

"Bison & Horse Power"

by Arthur Amiotte

This piece was purchased by the Bush Foundation in 2013. The artist, Arthur Amiotte, is a native of South Dakota and a contemporary Lakota artist, educator and historian whose career spans four decades. His work portrays Lakota life, thought and philosophy in the northern plains. He credits his interest in the tribal arts to having lived on the reservation and being with his family members as they participated in traditional tribal arts and ceremonies. He is a Bush Fellow and won our Enduring Vision Award in 2010.



Long ago we depended on tatanka and we rode horseback everywhere we went. Now we live in wood houses and we go around in a machine.

We like these automobiles. They told us they have horse power inside of them!

Amiotte 2012



See Inside

- Learn more about Bush Foundation grantees
- How we work to be radically open, a message from president, Jen Ford Reedy
- Poster featuring artwork by South Dakota artist Arthur Amiotte

Southwest Initiative
Foundation

ACKERMAN + GRUBER

Ragamala Dance Company

GRAHAM TOLBERT

Recent bMag Stories

Spreading ideas from people
thinking big about our region



AKIPTAN / SKY BEAR MEDIA

Akiptan (Community Innovation grantee)

Akiptan is transforming agricultural lending from the ground up. It is the first federally certified Native community development financial institution (CDFI) dedicated exclusively to Indian agriculture. Based in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, Akiptan is led by executive director Skya Ducheneaux, a fourth-generation rancher with a vision to develop and test a model unlike anything else in the country – where Native ranchers own and operate more aspects of the food system. During its four years in operation, Akiptan has lent out more than \$19 million on 24 different Indian reservations.



TNMG

Anita Frederick (2009 Bush Fellow)

Data drives Anita B. Frederick. As a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, she has learned firsthand the importance of accurate data and how populations can be underserved when research is lacking. Her Bush Fellowship enabled her to develop connections and mentorship that led to new opportunities, including the creation of the Tribal Nations Research Group in 2013, which established a process that gave the Tribe more control over how research and data was collected with Native communities. The organization has since received a Bush Foundation Ecosystem grant in recognition of their important role in helping others make change happen in our region.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Community Innovation Grants

APPLY — Applications are accepted year-round
SUPPORT AMOUNT — \$20,000 and up

The Community Innovation program invests in ideas with potential to have transformational impact and make the region better for everyone. We provide grants and/or program-related investments (PRIs) to support work on a range of issues, and we do not have caps on the amount or duration of the funding.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE

Bush Fellowship

APPLY — 2024 Bush Fellowship applications will be open August 22 through September 21, 2023
SUPPORT AMOUNT — up to \$100,000

The Bush Fellowship supports accomplished leaders to take their leadership to the next level, to have more and bigger impact in and across communities. Fellows tell us what they need to develop their own leadership skills and capacities, and we provide up to \$100,000 to fund their plan.



ACKERMAN + GRUBER

Latino Economic Development Center (Community Innovation grantee)

For nearly two decades, Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) has been helping grow businesses and support entrepreneurs within Minnesota's rapidly expanding Latino population. They have provided loans and grants, trained entrepreneurs, and advocated for local Latino ownership. They were a 2017 Bush Prize for Community Innovation winner and more recently part of the Rebuild & Heal MN initiative to support immigrant-owned businesses in the wake of the pandemic and the unrest following the murder of George Floyd.



ACKERMAN + GRUBER

Propel Nonprofits (Program-Related Investment)

Propel Nonprofits is using creative capital solutions to make good things happen. As a federally certified community development financial institution, Propel makes 120 to 150 loans to nonprofits each year with a belief that when nonprofits are well led, well resourced and well connected they can achieve their missions. Propel received one of our first program-related investments (PRI) in 2017, receiving a \$1 million loan at a below-market interest rate, helping to grow their overall lending pool from \$25 million to \$30 million. PRIs help organizations like Propel and the nonprofits they serve do more with their resources and make greater impact.



A colorful mural brightens the neighborhood in East St. Paul.
Photograph by Ackerman + Gruber



BRUCE STICCO

If you have read the “how we work” section of our website, you know that we aspire to be “radically open.”

What does radically open mean to us?

- It means doing our grantmaking through open programs, so everyone eligible in the region has a chance at getting funded.
- It means being willing to consider proposals on any issue people believe can make the region better for everyone.
- It means being available to talk to anyone about a proposal through our contact hub and sharing feedback if proposals are declined.
- It means sharing what we are learning as we go, including posting grantee and Fellow reports as learning logs on our website.
- And now, it also means sharing how we are doing on key indicators in our new performance scorecard.

