

Native Nations Investments

2018 Report



Jen Ford Reedy

We know that Native nations and Native people have rich histories and have made incredible contributions to the world in which we all live. We also know that Native communities face big challenges. According to Native Americans in Philanthropy, philanthropic funding for this population is less than 0.5% of annual foundation grant dollars. We believe that the field of philanthropy can do better at acknowledging, celebrating and supporting Native nations and people. For these reasons, we are consistently asking ourselves how we can better support the 23 Native nations, Native people and the organizations that serve them in the Bush Foundation's region.

One of our priorities for 2017 was to review and learn from our past work around Native issues and with Native communities. We wanted to share some of our findings publicly through this report, which we intend to update and publish periodically. The report shows our Native-focused investments by program and highlights some of the organizations and people we support.

Some of our most visible work with Native nations has been through our Native Nation Building strategic initiative. We recently supported the creation of a new nonprofit organization, the Native Governance Center (NGC), which has since taken on much of our work related to Native nation governance. (Read about the creation of the NGC at bfdn.org/NGC.) This changed how we do the work, but not our commitment to the work. Our commitment to serving the Native nations in our region remains as strong as ever, within the Native Nation Building initiative and across all Bush Foundation programs.

The Bush Foundation has invested in supporting the Native people and nations across the region for decades. It's core to our mission. How and what we have done has changed over time, as we have continued to learn from and with our grantees and partners. We are committed to continued engagement, relationship building and grantmaking, and we look forward to continuing our investments of time, resources and enthusiastic support of people and ideas in Native communities.

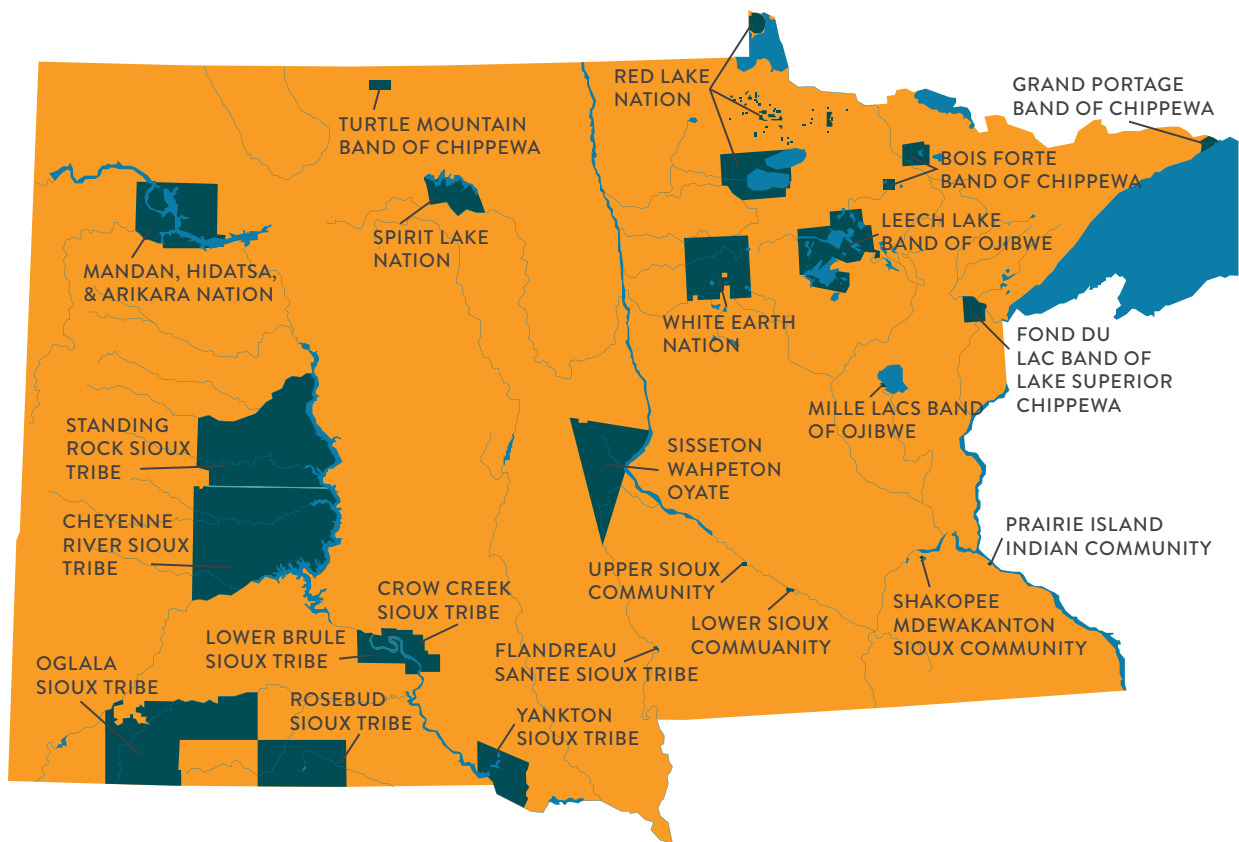


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Ford Reedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Ford Reedy
President, Bush Foundation



THE BUSH FOUNDATION'S REGION INCLUDES 23 NATIVE NATIONS.



