

For Immediate Release

Native Arts + Cultures Foundation Awarded Nearly \$1 Million in 2025

PORTLAND, Oregon, May 8, 2025 – In the first quarter of 2025, the Native Arts + Cultures Foundation (NACF) received \$895,000 in grants from philanthropic foundations. That sum comprises \$600,000 from the Mellon Foundation, \$225,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation, \$50,000 from Oregon Community Foundation’s Arts and Culture Rebuilding Program, and \$20,000 from the Terra Foundation for American Art.

This is a monumental investment in Native arts and culture. We commend these four foundations for their leadership and vision in including Native artists and arts institutions in their grantmaking, as we are too often overlooked. Native arts and culture bring immense value to contemporary life and inspire healing amongst Indigenous communities. We are pleased that these four incredible organizations support our mission of promoting positive social change through Native art.

“2025 has been an exciting year for NACF already. With the launch of our new magazine and our current open call for applications from artists, we’ve been hard at work supporting Native culture bearers across the country. It’s great to know other organizations are noticing our work and willing to stand behind us!” - Shyla Spicer (Yakama), NACF President / CEO

About the Native Arts + Cultures Foundation:

The Native Arts + Cultures Foundation (NACF) is a Native-led, 501 (c) 3 philanthropic organization dedicated exclusively to the perpetuation of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian arts and cultures nationwide. NACF advances equity and cultural knowledge, focusing on the power of arts and collaboration to strengthen Native communities and promote positive social change with Native peoples in the United States. Learn more at nativeartsandcultures.org

About the Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation’s largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.

About the Henry Luce Foundation

The Henry Luce Foundation seeks to deepen knowledge and understanding in pursuit of a more democratic and just world. Established in 1936 by Henry R. Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., the Luce Foundation advances its mission by nurturing knowledge communities and institutions, fostering dialogue across divides, enriching public discourse, amplifying diverse voices, and investing in leadership development.

About Oregon Community Foundation

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. In partnership with donors and volunteers, OCF strengthens communities in every county in Oregon through grantmaking, scholarships and research. This grant is made possible by the Fred W. Fields Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. Learn more at oregoncf.org.

About the Terra Foundation for American Art

The Terra Foundation for American Art, established in 1978 and having offices in Chicago and Paris, supports organizations and individuals locally and globally with the aim of fostering intercultural dialogues and encouraging transformative practices that expand narratives of American art, through the foundation's grant program, collection, and initiatives. Learn more at terraamericanart.org.

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