Welcome to

In 2013, the Bush Foundation celebrated its 60th anniversary by reflecting with Bush Fellows, Rebuilders and grantees on how our investment of nearly $1 billion in grants and fellowships has made a difference in communities across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and 23 Native nations. That’s more than 2,300 Fellows and Rebuilders, and more than 1,700 grantees—a roll call that inspires us every day.

One thing nearly everyone shared with us last year was their desire to stay connected to the Foundation, to follow the continued progress of the remarkable individuals and organizations that we’ve intersected with over the years and to pass on some of the lessons they’ve learned.

We listened, and so we’re introducing a, a showcase for people who are thinking bigger and thinking differently about what’s possible in their communities. We’ve essentially repurposed our annual report, making it less about what the Foundation did in a single year and more about what is happening now because of investments we made, perhaps decades ago. We want to tell these stories in a way that doesn’t just describe our mission but actually advances it. We hope the information and stories help to inspire, equip and connect leaders across the region.

We’d love to hear your feedback on this inaugural issue of the and ideas for future topics. Let us know what you think and share your own stories at bmag@bushfoundation.org.

In Progress

With We Are All Criminals, 2011 Bush Fellow Emily Baxter shifts the focus away from the one in four Americans who has a criminal record and toward the ones who got away.

The Bush Prize

From ending hunger across North Dakota to improving mental health care in the Black Hills of South Dakota, smart community engagement is the common denominator shared by the nine inaugural recipients of the Bush Prize for Community Innovation.

The Reverb

Here’s a little of what’s been going on—from top tweets to celebrating our 60th anniversary to a first-ever reunion of Native Nation Rebuilders to a move across the street.

By the Numbers

4,597...$844 million...500+...

152%...1.12 trees. We take a look at how things stacked up in 2013.

Learning Log

Learning Logger Rick Melmer shares what he learned about change as the University of South Dakota’s full-year residency pilot for teacher candidates debuts across the entire state.

The Buzz

Meet the Bush Fellows and Rebuilders who are making headlines and making a difference.

The Forecast

Mark your calendar for upcoming convenings, and new grant and fellowship opportunities.

The Bush Foundation invests in great ideas and the people who power them.

President: Jen Ford Reedy
Communications Director: Dominick Washington
Editor: Victoria Tirrel
Writers: Laura Billings Coleman, Nick Coleman (2010 Bush Fellow)
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On the Cover: Bush Fellow DeAnna Cummings, who recently joined the Bush Foundation Board of Directors. Bush cover: In-progress acrylic on canvas by Virdell Brown, JXTA Contemporary Arts Apprentice, 18 years old. Photograph by Thomas Strand

Jen Ford Reedy
President

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There’s amazing work going on across Native nations, strategies and generations. We hear from Bush Fellow Erma Vizenor and Native Nation Rebuilder Justin Beaulieu, plus check in on award-winning tribal programs, collaborations across tribes and how Rebuilders are participating in tribal government.

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With $1 million to seed her vision for an Urban Oasis food hub in Saint Paul’s Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, 2013 Bush Fellow Tracy Sides is among the latest in a long history of Fellows and nonprofits rooted in growing a more sustainable food culture.

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A Bush Fellowship helped DeAnna Cummings rethink Juxtaposition Arts’ approach to community and creativity, winning a Bush Prize along the way. Plus: The newest Bush Fellows, Native Nation Rebuilders and MCF Fellows.

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OTA founder and CEO Hugh Weber finds his creative collisions at the Queen City Bakery in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he can get inspiration with a peanut butter square on the side.

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A lot has changed since 1953. Archie and Edyth Bush could never have imagined that the Foundation they created would be funding innovations in online education or supporting community engagement with immigrants from Somalia. There was no Internet in 1953. There wasn’t even a country of Somalia.

While much has changed in 60 years, some things stay the same. At the core of the Bush Foundation is the drive to do the most possible good with the resources the Bushes left to the community.

The Board and staff of the Foundation spent much of 2013 looking back on its 60 years of investing in great ideas and the people who power them. We’ve produced a series of videos and a written history to highlight some of the Foundation’s work through the years which you can find at bfdn.org/BF60.

The 60th anniversary celebration culminated in November 2013 with a “family reunion.” Nearly 700 current and former Foundation staff, Board members, Fellows and Rebuilders gathered to reminisce and to celebrate the impact of the nearly $1 billion the Foundation has granted to the community since 1953.

In recognition of its 60th anniversary, the Foundation has also made three “tribute grants” to honor its founders.

- In Archie’s hometown of Granite Falls, Minnesota, we’re helping to build an applied sciences lab at the Yellow Medicine East High School.
- In Saint Paul, Minnesota, where the Bushes made their home, we contributed to the Arts Partnership, a model of just the kind of collaborative, pragmatic, civic leadership we imagine Archie would be involved in, if he were alive today.
- We partnered with the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation in Winter Park, Florida, to honor Edyth’s passion for the arts by refurbishing the green room and dressing room of a place where she was personally involved—the Orlando Repertory Theatre.

Enjoying the Bush “family reunion” are (above) the Foundation’s four presidents: Jen Ford Reedy, Peter C. Hutchinson, Anita M. Pampusch and Humphrey Doerrmann. Below, Bush Foundation Board Chair Pamela Moret acts as emcee for the event.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

It’s been 60 years since Archibald and Edyth Bush established the Bush Foundation.

To read stories from the Bush Foundation’s 60-year legacy, visit bfdn.org/BF60. There you can download a special anniversary publication Bush Foundation @ 60 and watch videos about the great ideas and people we’ve invested in since 1953.
We’ve Moved!
The Bush Foundation and Minnesota Philanthropy Partners share office space.

After nearly 60 years in Saint Paul’s First National Bank Building, the Bush Foundation moved in August 2013, packing 36 staff members and 60 years of paper-work into our new location on the 25th floor of the U.S. Bank Center on East Fifth Street. While the actual distance traveled was across just one skyway, the moving process had begun more than three years earlier when Bush and MN Partners began discussing co-locating to a space that could meet the needs of both organizations moving forward.

“Like many nonprofits, we were interested in finding ways to make the best use of our resources through partnerships in our community,” says Greg Keane, the Foundation’s CFO, who oversaw the project. “Visitors to the Bush Foundation now arrive at a 24th-floor reception area (above) shared with MN Partners. The modern and airy floor includes a cafeteria, conference rooms and other collaborative spaces designed by HGA Architects. One floor up, all Bush Foundation staff now work with smaller offices, larger conference rooms and better technology—all aimed at increasing staff collaboration and productivity. A communal kitchen space connects to a small “living room” for collaboration and conversations, overseen by new portraits of Archie and Edyth Bush (see page 33) by Bush Fellow Frank Guard (’84). Keane says the space may look like a serious upgrade to visitors, but “everyone is surprised to learn that we’re actually saving money with this move—nearly $46,000 a year that we can put back into the community.” (Read what the Bush Foundation learned from the move in our new “Learning Papers” series at bfdn.org/learn.)

What Counts
Young men spend a lot of time WONDERING what kind of a job they should get. I don’t think it matters what kind of a job you get. WHAT COUNTS is what you do with it after you get it.
—ARCHIBALD BUSH, Saint Paul Pioneer Press, 1959

Rebuilders Reunite
I n June 2013, the first four cohorts of Native Nation Rebuilders came together for a reunion. Nearly half of the more than 60 Rebuilders named between 2010 and 2013 attended the first-ever event. Over two days, they were able to strengthen ties within and across cohorts, with some meeting each other for the first time. A Rebuilder said about the reunion, “There’s so much passion for tribal nations—inspiring to see the talent and innovation throughout the region.” Another appreciated the opportunity to “see what other cohorts are up to.”

Native Nation Rebuilders complete a two-year program focused on strengthening their leadership skills and nation-building knowledge so they may be instrumental in moving their nations, in cooperation with elected leadership, toward realization of their tribes’ unique goals. The Foundation announced a fifth Rebuilders cohort in March 2014 (meet them at bfdn.org/CIReb) and will open applications for Cohort 6 on July 15, 2014. Learn more about the Native Nation Rebuilders Program at bfdn.org/Reb.

#trending
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The Bush Foundation
101 Fifth Street East, Suite 2400
Saint Paul, MN 55101
When Minneapolis attorney Emily Baxter put that question out to her social network during her 2011 Bush Fellowship, she was astonished by how many strangers called to confess. “My phone just started to ring and ring,” says Baxter, who works for the Council on Crime and Justice. Equipped with a recorder and a camera she bought with her Fellowship stipend, Baxter set out across Minnesota taking down these true confessions: the small-town teacher who never got stopped for driving drunk; the attorney who helped his college buddy sell drugs; the pediatrician who once blew up a port-a-potty.

The more than 200 interviews she’s conducted run the gamut from “egregious to petty, hilarious and heartbreaking,” says Baxter, who boils each confession into a concise story arc and waits for participant approval before publishing “so that the final draft is a criminal report created by the participant.”

The result is We Are All Criminals, a website/traveling art installation that Baxter hopes will create more second chances for the one in four Americans who has a criminal record. “Most of us have crossed the line at some point in our lives, but 75 percent of us haven’t had to pay for our mistakes every day for the rest of our lives like people with criminal records do,” she says. “When you start to consider all of the doors that could have been shut, when you start noticing the parts of your life that could have been foreclosed, you start realizing how fortunate you are not to be defined by the single worst thing you may have done in your life.”