The Bush Foundation invests in great ideas and the people who power them in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and 23 Native nations.



INVESTING IN NATIVE NATIONS

At the Bush Foundation, we work to inspire and support creative problem solving, within and across sectors, to make our region better for everyone.

We invest in efforts to address specific issues that the Foundation believes are a priority for the region through targeted strategic initiatives and open, competitive grant programs:

- Native Nation Building
- Education
- Community Creativity
- Social Business Ventures
- Community Innovation
- Leadership
- Other grant programs including Event Sponsorship and the President's Fund

The Bush Foundation has invested in Native nations and Native people for decades. This funding included fellowship programs and funding tribal colleges, as well as other brick-and-mortar Native institutions.

In 2008, based on guidance from tribal stakeholders and research from around the country, we adopted a new strategic plan focused on our region. Two years later, we launched the Native Nation Building initiative to strengthen tribal governance of these sovereign nations. In 2016, we created a Native Nations Activities Manager position to focus specifically on how we work across the Foundation to support Native nations and people through all of our initiatives and program areas.



As the Bush Foundation has escalated its commitment to Native nations and people, we have also sought to increase the number of Native Americans on our staff and board. We welcomed our first Native American board member in 1980. Today, four out of fourteen are Native. Two of our forty staff are also Native American. They and our board members play important roles in guiding our Native nations work.

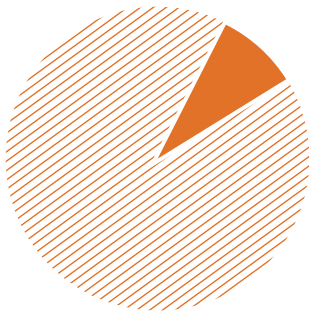
SINCE 1982, THE BUSH FOUNDATION HAS PAID **\$89.5 MILLION**
IN GRANTS SUPPORTING NATIVE NATIONS AND PEOPLE



310 Grants to Individuals



629 Grants to Organizations



11% of Bush Foundation
Total Grant Payments



About This Report

This report aims to share and illustrate the ways we invest in the Native nations and people in our region. One of our guiding values is to seek to do more good every year. This report will help us look internally at how we can do more to make the region better for everyone, including the Indigenous people of this land.

Data for this report was gathered from the Bush Foundation's internal database. Grant data was available since 1970. Grant payments and amounts were available since 1982 and grants were categorized by our current program areas since 2012.

Historically, grants were not always consistently identified as “serving Native nations.” Coding and descriptions for all grants included in this report were verified by staff through the review of grant memos, records and paper materials housed at the Minnesota Historical Society. Where we recognized inconsistencies in how grants were previously identified, we have implemented improvements in how we track demographic information and code grants related to Native nations, Native people and the organizations that serve them.

Throughout this report we have identified people as members of specific tribes wherever possible. The terms *American Indian* and *Native American* are also used to refer more broadly to the people Indigenous to North America, and the term *Native nations* refers broadly or collectively to tribal nations, out of respect for the sovereign status that they hold.

IN THE LAST 30 YEARS, BUSH FOUNDATION GRANTS SUPPORTING NATIVE NATIONS AND PEOPLE HAVE INCREASED FROM \$460,000 PAID IN 1987 TO **\$6.7 MILLION** PAID IN 2017.

SINCE 2013, THE FOUNDATION HAS MADE **135** GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING NATIVE NATIONS.

SINCE 2013, **103** GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO BUSH FELLOWS AND REBUILDERS REPRESENTING 20 OF THE 23 NATIVE NATIONS.

NATIVE FOCUSED FUNDING PAYMENT AMOUNT 2013-2017

Native Nation Building	\$10.7 million
Community Innovation	\$9.4 million
Education	\$3.9 million
Leadership	\$2.7 million
Community Creativity	\$1.8 million
Social Business Ventures	\$0
Other	\$1.4 million

Note: The Leadership Program area includes grants paid to organizations and grants awarded to individuals, and the Other category includes Event Sponsorship and the President's Fund.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

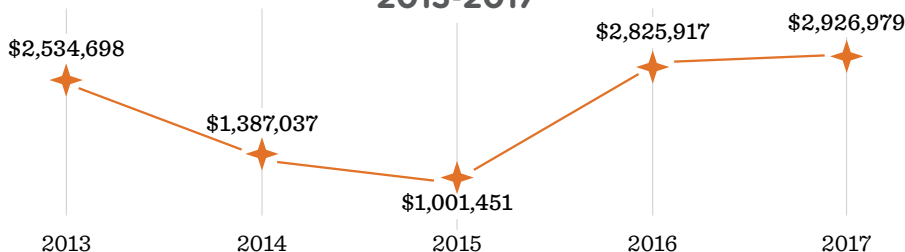
Native Nation Building

The Bush Foundation launched the Native Nation Building strategic initiative in 2009. Originally designed to span 10 years, the initiative aims to support tribal governance models in our region that will inspire nations around the world working to exercise self-determination for the good of their people. Since it began, the Native Nation Building initiative has partnered with or invested in 21 of the region's 23 Native nations.

