upstream" to educate students about dating violence and practicing consent▪ Specialized mentors and advocates provide support to survivors dealing with addiction and in the medical system
Who they serve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse▪ 42% of participants identify as Latinx, 20% Black or African American, 19% white, 14% multiracial and 5% Asian, American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander▪ More than half of those served by Raphael House are under 18
Geography served	Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has forced survivors and their children to isolate in close proximity to their abusers, leading to a surge in violence and "high lethality" calls to local crisis lines. Layoffs, lost wages and lack of childcare force survivors to make impossible choices between becoming homeless or staying with an abuser. Focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Extra services to keep families safe and stable in their homes: supplying food and essential resources; mediating between survivors and landlords to prevent evictions; helping survivors build credit, create budgets, and apply for jobs and benefits; offering referrals to legal services; and providing emergency funds, so that short-term crises do not jeopardize families' long-term housing stability▪ Adapting nimbly to rapidly changing needs—whether those be the need to reconfigure physical space for social distancing, to help clients identify short-term work opportunities, or to connect families with tech so they can access vital resources
In their own words...	<i>"In my 10 years at Raphael House, I still see the thriving children I held as babies. I don't know of any survivor that doesn't call someone at Raphael House family." Amanda Ives, External Relations Manager</i>
What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)	<p>Raphael House's services are more in demand than ever. Since submitting their application, Raphael House has created 44 new online support groups; distributed Chromebooks to prepare for remote learning; and collected and distributed 9 tons of food and essential supplies.</p> <p>Most of Raphael House's staff are domestic violence survivors. The foundation of domestic violence work begins with creating a more equitable and equal society—through not only being aware of cultural differences, but actively working to dismantle the belief systems that allow inequality to exist.</p>
Founded	1977
Finalist video	Raphael House
Website	https://raphaelhouse.com/

Asian Health & Service Center (AHSC)

Mission **Be the bridge between Asian and American cultures and build a harmonious community. Reduce health inequity and improve healthcare quality for all Asians**

What they do

- Community Engagement—social and connect to culture
- Public Health & Social Services—workshops & wellness groups
- Physical & Mental Health Care—mental, naturopathic & Chinese modalities
- Cultural & Educational Programming
- Programs in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean

Who they serve Primarily underserved Asians; priority population is older adults, but all races/ethnicities are welcome

- 40% Chinese, 27% Korean, 26% Vietnamese, and 7% other ethnicities
- > 85% immigrants; 80% low-income
- 95% do not consider English their primary language

Geography served Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties

Opportunity & challenge in 2020 Fund 4 CART teams (COVID Asian Relief Team) to support equity in access to essential services for an older, isolated community

- CARTs were formed when COVID-19 shut down AHSC’s ability to gather older adults onsite, leaving many without a lifeline. They facilitate the sharing of critical information, serve integrative health needs, and provide emotional support for ~6,000 people
- Teams found those served experience increased stress due to COVID-19, with many feeling isolated and lonely
- CART teams serve Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Korean-speaking communities and include community and behavioral health resources. Teams cost \$27K per month to operate

In their own words... *“...In April, one of our CARTs connected with a man who had just been released from a psychiatric hospital. ...When we reached him, he was in a desperate situation. ...He was angry and even suicidal. The CART outreach made a transformative difference... Because of the ability to communicate in his language, and provide online counseling and case management, we helped him stabilize emotionally, access food, transportation, and affordable medication.”* Holden Leung, CEO

What’s compelling (from the Grants Review Team) **We are impressed with AHSC’s cultural responsiveness. Its leadership shares a lived experience with the immigrant community they serve. They also know there is a cultural bias against seeking mental health support and holistically embed it into their work. To minimize social isolation, AHSC has connected with homebound seniors during the pandemic via personalized letters, newsletters and phone check-ins.**

As we battle COVID-19, many Asians also battle anti-Asian xenophobia and racist attacks. AHSC offers a welcoming community for many who may feel threatened or have experienced harassment.

AHSC has noticed increasing food insecurity for many seniors who are uncomfortable going out during the pandemic. We appreciate that AHSC works with the food bank and local grocers to provide culturally appropriate items to their served community.

Founded 1983

Finalist video [Asian Health and Service Center](#)

Website <http://Ahscpdx.org>

Free Clinic of Southwest Washington (FCSW)