We Are All Criminals began as a footnote in Baxter’s Fellowship application, but she believes it’s been an effective way to make a case for greater compassion toward people with criminal records. “This project burrows into people’s brains, and maybe even their hearts, and changes the way they view themselves and the system,” says Baxter. “I don’t think I’ll ever be done with this. This is going to be a life project for me.”
With one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, South Dakota’s Black Hills community had a serious problem to solve. How do you save lives by removing hurdles to emergency mental health care? “As a community, we were very good at serving people in a crisis—as long as your crisis happened between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on a weekday,” recalls State Senator Alan Solano, who represents Rapid City. “But we’d reached the point where we were having the right meetings, but with the wrong people,” he says. With funding from the Bush Foundation and the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, BMS led the charge on a new approach to the problem in 2009, widening the circle with an all-hands approach they called the Black Hills Behavioral Health Collaborative.

The Collaborative has more than 40 stakeholders—social service agencies and law enforcement officials, Native American groups and area schools. They broke the problems they saw into parts, creating subcommittees focused on everything from service integration to family advocacy. “At every step, we made sure we had all-hands approach,” Solano says. “We are giving truly flexible creative capital to organizations with great track records of creating innovative solutions. If your organization has a great track record of creating innovative solutions in your community, visit bfdn.org/applybp to learn more.

The final result is the Crisis Care Center, South Dakota’s first 24/7/365 emergency mental health provider. Today, adults in crisis who once faced a four- to eight-week wait for an appointment can receive immediate care through the Crisis Care Center, which has diverted more than 1,000 emergency room visits since 2011. “Another great outcome of the process was that organizations and agencies that might have treated each other as competitors really let their guard down to focus on what we can do that actually improves the community,” Solano says. “The whole effort has really had a great domino effect for our community.”

That “domino effect” is the common denominator connecting BMS to the eight other organizations selected to receive the inaugural Bush Prize for Community Innovation. “These organizations are doing very different things,” says Mandy Elliott, manager of the Bush Prize. “From working to end childhood exposure to violence in Grand Forks, North Dakota, to providing part-time jobs and career training for youth in North Minneapolis, to driving entrepreneurship for the Cheyenne River Sioux. But what they all have in common is a real drive to bring communities together to think differently about their whole approach to problem-solving, taking big risks that often have had big pay-offs.

For instance, the Cloquet Area Fire District found a way to improve emergency response in rural Carlton County, Minnesota, by merging three unique fire and emergency departments—going to the Legislature to change a district tax code in the process. A collaboration among Black Hills State University, Rapid City Area Schools, and Technology and Innovation in Education came together for Project PRIME, which uses math instruction as the leverage point for improving teacher instruction, getting families engaged in school work and shrinking the achievement gap for Native students. Anu Family Services in Saint Paul has changed the outlook for foster care children in danger of “aging out” of the system, often into homelessness, by finding them safe, permanent homes where they can heal the trauma of loss that often accompanies foster care placement.

The Bush Prize expands the problem-solving capacity of the region’s nonprofits and government entities that have a proven track record of innovation by providing an unrestricted grant of 25 percent of the organization’s last fiscal year budget (up to a maximum of $500,000). For the Farm Breeding Club of Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture, that means $76,000 in capital for a new testing garden or any of the other projects the organization has plotted on its wish list. “Most of the funding opportunities nonprofits are accustomed to getting are very specific and restricted for one thing, and one thing only,” says director Frank Kutka (2000 Bush Fellow). “We do feel compelled to do something big with the Bush Prize.”

“We are giving truly flexible creative capital to organizations with great track records of innovation,” says Pamela Moret, chair of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and a member of the Minnesota Bush Prize selection committee. “It’s been both fun and inspiring to learn about the work of the nine Bush Prize winners. We’re excited to see who applies this year and in years to come.”
The Bush Foundation’s work to support the self-determination of 23 Native nations builds on relationships formed across decades of support for Bush Fellows and for Native-focused education, legal, environmental and community projects.

Since 2009, we’ve supported tribes using various strategies to exercise their self-determination, some with support from the Bush Foundation—from intertribal energy initiatives (see page 16), to governance assessments, to programs that honor the successes of Native nations (see page 17), to leadership development programs for Native Nation Rebuilders (see page 32), to efforts to recreate culturally authentic governmental systems.

What follows are just a few stories of the amazing work going on across nations, strategies and generations.

The beautiful land of the Oglala Sioux people, taken during a staff trip to Pine Ridge in August 2013 (see page 18). During the visit, spiritual leader and advisor Wilmer Mesteth (right) accompanied staff to the Sacred Heart cemetery, burial site of 150 of the more than 300 Sioux killed in the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre.
Ogimaawiwin Enaakonigaadeg Gaa-waababiganikaag naagaanibii’igaadeg

TRANSLATION: THE CONSTITUTION OF THE WHITE EARTH NATION

THE LAST STANDING WOMAN

Erma Vizenor came home to White Earth Nation in 1991, returning from Harvard University with a suitcase full of books. A 1988 Bush Leadership Fellow with a master’s degree in community organizing, she planned to spend the summer writing her doctoral dissertation about administrative planning and social policy. Those plans changed, however, when a group of Anishinaabe elders came to her with tobacco—a traditional token of respect—and a request to speak for them in their fight against corruption in the tribal government.

“I put my books away,” Vizenor recalls. “They stayed unpacked for five years.”

With more than 19,000 citizens, White Earth is the most populous of the 11 tribal nations that share geography with Minnesota. It has given credibility to me.”

The years-long struggle against the status quo that followed would result in federal corruption convictions against three members of the tribal council. The years-long struggle against the status quo that followed would result in federal corruption convictions against three members of the tribal council.

The checks and balances were not there. Independent courts were not there,” Vizenor says.

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Vizenor attributes her tenacity to her traditional Ojibwe name, given to her by her grandmother, Esh-quay-gah-bowah-e-quay, is the Ojibwe name.

The Last Standing Woman.

THE ANISHINAABEG SPEAK

Preamble to the White Earth Nation Constitution

“The Anishinaabeg of the White Earth Nation are the successors of a great tradition of continental liberty, a native constitution of families, totemic associations. The Anishinaabeg create stories of natural reason, of courage, loyalty, humor, spiritual inspiration, survival, reciprocal altruism, and native cultural sovereignty.

“We, the Anishinaabeg of the White Earth Nation, in order to secure an inherent and essential sovereignty, to promote traditions of liberty, justice, and peace, and to reserve common resources, and to ensure the inalienable rights of native governance for our posterity, do constitute, ordain and establish this Constitution of the White Earth Nation.”

Read the full text of the Constitution at bfdn.org/xWENcon.

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Read the full text of the Constitution at bfdn.org/xWENcon.
Investing in the great ideas and leadership of Native people

Over the last four decades, the Bush Foundation has invested in a variety of needs identified by tribes. For instance, growing the infrastructure and leadership capacity of tribally controlled colleges was an emerging movement through the 1970s and 1980s, when the Foundation awarded more than $13 million in grants toward faculty development, indigenous language instruction and new facilities at institutions ranging from Sitting Bull College in Fort Yates, North Dakota, to Sinte Gleska College in Mission, South Dakota.

By the 1980s, tribal communities turned to the Foundation for help building the capacity of tribal courts through nearly $2 million in investments in tribal law libraries in Native nations such as Red Lake, Turtle Mountain, Spirit Lake, Mille Lacs, Standing Rock and Rosebud.

And over those same decades, countless grants have supported a variety of community service programs focused on cultural preservation, domestic violence prevention, wellness and youth services. The Bush Fellowship Program has provided vital support to tribes by investing in individual leaders who have gone on to create reforms in education, social and environmental sciences, the arts, business and government—local, state, federal and tribal.

The Foundation launched the Native Nation Rebuilders Program in 2010 to make a more concerted investment in existing and emerging leaders in tribal communities by arming them with deeper knowledge about how nation-building can strengthen their tribes.

Today, the Foundation’s work with Native nations includes funding for a wide range of projects.

From left, Jen Ford Ready and Jaime A. Pinkham of the Bush Foundation meet Ogala Sioux Tribal President Bryan Brewer in August 2013.

For tribal nations like Red Lake and White Earth that have determined constitutional reform is the way in which they want to pursue nation-building, the Foundation has provided support for activities the tribes feel will help them best approach that reform, including capacity building and citizen education. “The main objective for these nations is to design governing institutions that are actually theirs, not the ones imposed on them by the federal government,” said John Fetzer, associate on the Native Nations Team. “Governments that are authentic to their unique needs will help them achieve their own development and political goals.”

The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe used Foundation support for negotiation of a comprehensive tax agreement with the State of South Dakota and a series of small Foundation grants to educate its people about constitutional reform, while the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation has used Foundation support to implement MHA Nation Tomorrow, a citizen-led governance reform project. The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians used a grant to upgrade their election procedures to increase their citizens’ confidence and turnout to elect their leaders and decide major policy initiatives.

The Red Lake Nation has begun the work of drawing up a proposed new constitution with broad support among the citizens. Native Nation Rebuilder Justin Beaulieu (Cohort 2) is coordinating the effort.

Many tribal constitutions were dictated by the federal government in the 1930s. Those old constitutions, says Beaulieu, were intended to provide a business model of decision-making, not a democratic, transparent and accountable system to serve the citizens. That is why he believes the Red Lake Nation constitution, which was adopted in 1938 and revised in 1958, is inadequate and why tribal leaders decided to consider constitutional reform.