We created the scorecard through a community engagement process, asking external stakeholders what they most wanted to know about how we were doing our work. That input guided us in choosing 12 key indicators for assessing our own performance. (We got lots more questions than we could incorporate so stay tuned for a complementary “community FAQ” section of the website where we answer more of what we’ve been asked.)

Within philanthropy, it has long been considered a virtue for foundations to NOT talk much about themselves. The idea is that the real story is what grantees are doing — not the foundation itself. While well intended, the result is that many foundations are black boxes.

We are trying to disrupt this way of working. We are thinking about our own accountability in the way that we — and other funders — expect of grantees. We should be able to articulate what good performance looks like in our own work. We still want to share the great things our grantees are doing. But beyond that, we also want to define what it means for us to do a good job as a funder, then track and report how we are doing. In other words: What does it mean for us to do a good job as a grantmaker? And, by that standard, are we actually doing a good job?

We organized our scorecard indicators by what we fund, how we fund, and how we operate. Some of these are things we have tracked internally for a while, and some are new for us. Some of them showcase efforts we are proud of and some of them show where we can improve. The point is not to make ourselves look good, but to be transparent about our performance in our own work, in ways that allow others to hold us accountable.

This is our first public draft. We will continue to refine it based on the feedback we get, so we hope you take a look and let us know what you think at staff@bushfoundation.org.

Our board and staff care deeply about our responsibilities to do the most possible good with the money left to us by Archie and Edyth Bush. This scorecard is an effort to keep learning and improving to do more good every year.

Jen Ford Reedy
President

The Bush Foundation Scorecard

We exist to do the most possible good with the resources given to the community by Archie Bush, and our performance scorecard is a look into how we’re doing. With the scorecard, we want to both demystify our work and show some of the ways we are trying to do more good every year. We also hope that by sharing this information we can grow public understanding and trust in our work and live our operating values more fully. Check it out at bushfoundation.org/performance-scorecard

What We Fund

We are, at our core, a grantmaking institution. Our grantmaking includes grants, fellowships, and program-related investments. This section highlights indicators related to where our grantmaking dollars are going.



See where our grantmaking dollars are going.

How We Fund

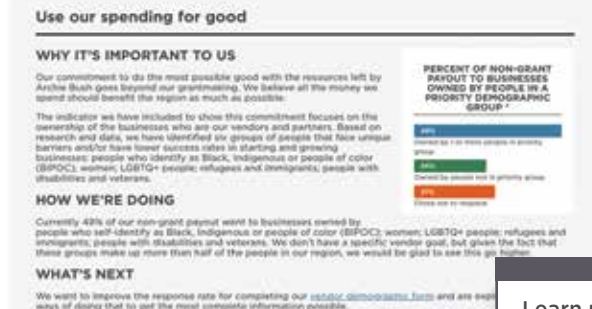
We believe that how we do our grantmaking matters as much as what we fund. This section highlights aspects of our grantmaking approach and why we believe it matters.



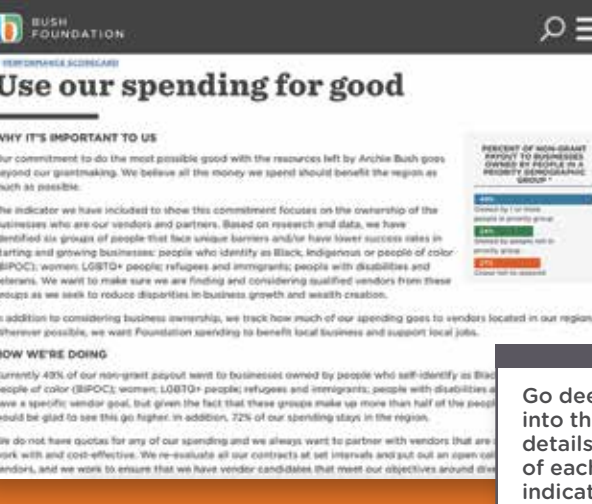
Learn about our grantmaking approach and why it matters.

How We Operate

We want to do good in everything we do — as a grantmaker, an employer, an investor, a consumer, etc. This section highlights some of the ways this shows up in our operating practices.



Learn more about how we operate.



Go deeper into the details of each indicator.

Who We Are

The Bush Foundation invests in great ideas and the people who power them in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geography. Established in 1953 by 3M Executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth, the Foundation supports organizations and people to think bigger and think differently about what is possible in their communities. We work to inspire and support creative problem solving — within and across sectors — to make our region better for everyone. For more information, visit bushfoundation.org