Mission	Provide and facilitate access to free, compassionate, quality health care for children and adults who are otherwise unable to obtain such services
What they do	Free, walk-in care, 5 days a week provided by >500 medical and dental professional volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Medical services, including specialist care (e.g., cancer, surgery)▪ Dental services▪ Vision services▪ Medication assistance
Who they serve	Low-income and uninsured families of Clark County <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Many individuals/families are immigrants or employers don't provide insurance▪ Majority of patients are Hispanic/Latinx▪ 60% would have gone to an emergency room or not sought care if clinic wasn't available
Geography served	Clark County
Opportunity & challenge in 2020	In COVID-19 times, adapt from a "walk-in" clinic model to an "appointment-based" clinic model with reduced funds (fundraiser that generates 25% of revenue is unlikely to happen) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fund salary for full-time licensed, bilingual triage nurse for transition to appointment-based service including pre-screens, clinic safety protocols, phone calls/advice/care. Role expanded to include patient outreach and education for chronic areas, e.g., diabetes, hypertension, asthma▪ Implement electronic health records and appointment system▪ Organize mass flu-shot clinic for population who do not normally have access to flu shots (this is not a service free clinics normally provide)
In their own words...	<i>"Thank you for bringing help and time to the people in need. We are very thankful for people like you. May this clinic always exist."</i> Arlene, patient
What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)	FCSW provides service for a marginalized, vulnerable population, many of whom face financial, language, cultural, and immigration status barriers which prevent medical care access. They bridge a critical gap for undocumented people who do not qualify for Medicaid and/or may be fearful of approaching governmental organizations for assistance. Approximately 33% of the COVID-19 cases in Clark County are within the Hispanic/Latinx community, which represents 10% of the population. We also appreciate that FCSW is committed to representation in its staff and Board. They recently added a person from the served community to their Board and continue to add staff from Latinx community. FCSW has a committed focus on diabetes and has continued to proactively offer diabetes education throughout the pandemic. A bilingual community health worker (hired in Jan.) also works as a diabetes program coordinator. She offers patients one-on-one coaching and classes via Zoom. FCSW is currently making plans to offer an outdoor class for patients without an internet connection.
Founded	1990
Finalist video	Free Clinic of SW Washington
Website	http://freeclinics.org

North by Northeast Community Health Center

Mission **Improve health outcomes and advance health equity by offering primary care services and health education and promotion focused on the African American/Black community**

What they do

- Culturally-specific primary care with focus on chronic disease management and insurance enrollment
- Unique approach leverages patient relationships, cultural representation and community input (e.g., "Cuts & Checks" program combining barbershop services and blood pressure checks)
- Successfully bridge the gap between health coverage, health engagement and health improvement

Who they serve

- Open to any uninsured (or covered by OR Health Plan) adult in Multnomah County; target population is African-American adults
- Patient profile: 100% low income; 90% OHP, 10% uninsured; and 60% Black/African-American, 32% white, 8% other

Geography served Multnomah County

Opportunity & challenge in 2020

Meet COVID-19 challenge: Escalate patient care needs and adjust care model with strained financials (no CARES loan and uncertain impact on funds/fundraising)

- Increased personnel costs (March-June care was tele-med only, limited to urgent and COVID-19 cases. This created a backlog in demand/need)
- COVID-19 and antibody testing for disproportionately impacted community
- Exploring new ways to reach and connect with target community (e.g., radio/TV media, advertising, social media) in absence of bi-monthly health fairs during the pandemic
- Addressing food insecurity and pressing needs of a community devastated by the deepening economic and employment crisis

In their own words... *"We believe lasting change is possible. It will require courage, persistence, transparency and long-term focus. We are here for the health of Black individuals and the Black community in Multnomah County, and we stand in solidarity with all those working toward racial justice near and far."* NXNE August 2020 Newsletter

What's compelling (from the Grants Review Team)

NxNE is the only medical clinic in Oregon providing culturally-specific primary care services and health education focused on the African American/Black community. They are advancing health equity and eliminating health disparities for an underserved community which is disproportionately affected by COVID-19 (Black people account for 13% of positive COVID cases, compared to their 7% share of population).

We were also impressed by NxNE's nimble and creative approach during the pandemic: use of telehealth; prioritizing high-risk patients, proactively seeking feedback from their Patient Wellness Board; and extended assistance to patient community through food, gift cards, and cash.

NxNE's management team is stable and long-tenured, allowing them to form deep relationships with their patients.

Founded 2006

Finalist video [NxNE Community Health Center](#)

Website <https://nxneclinic.org/>

**Thank you to all the members
who helped make the 2020 grants process so rewarding!**

OUTREACH TEAM

Team Leads—**Debbie Elliott & Kirsten Brady**

INTAKE TEAM

Team Lead—**Gretchen Hall**

Team Members—Amy Richter, Barb Slaughter, Becky Griesse, Diana Hoff, Diana Velene, Erin Zollenkopf, Holly Cook, Lyn Bonyhadi, Ruth Whitham, Sigourney Gundy, Tammy Wilhoite

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Members—April Hasson, Debbie Elliott, Deborah Edward, Erin Zollenkopf, Gretchen Hall, Kirsten Brady, Molly Gray, Pip Denhart, Sara Daley

MEET THE FINALISTS DISAPPEARING TASK FORCE

Debbie Elliott, Holly Cook, Jean Malarkey, Kathy Masarie, Kristy Edwards, Lan Fendors, Lisa Palermo, Pamela Neferkara, Sue Galatz, Tammy Wilhoite, Tong Zhang, Tra'Renee Chambers, and Vicky Trabosh



BECOME AN IMPACT AWARD GRANTEE LIAISON

If your inspiration runs deep, consider becoming a liaison for our 2020-2021 partners. Each Impact Award grantee will be partnered with two girlfriends who will help them connect with our membership, support their grants journey, and collect stories on the impact of our investment.

If you are interested in learning more, join us for the Liaisons Information Session:

**Sunday, September 27, 3:30-5 PM on Zoom.
Register at <https://bit.ly/2DC045i>.**