“Our constitution is very open to interpretation,” said Beaulieu. Under the current structure, “whoever’s in power at whatever time can do whatever they need to get their agenda across. It’s written to run a business. But we’re not a business; we’re a nation. We’re worried about our land base. We’re worried about our future. We’re worried about our language. We’re worried about our children. And our constitution doesn’t speak to any of that. None of it talks about our tradition, our culture, our language, our historical leaders or our land and how important it is to us—our land and our water. It’s just how to run a business.”

 Ironically, the instability and unpredictability of tribal governments operating under such loose rules has stifled economic investment on many reservations. Investors worry about the long term when few long-term safeguards are in place. The flawed structure is the trouble, Beaulieu says—not the leaders, but the laws. “How are you supposed to take care of the tribe and move it forward when you have to worry about how much workers get paid and you only meet once a month?”

And there are obstacles to reform that are very real and fairly universal—like people’s concern “about whether they are going to have shoes for the kids, or heat in their house during the winter.” Beaulieu says. “The first step is to educate people about what a constitution is.”

On that front, Red Lake has a website and Facebook page for the reform effort, in addition to holding community forums and meet-and-greets. At those meetings, Beaulieu and his colleagues in the reform effort attempt to allay fears that reform might open the way for the reservation to sell any of its 867,000 acres of land or open world-famous Red Lake to outside fishing. Those things aren’t going to happen, he says, and constitutional reform will actually help protect the tribe’s resources.

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T
here’s no one way to do nation-building,” says Jaime A. Pinkham, vice president of the Foundation’s work with Native nations. “Each tribe moves forward from their unique political, cultural, social and economic situation. Some tribes are shoring up their existing governing functions while others want to take a close look at whether their current constitution expresses their culture and supports their contemporary sovereign right to protect their land and people.”

The Red Lake Nation has begun the work of drawing up a proposed new constitution with broad support among the citizens. Native Nation Rebuilder Justin Beaulieu (Cohort 2) is coordinating the effort.

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Sioux Tribes Announce Wind Power Collaborative at Clinton Global Initiative

Eight Sioux Tribes in the Foundation’s region are collaborating to develop the largest wind power production facility in the United States—a partnership the tribes announced with the help of former U.S. President Bill Clinton last summer at the 2013 Clinton Global Initiative America. Six of the eight tribes were present.

This historic alliance—involving the Cheyenne River Sioux, Crow Creek Sioux, Flandreau Santee Sioux, Oglala Sioux, Rosebud Sioux, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Standing Rock Sioux and Yankton Sioux—would capture the considerable wind power on Sioux reservation land through a project funded by more than $1.75 billion in bonds issued through a multiracial power authority. The Foundation provided support to bring the tribal leaders together for early conversation about how they might work across their governments to jointly develop their resources for the first time in history.

Watch a video about the creation of the Sioux Wind project at bfdn.org/xsxwind.

Honoring success in tribal governance

The resurgence of walleye in Red Lake is one of the great conservation success stories in the nation—a role model for tribal governance that was recognized in October 2013 by the Honoring Nations award, a prestigious program supported by the Bush Foundation that acknowledges excellence in tribal governance.

The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, which runs Honoring Nations, named the Red Lake Nation as one of three “all-stars” chosen from 112 past award winners. The award cites the crucial role self-governance played in their unprecedented seven-year effort to bring walleye back from the brink of extinction to thriving numbers that can now support subsistence and sport fishing.

Recognition of tribal governance innovation and excellence among the Foundation’s tribal partners continues with the announcement in March of the semifinalists for the 2014 Honoring Nations Awards. The list included Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The five projects recognized across the four nations focus on land management, leadership development, poverty reduction, elder protection and law enforcement. Learn more at bfdn.org/xHonor.
Rebuilders win election to tribal council

As the new chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Dave Archambault II (top) is among a number of Native Nation Rebuilders to be elected to a tribal council position in the last few years. Archambault was part of the inaugural cohort of Rebuilders, selected in 2010. Two other Rebuilders from Cohort I have also since won a place on tribal council. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe re-elected Boyd Gourneau (Cohort 1) as vice-chairman in 2012. And LeRoy Staples Fairbanks III (Rebuilders Cohort 1) won election in 2012 as the District 3 representative to tribal council of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

In talking about his experience as a Rebuilder, Fairbanks (below) said that it had “opened my eyes to so many different things about what other tribes are doing and some of the successes that they’re having. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe has two Rebuilders, both from Cohort 3, serving on tribal council. Wayne Duchenaux II was appointed vice-chairman after winning election in 2012 as the District 4 representative. Ryman LeBeau is the representative from District 5, re-elected to his second term in 2012.

Chairman Archambault told a reporter from KXMB-TV (Bismarck) who covered his inauguration, “This is my home. And if there’s something that you can do to improve your home, then I don’t think you can sit back and watch anymore. You have to try to do something to make a difference. And this was just something that I thought I can do.”

This sentiment is echoed by those who apply each year to the Native Nation Rebuilders Program, whether their future vision includes running for tribal office or serving their Native nations in myriad other ways—by running a tribal program, educating youth, preserving culture, improving health care outcomes, managing a non-profit or providing economic development. See footage of Chairman Archambault’s inauguration at bfdn.org/xArch. Applications for Cohort 6 of the Native Nation Rebuilders Program open on July 15. Learn more at bfdn.org/Reb.

Visiting tribal nations

At the invitation of the Red Lake Nation, the Bush Foundation’s Board of Directors held its May 2013 meeting at Red Lake. Chairman Floyd “Buck” Jourdain Jr. welcomed Board and staff; center, at the point of Red Lake, Miriam Jorgensen (Native Nations Institute), 2009 Bush Fellow Anton Treuer (American Indian Resource Center, Bemidji State University) and Foundation Board member Tim Mathern (B’98); Rebuilder Tina Merdanian (center) hosted Foundation staff (from left) Dominick Washington, Allison Barmann, Jon Ford Reedy and Jaime A. Pinkham during an August 2013 visit to Pine Ridge.

In August 2013, four members of the Foundation’s staff traveled to Pine Ridge, home of the Oglala Sioux. Hosted by Rebuilder Tina Merdanian (Cohort 1), staff met President Bryan Brewer and visited the Wounded Knee burial site. Eleven of 90 Native Nation Rebuilders and several Bush Fellows are Oglala Sioux, including 2014 Fellow Richard Iron Cloud.

Top, Bush Foundation Board and staff at the sacred point of Red Lake; left, Red Lake Nation Chairman Floyd “Buck” Jourdain Jr. welcomed Board and staff; center, at the point of Red Lake, Miriam Jorgensen (Native Nations Institute), 2009 Bush Fellow Anton Treuer (American Indian Resource Center, Bemidji State University) and Foundation Board member Tim Mathern (B’98); Rebuilder Tina Merdanian (center) hosted Foundation staff (from left) Dominick Washington, Allison Barmann, Jon Ford Reedy and Jaime A. Pinkham during an August 2013 visit to Pine Ridge.

Rebuilders Dave Archambault II (top) and LaRoy Staples Fairbanks III (bottom) are among several Rebuilders serving on tribal council.
Saint Paul’s Lower Town Depot isn’t much to look at. A four-story pile of bricks and broken windows just a stone’s throw from downtown, the abandoned industrial building has long been a magnet for vandals and a backdrop for photographers aimed at capturing gritty urban decay.

The building is an eyesore to many East Siders, but in the eyes of Tracy Sides, a public health Ph.D. and 2013 Bush Fellow, the depot had the potential to be an “Urban Oasis” for local food and the diverse cultural life of Dayton’s Bluff. “This place is sitting right in the middle of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary,” she says. “It’s an amazing location, and it’s practically begging to be revitalized.”

That was the pitch Sides made to the Forever Saint Paul Challenge, a contest sponsored by The Saint Paul Foundation in 2013 that asked residents where they would invest $1 million to make the city more livable. One of 964 ideas submitted to the contest, Sides’ vision was to transform the blighted complex into an urban food hub that could serve as a year-round marketplace for local produce, a commercial kitchen for community entrepreneurs, and a gathering place and gateway connecting this economically challenged neighborhood to the natural beauty of the Mississippi River valley.

“Food is such a fun way to explore diversity and to share the flavors of different cultures,” says Sides, who stepped down from her post at the University of Minnesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy to launch herself as a public health entrepreneur in 2012. “Even if you don’t buy into the kumbaya, we’re-all-one view of the world, food can be a great tool for teaching all of the ways we’re connected to and rely on the natural world.”

Illustrations by Shannon Brady • Photographs by Bruce Silcox

Growing a more sustainable food culture has deep roots among a generation of Bush Fellows and nonprofit partners.
Food has always been about RELATIONSHIPS, coming together as a family, knowing the farmers in your community, but we’ve reached a point in human history where most of us no longer know enough PEOPLE who could feed us.

—KATHY DRAEGER, 1999 BUSH FELLOW

Sides began her Bush Fellowship just as “Urban Oasis” was chosen as one of three finalists for the Challenge through a community-wide online vote. In September, Sides was waiting for her breakfast order at the Sweede Hollow Cafe where she starts most of her mornings, when she excused herself to answer the call she’d been waiting for. She returned a few minutes later with her arms raised overhead in victory, “and the whole cafe erupted in cheers and lots of hugs,” Sides recalls. “It was just the perfect place to get such great news.” Winning $1 million toward making her vision a reality has “supercharged” Sides’ Bush Fellowship, filling her calendar with conference calls and planning meetings with the City and community partners such as the Lower Phalen Creek Project. But Sides’ sense of urgency runs deeper.

“Whether you look at our agricultural system, which is producing the kind of food that is making us sick,” says Sides, “or an energy system that’s leading us down the path of continued climate change, or an economic system that is perpetuating significant income inequalities—when you look at what connects all of those things, you can see that one of the best leverage points for change is food.”

THE SAVING REMNANT

“The three-state region the Bush Foundation serves is right in the center of the nation’s breadbasket, so it’s probably no surprise that how we grow, distribute and think about food has some very deep roots among Bush Fellows over the years,” says Martha Lee, Bush Fellowship Program manager. “Tracy’s passion for building community and economic opportunities around food is one that’s been shared by many Fellows in the last four decades.”

In fact, not far from the future home of the “Urban Oasis” site is the historic Saint Paul Farmer’s Market, the first public market established in the city back in 1853. When a wave of 1970s- and 1980s-era urban renewal threatened to destroy the market, the late Ken Taylor (’78 Bush Fellow) led the fight to preserve it. A champion of locally grown food and farmers who went on to form the Minnesota Food Association in 1983, Taylor was a pioneer in the community-supported agriculture movement, credited with convening conversations between farmers and food company executives about shifting to more sustainable agricultural practices.

“I believe that the food we eat carries within it, in some form or another, the values that dominate the system which produced it,” Taylor wrote before he died in 1995. “Our food is a good measure of how we do business in our communities.”

Fellows like Taylor helped to give the Foundation advance warning of many of the challenges familiar to farmers and consumers today—from the economic collapse of small farming towns, to the rise of genetically modified foods, to the advance of “food deserts” with few fresh and healthy food options in the Twin Cities’ urban core.

In 2002, the Foundation responded to those and other warnings by creating an “ecological health” priority that included grant support for organizations driving a variety of environmental issues, including sustainable food development. Former Senior Program Officer Jane Kretzmann, who created and led the program area for the Foundation, says that grant requests that challenged conventional growing practices or accepted wisdom were often difficult for the Foundation’s Board of Directors to come to consensus on “because one of the questions we struggled with was, were these projects on the fringe, or were they leading edge? We worked hard to stay as close as the sciences we are coast.”

The “ecological health” funding program also informed the Bush Fellowship selection process. “The Foundation was always looking for levers of change, and the Bush Fellowships really helped to invest in individuals who were in the best position to make a difference,” says Kretzmann, now a senior fellow at the University of Minnesota’s College of Education and Human Development.

While the ecohealth priority ended in 2008, many organizations that led the early charge on sustainable food and farming have been successful applicants to the Foundation’s Community Innovation Grant program launched in 2013.

For instance, Renewing the Countryside II received a $100,000 Community Innovation grant in 2013 for its work making farmland across Minnesota more accessible to new and young farmers, while building partnerships between food co-ops and growers. Now the organization, Plains Sustainable Agriculture in LaMoore, North Dakota, became one of nine nonprofits to win the inaugural Bush Prize for Community Innovation in 2013 (see page 8). The Bush Prize is a $76,000 bonus to help the organization’s Farm Breeding Club, a project aimed at ensuring the nation’s food security by increasing crop diversity, and releasing more seed into the public domain.

“Sustainable agriculture is one of the best ways we can get after environmental health, because whatever is happening in our farms and on our lands is what’s happening to everyone,” says Frank Kutka, (’00 Bush Fellow) who co-directs the Farm Breeding Club, one of the first organizations of its kind in North America. The organization encourages members to cultivate and save the seeds from plants that produce the best yields and flavor from their own farms, helping to preserve heritage varieties lost in the spread of large-scale farming.

One of the Club’s early leaders and biggest proponents is Theresa Podoll (’07 Bush Fellow), who used her Fellowship to pursue a passion for community building, skills that have helped her step into national leadership roles with such organizations as the Family Farmers Seed Collective and the Organic Farming Research Foundation. Now a nationally recognized voice on the value of seed stewardship, Podoll says “the gift the Fellowship gave me was immersing me in how to talk about these things I care about so much from a community perspective.”

Investing in grassroots leaders like Kutka and Podoll is one of the ways the Bush Foundation “got ahead of the curve” on many of the country’s concerns about sustainable agriculture, says Bush Fellow Kathy Draeger (’99) who went on to serve as a consultant for the “ecohealth” grant priority. “Food has always been about relationships, coming together as a family, knowing the farmers in your community, but we’ve reached a point in human history where most of us no longer know enough people who could feed us,” says Draeger, who now serves as statewide director of the University of Minnesota’s Regional Partnerships. “Where I live in Big Stone County, the number of dairy farmers has dropped from 400 in 1960, to about 40 in 1980, and now in 2014 there is just one. Within just one generation, we have demolished all of that generational knowledge.”

“No, not to be too melodramatic, but I think people like Frank Kutka and Theresa Podoll are like the saving remnant, from the Book of Isaiash,” Draeger says — community leaders with the know ledge necessary to “fan the flames forward so that we’re trying to solve the world’s problems, we don’t have to keep starting from scratch.”

BREAKING BREAD

But not every Bush Fellow with a great, green idea is a grocer like Kutka and Podoll. Heidi De Mars (’13) got her start as a grocery shopper.

Frustrated when she couldn’t find the fresh local produce she wanted to feed her kids after her family’s move to Bismarck, she joined a local CSA. There she connected with family farmers just as frustrated by growing food that, without good channels for distribution, often goes to waste.

“I started thinking I can’t be the only one around here who wants better access to good food,” says De Mars, who organized a truck stop meet-and-greet between two dozen local growers and consumers who began forming blue-sky plans about creating what would be Bismarck’s first food co-op. “I’m not trained to do this kind of thing, but it’s what I care about,” says De Mars, who began reading up on other Bush Fellows interested in sustainable food systems before becoming a Fellow in 2013. “I was fueled by how many other people are looking at these questions in their own communities. I thought, ‘These are my people!’”

In fact, the last few years have produced a bumper crop of Bush Fellows exploring the ways that food can promote and preserve
Noreen Thomas of Georgetown and Brent Olson of Clinton both began Fellowships in 2012 aimed at converting community assets into hubs for food distribution and economic growth. Thomas hopes to revive a licensed kitchen in the Georgetown City Hall as a center for community and even commercial food processing, while Olson opened “The Inadvertent Café” on Clinton’s main street, offering an adjoining annex to local food producers interested in bringing fresh products to the local market.

Figuring out how the next generation of farmers can work the land sustainably while making a living wage has been a question that Olson, a writer, has been exploring as part of his Fellowship. “For a lot of local foods people, there’s this purity element,” with producers who seem unconcerned about making a profit, Olson says. “But I think if you’re raising local food you ought to be able to make a living at it, too, and send your kids to college and go to Cancun on your 25th anniversary.”

In Nisswa, Minnesota, farmer and Bush Fellow Arlene Jones (’13) is also trying to create fresh markets for local farmers by expanding a farm-to-school produce program. Starting with 1,000 pounds of produce she grew on her farm and delivered to salad bars in the Brainerd school district, her local food distribution plan now brings garden-fresh produce grown by 40 local farmers to three school systems and two hospital systems. “My goal is to provide fair and equitable markets to all farmers,” including the growing number of Latino farmers in central Minnesota and the Amish community in Todd County, Jones says.

In Hugo, Minnesota, Diane Wilson (2013 Bush Fellow) is working to collect and cultivate indigenous seeds as part of her work as executive director of the working farm/nonprofit Dream of Wild Health. In Milan, Minnesota, greenhouse grower Chuck Waibel earned a 2013 Fellowship aimed at relieving rural food deserts with winter-grown produce. Waibel died of colon cancer just weeks after his Fellowship began, but his wife and greenhouse partner Carol Ford will carry on his work, establishing a greenhouse growers network in west central Minnesota with a memorial grant the Foundation made in January to the Regional Sustainable Development Partnership at the University of Minnesota.

With so many current Fellows exploring food hubs, cooperative enterprise and agricultural systems, Bush Fellowship Program Manager Martha Lee has made a point of encouraging this cohort to connect. “Martha keeps saying, ‘you all need to know each other,’” says Bush Fellow Leslie Watson (’13), a board member of the Northeast (Minneapolis) Investment Co-op, who is organizing a bread-breaking brainstorming session later this spring.

“One thing that’s exciting about seeing so many Fellows looking critically at food systems is that, as their own projects and passions suggest, there’s no one right solution for every community,” says Larry Leahy, the Foundation’s director of leadership and engagement. “But having this much brain power and leadership capacity applied to these questions about creating sustainable agriculture and greener channels for distribution means that our region is positioned to benefit from the innovative strategies those Fellows are exploring.”

Jones says that knowing other Bush Fellows are committed to the same questions has been inspiring and instructive. For instance, she and Sides are looking at how to create thriving food hubs from two different directions. “She’s asking how do you create the structure to utilize the funds, and my position is how do I incrementally build the infrastructure for a food hub without funding?” says Jones, who adds, “It’s not my generation that’s going to drive this systemic change in our food culture, but it’s going to be people like Heidi De Mars and the people who come after her who are going to make the difference—that next generation willing to change their spending habits.”

Sides agrees that having so many food-minded Bush Fellows around the region has been energizing, especially as her plans for an “Urban Oasis” move forward in the coming year. “It’s an idea whose time has come, and it’s an idea that builds on the work of a lot of Bush Fellows before me,” says Sides. “And I think it’s about more than just food—it’s about recognizing that what we’re doing as a human species is not sustainable, and that it’s time to cultivate a more generative relationship with the natural world.”

Sides laughs. “That’s my big-picture speech. But on the small scale, there is a wonderful human benefit of sharing food with your neighbors, having the skills to cook food you grew yourself and keeping more of your money in the local economy. I really believe local food is magic.”

Food is such a fun way to explore DIVERSITY and to share the flavors of different cultures.

—TRACY SIDES

Food is such a fun way to explore DIVERSITY and to share the flavors of different cultures.

—TRACY SIDES
Seven years ago, DeAnna Cummings took a hard look at the high-traffic, under-resourced intersection in North Minneapolis where she and her husband Roger had planted their business, Juxtaposition Arts (JXTA), and realized the view still needed some improvement. “When we looked out the window at West Broadway and Emerson, we asked ourselves ‘is the community getting better?’ In some ways the answer was yes, but in lots of ways, it was no,” says Cummings.

Securing a permanent home for the once nomadic arts group had been a long-time dream the couple started in 1995 with their partner Peyton Russell (2012 Bush Fellow). But now the expanded programs they’d once imagined in their new three-building complex didn’t seem to be generating enough impact for people within their immediate community—or showing the big results that mattered to investors and partners.

While the pair could point to plenty of success stories among the thousands of teens who’d taken part in their afterschool arts programs, they couldn’t ignore the growing joblessness, widening achievement gap and dwindling opportunities they saw for the youth of color outside their doors. “I knew what I needed was to step away from the work and to see it from another angle,” says Cummings, who has served as JXTA’s executive director since its start, while Roger Cummings is the organization’s artistic director. But with two children in school and two incomes now tied to the organization’s survival, “The time was just never going to be there.”

That’s when Leah Lorraine Nelson, a 2006 Bush Fellow and friend, challenged her to think about applying for a Bush Leadership Fellowship, a program Cummings wasn’t sure she was qualified for, having discontinued her undergrad studies to start Juxtaposition. She made a nervous call to Martha Lee, Bush Fellowship Program manager, and asked if the Foundation ever paid for Fellows to go back to college. Lee admitted it was a long shot, but then asked Cummings if she’d consider setting her sights a little higher. “Martha said, ‘I suppose you could go back and finish that degree, but with the work you’ve done already, I bet you have bigger dreams for yourself.’” Cummings says. Lee suggested she learn more about

**DeAnna Cummings**

A major innovator in Minnesota’s creative economy, 2007 Bush Fellow DeAnna Cummings has spent nearly 20 years building Juxtaposition Arts and the North Minneapolis community that surrounds it.

“I WANT PEOPLE TO SAY ABOUT ME THAT EVERYONE WHO’S WORKED FOR ME AND WORKED WITH ME IS BETTER FOR IT.”

—DeAnna Cummings
one of the few graduate programs in the country willing to consider nontraditional students like Cummings—Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. “The website had a splash page that said ‘Come Change the World,’ and I remember I just sucked in my breath and dove into every word, because it was like they were talking right to me.”

Today, DeAnna Cummings looks out the windows of Juxtaposition’s gallery space on Emerson Avenue and likes what she sees—a busy commercial corridor bustling with people and vibrant new businesses. Since JXTA put down roots, nearby blocks have benefited from nearly $47 million in new investments. The business itself has also been remodeled with the launch of JXTA Lab, a teen-run design firm viewed as a national model for everything from youth jobs training to creative place-making. The now four-building campus hums with activity, as students work on client projects that range from screenprinting to environmental design, and adult artists fill a new studio co-op on West Broadway. JXTA’s shift toward social entrepreneurship has brought in new revenue and measurable results: High school graduation rates in North Minneapolis hover near 50 percent. But for the students who’ve made a two-year commitment to consistent JXTA training, the rate is nearly 100 percent. Fueling JXTA’s plans for the future is a Bush Prize for Community Innovation, a new grant initiative that recognizes organizations with a culture of innovation by providing grants equal to 25 percent of their last fiscal year budget, up to $500,000 (see page 8). For JXTA, that means more than $150,000 of unrestricted creative capital it can reinvest in North Minneapolis and beyond.

“One of my core beliefs is that if you give young people the resources and opportunities, they’re going to reach just as high as you set the bar, and the same was true for me,” says Cummings. “Nearly everything we’re talking about today was buoyed and accelerated by the investment the Bush Foundation made in me, and in my development as a leader.”

N
ow before we go on, DeAnna Cummings wants to make sure that this article does not conform to the expected standards of the female nonprofit executive profile. “You know—the kind of story where it’s all about being the benevolent giver, and staying in the background,” says Cummings. “I think that’s not the healthiest way for us as women to approach our work.”

Cummings gives credit for JXTA’s growing profile to its staff of talented professional artists and designers (“Truly, the best people in the Twin Cities.”) She also praises the hundreds of area teens who have worked on the JXTA team over the years and whose creative work and community-building around North Minneapolis prove the organization’s case that youth are the neighborhood’s “greatest asset—not some problem to be solved.” But after nearly two decades as JXTA’s top administrator, Cummings can also take credit for keeping the nonprofit thriving. “It’s important for me to say out loud that when I was 25 years old. But if you stop by JXTA you will hardly ever see me. I’m in my office, or in a meeting or writing somebody about something we’re working on. What you’ll see are the young people, the artists, the artwork—the magic that happens at JXTA. Hundreds of people have contributed their gifts and talents to transforming the vision of an afterschool arts program into an institution that has made a difference for people and this place. That’s something I am incredibly proud of,” says Cummings, who tweets as @MizzBossLadyDee. She adds that earning a Bush Fellowship was no guarantee of success. “It’s a wonderful recognition of your accomplishments and potential, but your problems don’t magically go away. In fact, the challenges get bigger—just like the expectations.”

One of the challenges Juxtaposition faced in 2007 was figuring out how to move beyond what Cummings calls a “buffet-style” set of arts programs and toward higher-dosage efforts that could engage youth year-round, with hands-on...
opportunities to create and build career skills. “I believe that in a 21st century, new millennium society, artists and arts organizations have to get off of our pedestals and get over the idea that we’re precious,” she says. “Sitting high above everyone and producing pretty objects isn’t going to cut it anymore, if it ever really did.”

Exploring how artists can drive relevant change in communities was a question that made her “a bit of an odd duck” amid the policy wonks at the Kennedy School, where Cummings began her Fellowship studies in 2008. Husband Roger examined many of the same questions from a design perspective (as artist-developer-incubator) as he pursued a parallel inquiry at the Harvard Graduate School of Design with a prestigious Loeb Fellowship in Advanced Environmental Studies. “With a mural, once you get it down, you have to relinquish it to the community, and that’s sort of the approach we’ve had with JXTA,” says Roger Cummings. “In the beginning we had no intention of building an institution. We were looking for short-term, concentrated interventions that worked. As it turned out that’s the formula for how to build an institution.”

By the time they and their two kids returned to the Twin Cities in 2009, the couple had come up with a new strategic plan for JXTA designed to take advantage of the high concentration of youth under 18 in North Minneapolis. Today, JXTA is a teen-staffed art and design firm, where youth are employed part-time, year-round and produce real products, “from custom t-shirts, to marketing logos, to business signage, to public art, and community engagement.” “So now we’re employing kids, bringing in revenue, training them up with job skills and preparing them for higher education,” explains Roger Cummings. The shift in strategy has resulted in a 10-fold increase in JXTA’s reach in nearly every measure, from weeks of programming to annual operating budget, to percentage of revenue earned from client jobs.

A
n organizational revamp like JXTA’s is unusual in the arts world, says Laura Zabel, executive director of Springboard for the Arts (and a newly named 2014 Bush Fellow). “But DeAnna is one of those leaders who never gets confused about whether her job is to make change or run an organization. She is a national expert in this field, yet she’s always open to new ideas and new thinking.”

“DeAnna is really creative, but she’s very practical, too,” says Erin Jerabek Heelan, executive director of the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, which has worked closely with both Cummings on projects to improve the economic vitality of the West Broadway commercial district. “When everyone is brainstorming in the clouds, DeAnna can take an amazing idea and figure out how to make it work on the ground.”

“Though Cummings knew little about the complicated financing necessary to redevelop the four-property parcel that is...”

Continued on page 33

DEANNA CUMMINGS IN FIVE

When I was a kid, I thought I’d grow up to be:
A librarian. I’d wake up early in the mornings in the summers during grade school and middle school so I could get dropped off at our local library branch in Kansas City. I’d read a book a day, sometimes more, from the time I started reading when I was four or five years old until I was in high school. I actually had a job in high school working in the school library at South High.

Best advice I ever got:
“Don’t tell people what you think they want to hear. Tell them the truth.” John Spokes, the co-founder of the Eye of the Storm Theater; once told me that many fundraisers are not successful because they spin their stories, try to say the right thing to get the funding. He told me that you need to get better results when you just tell the truth.

Things that tick me off:
Inequality, self-important people, all-ism, xenophobia, cheapskates who want to itemize a shared check—can we just split it?

People might be surprised to find out:
I’m a natural introvert (I just play an extrovert at work), so I need time alone to balance out all the being-with-people I do in my day-to-day life.

My mantra:
“There is no one right way.” That is one of the things I find so fulfilling about working in the arts. A group of artists can all have the same assignment and each will approach it differently. In the end the varied approaches and results can be equally right and impactful and beautiful.

2014 Bush Fellows

A Bush Fellowship is both a recognition of extraordinary achievement and a bet on extraordinary potential. These 24 exceptional Bush Fellows have demonstrated creative, committed leadership and have compelling visions for what more they can do for the region. The Fellowship provides up to $100,000 to help them realize their visions. The money can be used for academic programs or for self-designed programs to grow their personal impact. Since 1965, the Foundation has named more than 2,200 Bush Fellows.

Applications for the 2015 Bush Fellowship open in July 2014. To learn more about the program and see video profiles of this year’s remarkable class of Bush Fellows, please visit bdn.org/2015BF

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Native Nation Rebuilders (COHORT 5)

The Native Nation Rebuilders Program is a cohort-based leadership program to equip and connect Native leaders to drive nation-building efforts within and across their nations. The Bush Foundation launched the Rebuilders program in 2010 in support of the elected leaders of the 23 Native nations it serves, who said supporting the development of Native leaders was crucial to the long-term success of their nations.

Today, almost 90 Native leaders call themselves Rebuilders, including these 26 Rebuilders who make up Cohort 5. Applications for Cohort 6 of Native Nation Rebuilders open July 15, 2014. Learn more about these Rebuilders and the program at bfdn.org/CSReb.
152% more applications for the newest cohort of Bush Fellows

119% more applications for the newest cohort of Native Nation Rebuilders

40% increase in payments in 2013...a total of $28.6 million

$844 million in assets at the end of 2013...an increase of 7.8%

$844 million in assets

4,597 new K-12 teachers in classrooms, prepared by our 14 higher-education partners in the Teacher Effectiveness Initiative

936 applications for Community Innovation Grants and the Bush Prize reviewed in 2013

500 exchanges via phone and email with potential Bush Prize and Community Innovation Grant applicants to provide support during the application period

200 one-on-one calls with organizations that didn’t receive funding to provide feedback on their applications and to ask for their feedback on our application process

5 operating principles adopted by the Board and staff in 2013:

- Spread optimism.  
- Work beyond ourselves.  
- Everybody matters.  
- Steward well.  
- More good. Every year.

9,336 pages saved annually by transitioning to online Board materials

1.12 trees

COMMUNITY INNOVATION

In 2013, we launched two new programs—The Bush Prize for Community Innovation and the Community Innovation Grants.

30 stops on our 2013 road show

And after that...
LEARNING LOG

FULL-YEAR RESIDENCY PROGRAM GRADUATES FROM PILOT TO STATEWIDE EFFORT

The University of South Dakota, one of 14 partners in the Foundation’s Teacher Effectiveness Initiative, is tipping the balance in teacher preparation from theory to practice, giving teacher candidates a full-year of classroom immersion.

Learning Logger: Rick Melmer

THE SETUP

We knew going in that teacher candidates have a kind of romantic notion of what teaching will be like. Spending 12 weeks in a classroom only gives you a little snapshot. But the truth is, it’s a long year from August to May, and when new teachers take over their first classrooms they discover parents get mad, kids get difficult and it’s challenging even for an experienced teacher to engage a classroom for a full year.

THE PROJECT

We believed we could better prepare new teachers to enter the classroom by changing the balance between theory and practice—not just getting them out into the classroom earlier (starting in their freshman year) and often, but moving seniors from a one-semester experience to a full-year residency model. We introduced the idea to our colleagues across USD’s campus in the fall of 2008, and it took a year or two to lay the groundwork and get the buy-in we needed to begin the pilot.

THE LEARNING

In the field, we’ve learned a lot about the kind of mentor teacher the teacher candidates really benefit from working with—they’re the kind who say, “come alongside me and let’s do this together and I’ll learn from you and you’ll learn from me.” It’s hard work for both teachers, but after a full year, the teacher candidates feel prepared and confident that they can go out and do this. And they know what it’s really going to be like.

What starts small can surpass your initial dreams. We piloted the full-year residency program in the 2010-2011 school year with 10 elementary education majors in USD’s fall. For the 2014-2015 school year, every USD teacher candidate, with just a few exceptions, is in full-year residency. The South Dakota Board of Regents is implementing full-year residency in all state-run teacher preparation programs, and we’re talking to other states that are interested in what we’re doing in South Dakota.

LEARNING FROM THE TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS INITIATIVE

A learning paper on an midterm evaluation by the Improve Group, which included interviews and focus groups with individuals from our higher education partners, teacher candidates, K-12 partners and the initiative coaches from PHI 360. This paper summarizes our learning from the evaluation and highlights implications for the Foundation’s education work going forward. Read the full paper at bfdn.org/learerne.

LEARNING FROM THE INCOMMONS INITIATIVE

A learning paper on an external review by the University of Minnesota of InCommons, an initiative launched by the Foundation in 2009 to increase the leadership and problem-solving capacity of communities. In 2013, the Foundation ended the InCommons initiative and incorporated its most successful strategies into the core of the Foundation’s work. Read the full paper at bfdn.org/learnin.

LEARNING FROM A SHARED FACILITY

A learning paper on the Bush Foundation’s move to a facility shared with Minnesota Philanthropy Partners (see page 5). From creating a shared vision to the nitty gritty of who pays for what, the years-long effort culminated in an August 2013 move and promises a future of better workspaces, better technology and lower costs. Read the full paper at bfdn.org/learnmove.

WE’RE LEARNING TOO

LEARNING PAPERS, “both here in b and soon on our website. Rather than keeping grant and fellowship reports filed away, we will be asking the ORGANIZATIONS and individuals we fund to publicly log their learning—good, bad and ugly—so everyone can benefit. And through quarterly Learning Papers we’ll share what we’re learning, too.

—ALLISON BARMANN, VICE PRESIDENT OF STRATEGY AND LEARNING

Change like this is challenging, because it interrupted some course work and required change across the entire campus, not just the School of Education. But we had support from the president’s and provost’s offices, which was really key to our success.

THE LEARNING LOGGER

Rick Melmer is former dean of the School of Education at the University of South Dakota. He’s currently working with the South Dakota Board of Regents, which in 2011 decided to implement USD’s full-year residency pilot program in all state-run teacher preparation programs.

We’re excited to introduce “Learning Logs” and “Learning Papers,” both here in b and soon on our website. Rather than keeping grant and fellowship reports filed away, we will be asking the ORGANIZATIONS and individuals we fund to publicly log their learning—good, bad and ugly—so everyone can benefit. And through quarterly Learning Papers we’ll share what we’re learning, too.

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Above, teacher candidates at Minnesota State University, Mankato; right, high school science teacher prepared by Valley City State University.

ABOUT THE TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS INITIATIVE

In 2009, the Foundation launched a $40 million partnership with 14 colleges and universities in three states to improve their teacher preparation practices in four key areas—recruitment, preparation, employment and support—using data to inform change. The Foundation’s overarching goal for our education work is to increase the percentage of students of all backgrounds who attain post-secondary success. Learn more at bfdn.org/TEI.
BUSH FELLOWS & REBUILDERS NEWS

Saint Paul artist Ta-coumba Aiken (BF’92) earned a Guinness World Record for building the largest Lite-Brite installation ever with the 12-by-24 foot mural he created for the kick-off of the Forever Saint Paul Challenge. His creation required more than 690,000 Lite Brite pegs, and help from more than 600 volunteers (including some Bush Foundation staff, below).

Mode-sty.com, an online shop for conservative women’s clothing launched by Zahra Aljabri (BF’13), turned heads in 2013 with features on Minnesota Public Radio, the line, Tech Crunch, the gloss, FashionNotes and other media outlets.

The National Council on Family Relations elected William D. Allen (BF’95) as its president-elect. Allen is the owner of Healing Bonds, a family therapy practice in Minneapolis.

Lakota artist and art historian Arthur Amoia (BF’80/’02), recipient of the Foundation’s 2012 Enduring Vision Award, worked with the South Dakota State Historical Society in 2013 to gather 31 of his original collages on loan from private collectors and museum collections throughout the United States. The result is Transformations and Continuity in Lakota Culture: The Collages of Arthur Amoia, an exhibition that opened at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre on April 13.

Twin Cities Business named Margaret Anderson Kelliher (BF’03) one of “100 people to know in Minnesota.”” The former Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives is now the president and CEO of the Minnesota High Tech Association.

Terri Barreiro (BF’79) co-wrote Social Entrepreneurship: From Issue to Viable Plan. She is the first director of the Donald McNeely Center for Entrepreneurship at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University in central Minnesota.

We’ve put out the call to the more than 2,300 Bush Fellows and Rebuilders—one of the most impressive regional networks of leaders in the nation—to respond to the Bush Census. The census will help us focus our efforts and resources to better connect Fellows and Rebuilders, both with each other and with other valuable leadership networks throughout the region.

Take a minute now to be counted at bfdn.org/countme.

I DO, I DO...AT LAST

BUSH FELLOWS! Margaret Miles (91) and Cathy ten Broeke (’04) became the first same-sex couple to marry in Minnesota on August 1, 2013, when the marriage equality act became law in the state. “We knew this really wasn’t about us—it was about representing a moment in history for our state,” says ten Broeke, the State of Minnesota’s director to prevent and end homelessness, who married Miles, an artist and development director at Saint Stephen’s Human Services, in a private ceremony with friends and family back in 2001. At the stroke of midnight at Minneapolis’s City Hall, Mayor R.T. Rybak made their 13-year union official as they held hands with their son Louie, now six, in front of more than a thousand cheering supporters. “Margaret is a self-described major introvert, so it was a big stretch for her, but it was such a moving thing to take this vow as a family,” says ten Broeke. “We are the beneficiaries of the work of so many people who devoted their lives and careers to this cause, and being the recipients of that moment of justice was just incredible.”

Margaret Miles and Cathy ten Broeke with their son Louie.

AWARDS SEASON

William Kent Krueger (BF’88) won the 2014 Minnesota Book Award for his novel Tamarack County. Three Bush Fellows won 2013 Minnesota Books Award honors: poet Patricia Kirkpatrick (90) for Odessa and novelist David Treuer (’93) for Rez Life. Robert Hedin (’97) received the Kay Sexton Award for lifelong contributions to the literary community.

PROFILE: ZAHRA ALJABRI

From Issue to Viable Plan.

TA K E A M INUTE N OW TO B E C O U N TED AT bfdn.org/countme.

HAVE YOU BEEN COUNTED?

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Cowboy Kicker Beans and Wilyeas* 
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 red onion, chopped
2 cups cooked or canned black beans, drained
1 1/2 ounces bison jerky, cut into bite-size pieces
(see mixmaster — kick wiiyass)
1 cup stock
1/2 cup or hot Famous Dave’s BBQ Sauce
1/4 cup maple syrup or honey
1/2 cup sundried tomatoes, cut into bite-size pieces
In a medium saucepan, set over low heat, warm olive oil and fry red onion until very soft, 5 to 10 minutes. Stir in beans, jerky, and stock, increase heat to medium, and let mixture bubble for 1 minute. Stir in barbecue sauce and maple, turn heat to low, and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in sundried tomatoes and simmer 30 minutes, adding stock if mixture seems dry. This dish is done when jerky is softened (which can vary with the type of jerky) and sauce is thick. Serve hot or cold.


*dried meat

“ORIGINAL LOCAL”

When poet Heidi Erdrich (BF’88) set out to write a cookbook of indigenous culture for the Minnesota Historical Society Press, “First I thought I knew everything, then I realized I knew nothing, then I was surprised by how much knowledge there was in my own family. It was a beautiful thing to deepen my understanding of my culture and my family, and I’m so happy to have done this for my children. Erdrich’s large family (including sister and 2007 Bush Fellow Lise Erdrich) all had a hand in shaping the meals that made the final cut: “and my husband wouldn’t eat it.” Erdrich credits her Bush Fellowship with giving her the skills she needed to do a deep dive on indigenous food culture (“harder than a dissertation,” she says), and creates “Famous Dave Anderson (BF’85) for putting the kick in her recipe for Cowboy Kicker Beans.

The Bush Foundation, Inc.
1201 Walnut Street, Suite 400
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(651) 292-6688
(800) 752-8889
bushfoundation.org

The McKnight Foundation
121 15th Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404
(612) 371-3366
mcknight.org

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
1000 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 588-0100
mellon.org

THE BUZZ

ENTER TO WIN

Black Aperture, the first book of published poems by Matt Rasmussen (BF’09), was chosen as a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award, a contest he entered with a little boost from his Bush Fellowship.

“I paid for the entry out of the communications fund that I also used to set up my website,” says Rasmussen, who admits it was “a miracle” to find himself in the running for the country’s most prestigious poetry prize. “I think the lesson I’ve learned is that you have to enter if you want to win. Without that fellowship funding, I’m not sure I would have taken the initiative to send it in.”

A winner of the 2014 Minnesota Book Award and 2012 Watt Whitman Award, Rasmussen spent 10 years writing on the poems in this collection about his brother’s suicide, a debut the National Book Award jurists praised as “piti- on the poems in this collection about his brother’s suicide, a debut the National Book Award jurists praised as “piti-

who is michael solberg?

Five quick facts about Foundation Board member Michael Solberg

Michael Solberg was named CEO of RE-AMP, a network of nearly 160 nonprof- its and foundations across eight Midwestern states working on climate change and energy policy with the goal of reduc- ing global warming pollution economy-wide 80 percent by 2050. He served as the Bush Foundation’s director of commu- nication and engagement from 2009 to 2013.

A FAMILY GUY. Michael and his wife, Charleen, live in Fargo in a household busy with the activities of their children—Grace (10), Charlie (8) and Rose (6)—whom they traveled to China to adopt in 2009.

PRESIDENT OF A GROWING COMPANY. In 2004, Michael joined Bell State Bank & Trust as its chief operating officer; in 2009, he was named president. The family-owned company is the largest independently owned bank in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

A BELIEVER IN GREAT WORKPLACES. Michael has helped guide Bell State Bank & Trust through unprecedented growth during his tenure, at the same time the Bank has received regional and even nation- al recognition as a great place to work.

An Evangelist for Paying It Forward. In 2007, Michael and Charleen launched the Bank’s groundbreaking Pay It Forward program. Annually, every full-time employee receives $1,000 (part-timers get $500) to personally pay forward to those in need. Plus, each em- ployee can choose a customer, vendor or community mem- ber to receive $1,000 to pay forward to someone in need or to invest in a cause they care about. To date, the program has paid forward more than $5 million.

A PROUD MIDWESTERNER. Born in Finley, North Dakota, raised in Fargo, and a graduate of both Concordia College ( Moorhead, Minnesota) and William Mitchell College of Law (Saint Paul), Michael believes that the Midwestern work ethic, strong faith and dedication to community and philanthropy make North Dakota the best place to build a business, a family and a life.
Words to the Wise

“The world is a tragic place and the best of human nature is to make it fun,” Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said in April 2013, at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, in conversation with Bush Foundation President Jen Ford Reedy. The exchange was part of the dedication festivities for the Grant Center, home of the Offutt School of Business and Barry Auditorium.

He started building his own filmmaking career. Chris Eyre (BF’07), chairman of The Film School at Santa Fe University of Art and Design, spoke with Indian Country Today Media Network about the Robert Redford Maia Gro Initiative, which is providing scholarships to indigenous filmmakers. “I am really glad that more Native people are involved in film and music—the way we are progressing. It takes a whole group of people, with various points of view, to show that there is not just one Native America, but a whole spectrum of places, and people.”

Paul Fite (BF’95) retired from CommonBond, where he’s been CEO since 2007. “Paul Fite has been a torch bearer for the affordable housing and community development industry for years,” says Minnesota Housing Commissioner Mary Tingerthal (BF’94). “He has greatly influenced policy and priorities locally and nationally and because of his leadership, CommonBond has provided the security and dignity of a home to thousands who otherwise would be left behind.” CommonBond is the Midwest’s largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing with services.

Photographer Wing Young Huie (BF’86) chronicled the businesses, residents, street life and cultural diversity of Minneapolis’s Chicago Avenue corridor for his “We Are the Others” project in 2012, displaying more than 100 photos in store windows between 33rd and 42nd Avenues.

Rebuilder Pamela Johns (Cohort 5) and four fellow ethnicity—Tracine Asberry (BF’07), Tane Danger (BF’14), Nimo Farah (BF’14) and Gilgig Kayim (BF’14)—were named by the Creative Community Leadership Institute as 2014 fellows.

Carol Johnson (BF’93) retired as superintendent of the Boston Public Schools in 2013. A former superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools, Johnson serves as visiting professor at Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College in the Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations.

Retired Hennepin County District Judge Franklin Knoll (BF’77) was featured in the Star Tribune in February 2013 for the poetry he writes based on the detailed journals he kept during his years on the bench. Read the story at bfdn.org/xkla.

Rebuilder Jennifer Kolden (Cohort 4) started a new job as director of development at the Native American Community Development Institute in Minneapolis. She will lead the Twin Cities will allow her to organize the urban citizens of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, where she is a citizen, around their constitutional revision engagement process.

Filmaker Keri Pickett’s (BF’92/10) documentary The Fabulous Ice Age earned “Best of Fest” honors at the Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Film Festival. Inspired by her uncle, the former figure skater Roy Blakey (who is not pictured in this still from the documentary), the film chronicles the golden era of touring ice shows. Watch the trailer for The Fabulous Ice Age at bfdn.org/xkpic.

President Obama appointed Karen Diver (BF’08) as director, regional outreach and education. She also serves on the board of SciMATHMN, a nonprofit, state-wide education and business coalition advocating for quality preK-16 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education based on national, standards and effective practices.

The Fabulous Ice Age

President Obama appointed Karen Diver (BF’08) to serve on the Climate Control Task Force. She is the first woman to chair the tribal council for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis hired Angie Eilers (BF’08) as director, regional outreach and education. She also serves on the board of SciMATHMN, a nonprofit, state-wide education and business coalition advocating for quality preK-16 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education based on national, standards and effective practices.

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A New Place to Nest

Self-taught scrap-metal sculptor Gary Greff (BF’04) of Regent, North Dakota, just added another attraction to the Enchanted Highway, a 52-mile stretch of super-sized installations he began building along Interstate 94 three decades ago. Not another sculpt-ure, but a new 90-room hotel he calls “The Enchanted Castle.” “The whole idea behind the Enchanted Highway was to bring people to town, so we always thought about having a place where they could stop,” says Greff, 65, who gave an abandoned school building a medieval castle makeover. “The Enchanted Highway is unique, so we knew we couldn’t have a cookie-cutter hotel to go with it.” Watch a short video about Greff’s project at bfdn.org/Enchanted.

THE BUZZ


Gregory A. Plotkinoff (BF’03) co-authored Trust Your Gut for people who suffer from gastro-intestinal distress and disease. He is an integrative medicine physician at the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing and serves as a senior consultant to the Center for Health Care Innovation.

Frank Pommersheim (BF’83) presented the 2013 Constitution Day lecture at the University of South Dakota. He is a nationally recognized Indian law expert and a professor at the USD Law School.

Sharon Reid (BF’06) accepted a position as assistant professor in organizational leadership at Saint Catherine University.

President Obama appointed Rance Ramaswamy (BF’96) to the National Council on the Arts. She is the founder and artistic director of Ragamala Dance and will serve a five-year term.

The National Rural Health Association honored Rugby, North Dakota, physician Robert Selzer (BF’94) with its 2014 Practitioner of the Year Award. “I’ve been a rural health physician for my entire career, over 40 years,” Selzer said. The Pierce County Tribune. “I know that I wanted to be in a place where I could practice all types of family medicine, and rural health allows for that.”

Minniapolis-based photographer Alec Sitch (BF’08) captured North Dakota’s oil boom for a New York Times Magazine cover story, “The Luckylost Place on Earth.” Watch a slideshow he narrated about the experience at bfdn.org/xasoth.

Alyce Spotted Bear (BF’88), who is Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations from 1892 to 1897, passed away on August 12, 2013. President Obama appointed her to the National Advisory Committee on Indian Education.

Mihailo “Mike” Temali (BF’98) authored the 2013 E Pluribus Unum Prize from the Migration Policy Institute. He is founder and CEO of the Neighborhood Development Center in Minneapolis.

Anton Treuer (BF’08), executive director of Bemidji State University’s American Indian Resource Center, won the 2012 Ken Hale Prize for linguistics, in recognition of his academic and community work with the Ojibwe language. His most recent book, The Assassination of Hole in the Day, won the Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History.

Robert Vanaek (BF’85) was recognized by Sokol Minnesota in 2013 for his service since 2008 as honorary consul for the Czech Republic in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. He is former Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives and runs his own consulting business.

Sandra Vargas (BF’95) was named to the board of Independent Sector, a leadership network for nonprofits, foundations and corporations committed to advancing the common good. She is president of the Minneapolis Foundation.

Allison Barnarm, vice president of strategy and learning, was named to the Minneapolis/ St. Paul Business Journal’s “40 Under 40,” just weeks after joining the Foundation in March 2013. In March 2014, she was also named a Cross Sector Leadership Fellow by President Institute (bfdn.org/xsector).

The Foundation welcomed DeAnna Cummings to its Board of Directors in February 2014. Read more on page 26 about this amazing 2007 Bush Fellow who leads the Bush Prize-winning Juntoposition Arts.

The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network named John Fetzer, a trustee of the Minneapolis Foundation, the 2013 Outstanding Nonprofit Professional. Fetzer has led the Nonprofit Hotline Network since 1991.

Eric Jolly, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota and a Foundation Board member, just began a four-year appointment by President Obama to the National Museum and Library Services Board. The voluntary board advises the director of the Institute for Museum and Library Services on general policy and practices, and on selections for the National Medals for Museum and Library Service.

Foundation Board member Robert J. Jones was installed as the 19th president of the University at Albany–SUNY in September 2013. He has served as assistant vice president for academic administration in the University of Minnesota System since 2004.

Catherine Jordan-left the Foundation in March 2013 to start her own community and rural development consultancy, do grant review for the Otto Bremer Foundation and teach at Metropolitan State University. She continues to work on community change and leadership network development with colleagues around the country, check out her adventures at www.janeleoonard.net.

Rebecca Martin left her work with the Education Team in November 2013 to move to Wisconsin. She’s now working as operations manager for Nature’s Pathworks magazine where she “continues to be passionate about bringing individuals in the community together to share knowledge and resources, and to become empowered to create the lives they dream about.”

The Bush Foundation and Minnesota Philanthropy Partners co-located in 2013 to share expenses and space—now we’re also sharing an employee: Beth Norris, the Foundation’s part-time receptionist and office assistant, took a position with GiveMN, the Minnesota Philanthropy Partners affiliate behind Give to the Max Day.

D. Donald Peddie, the first director of the Bush Leadership Fellows Program from 1996 to 1998, passed away in March 2013. A longtime human resources executive at the Star Tribune, Peddie was instru-mental in helping drive many Bush Fellows to their alma mater of Harvard University and recruiting potential students across the Midwest.


Alice Sanborn retired from the Foundation in June 2013 after serving as assistant director of the Bush Medical Fellows Program since 1995, assisting with the application, selection and mentoring of more than 100 Bush Medical Fellows.

Alfonso Wanjer joined the Minnesota Council on Foundations in January 2014 as the director of diversity, equity and inclusion. In 2013, Wanjer served as “founding fellow” of the philanthropy fellowship program the Bush Foundation began in partnership with MCF. In his new role, Wanjer will also help to expand the resulting MCF Philanthropy Fellowship to other foundations.

Ann Yelich, the Foundation’s long-time human resources consultant, moved her busi-ness to Nashville, Tennessee, in March 2014. She’s been leading the search process for more than half of the Foundation’s current staff.

PHOTO: JEFF ACHEN

Robert J. Jones, left the Foundation in March 2013 to start her own community and rural development consultancy, do grant review for the Otto Bremer Foundation and teach at Metropolitan State University. She continues to work on community change and leadership network development with colleagues around the country, check out her adventures at www.janeleoonard.net.

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THE FORECAST
Mark your calendar for upcoming convenings, and new grant and fellowship opportunities.

COMMUNITY INNOVATION

2014 Bush Prize for Community Innovation
(Up to $500,000)
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
APRIL 8–JUNE 5
bfdn.org/applyBP
The Bush Prize honors and supports innovative organizations with a track record of making great ideas happen, providing creative capital for the organizations to use however they choose.

Read more about the Bush Prize on page 8.

Community Innovation Grants
($10,000 to $200,000)
APPLICATIONS FOR 2015 OPEN
AUGUST 2014
bfdn.org/infoCI
Community Innovation Grants support communities to use problem-solving processes that lead to more effective, equitable and sustainable solutions.

($500 to $10,000)
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
QUARTERLY
Through regional partners we’ve expanded the reach of Community Innovation Grants with these programs making grants between $500 and $10,000.

IN MINNESOTA: Visit Headwaters Foundation for Justice bfdn.org/khexd
IN NORTH DAKOTA: Visit The Consensus Council bfdn.org/consen
IN SOUTH DAKOTA: Visit South Dakota Community Foundation bfdn.org/sdcef

NATIVE NATIONS

Native Nation Rebuilders Program
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
JULY 15–AUGUST 28
bfdn.org/Reb
The Native Nation Rebuilders Program annually chooses up to 30 existing and emerging Native leaders who want to strengthen their leadership skills and nation-building knowledge so they may be instrumental in moving their nations, in cooperation with elected leadership, toward realization of their tribes’ unique goals.

Read more about the Native Nation Rebuilders Program on page 32.

CONVENINGS

OTA
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
September 12, 2014
WeAreOTA.com
Twice a year, people from across three OTAs (South Dak-, North Dak-, Minne-) gather to transform themselves and the region. At OTA-SiouxFalls on April 4, more than 500 attendees (including Bush Fellows and Rebuilders) met at the intersection of community and creativity. We hope to see you at OTA-Fargo this fall.

Meet OTA’s founder, Hugh Weber, on page 48.

Road Shows
bfdn.org/opps
Stay tuned for the schedule of “Road Shows” coming to communities across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations throughout 2014.

LEADERSHIP

2014 Leadership Network Grants
(Up to $200,000)
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
APRIL 22–JUNE 12
bfdn.org/LNG
This new, flexible open grant program allows us to support the good work that others are doing to develop the leadership capacity of the region.

Read more about Bush Fellowships on page 31.

2015 Bush Fellowships
($50,000 to $100,000)
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
JULY 29–SEPTEMBER 18
bfdn.org/BFP
The Bush Fellowship is both a recognition of extraordinary achievement and a bet on extraordinary potential. Funds can be used for academic programs or for self-designed programs to grow their personal impact.

Read more about Bush Fellowships on page 31.

2015 MCF Philanthropy Fellowships
APPLICATIONS OPEN
FALL 2014
bfdn.org/MCFellow
The MCF Philanthropy Fellowship prepares individuals from communities under-represented in philanthropy for careers at foundations.

Read more about MCF Philanthropy Fellowships on page 33.

LOOK FOR
a new grant program to open in late spring, developed to support organizations whose work benefits the overall education ecosystem within the region.

Keep current on all our grant, fellowship and convening opportunities at bfdn.org/opps and keep in touch at bmag@bushfoundation.org.
A CEO OF OTA, a network-building initiative for the three-state region, Hugh Weber prospers daily on the power of “creative collisions—those chance meetings and serendipitous encounters that can completely change your trajectory.”

So where does the Sioux Falls social entrepreneur find 17? “The Queen City Bakery on Eighth Street is where I go when I’m in need of inspiration or intersection. It’s a place where on any given day you can find educators and entrepreneurs, community builders and members of the creative class,” says Weber, who offices nearby just to bask in the diverse crowd the café attracts, and for easy access to the bakery’s famed Brooklyn Blackout Cake. “There is the side benefit of having the best baked goods in the whole United States.”

Queen City Bakery is the brain-child of Mitch Jackson and Kristine Morris, who “boomeranged” back to the state after living in New York City, of having the best baked goods in the whole United States.”

* If you go: Order an Americano and a peanut butter square, a nearly frozen confection that Weber says “will always treat you well.”

**Non-board investment committee advisors**

Timothy Clark
Gary Stern

**Hugh Weber**
CEO, OTA
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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