One of our flagship efforts has been the Rebuilders program. Rebuilders learn about nation building and leadership in a cohort format to form supportive relationships and create capacity and skill building plans. The program supports Rebuilders in deeply understanding strategies to rebuild their nations and contribute significantly to their nations' successes over the long term.

As demand for nation building services increased, the need strained our own capacity and that of our key delivery partner, University of Arizona's Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy. We began the process of searching for a long-term solution that could live outside of the Foundation, with a purpose of building regional capacity to promote, strengthen and support Native nation governance. This led to the creation of the Native Governance Center (NGC), launched in 2015 with the goal to assist Native nations in strengthening their systems of governance and their capacities to exercise sovereignty. Although much of our in-house nation building work has been transitioned to NGC, the Bush Foundation remains committed to our Native nation building goal. We have been and will continue to be a major funder of NGC and other nation building projects and partners in the region.

**NATIVE NATION BUILDING GRANTS PAID
2013-2017**



NATIVE NATION BUILDING
GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Native Governance Center

In 2015, the Bush Foundation launched the Native Governance Center (NGC), a new nonprofit organization, to create an enduring infrastructure to build long-term capacity in tribal nation building. NGC builds assets that promote, strengthen and support Native nation governance. The Bush Foundation has committed \$7,550,000 to NGC over five years. This grant provides general operating funding to support the build-up of the organization. In addition, our staff provided strategic support for the successful institutionalization of the organization, which included then Bush Foundation Vice President Jaime Pinkham working with NGC as a loaned executive through December 2016. The Bush Foundation continues to monitor NGC's needs and outcomes each year, including progress of the Native Nations Rebuilders Program.

nativegov.org



EDUCATION

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Lakota Language and Cultural Institute

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, in partnership with Sitting Bull College and the Lakota Language Consortium, is developing a year-round Lakota and Dakota language institute that will produce elementary, middle and high school teachers who can incorporate Indigenous language and culture into the classroom in various subject areas. The institute will allow the Tribe to expand upon their efforts to create and share curriculum in the language across the region, including through an online learning portal. The partnership builds on the Lakota/Dakota Summer Institute, a nationally-recognized three-week summer program that was established in 2007. We have committed \$1,000,000 over 37 months to this important education initiative.

standingrock.org

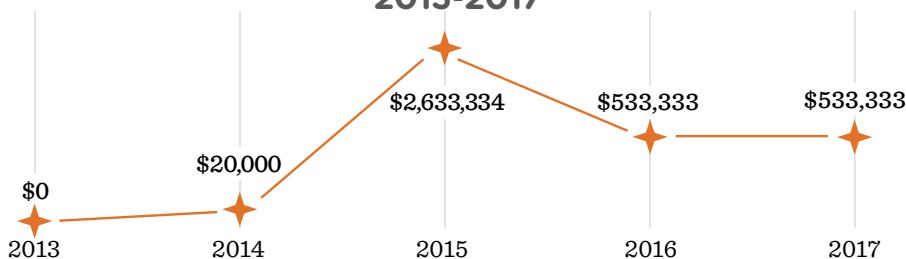
Education

For every student in the region to succeed, we need an education system that works for all students. This requires a more personal, more relevant approach to education. The guiding goal for our Education initiative is to make our region the national leader in providing individualized education that meets the needs and ambitions of all students. To that end, we make investments in a handful of efforts to make education more relevant for all students in terms of how they learn, who they are and what they aspire to do.

Of the \$35.5 million in education investments since 2013, \$3.9 million has supported Native nations and organizations serving Native educators and students. The past few years have included investments in a language and culture institute on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, as well as support for the recruitment and training of teachers for schools in South Dakota and Minnesota through a grant to Teach for America. Large investments in both of these initiatives were made in 2015.

In 2017, the Bush Foundation invited a number of leaders and practitioners in the K-12 Native education field to come together as a Native Education Advisory Group. The group provides key insight into the region’s educational landscape and how the Bush Foundation can best support efforts toward increasing educational opportunities for Native students. We look forward to sharing what we learn as we continue this work.

**NATIVE FOCUSED EDUCATION GRANTS PAID
2013-2017**



Community Creativity

Art and culture can inspire people to think bigger and differently about what is possible. They can help equip people to make a difference in their community. They can connect people together and bridge differences. This is why we believe art and culture are vital assets for communities to take on big problems and seize opportunities.

Established in 2016, the guiding goal of our Community Creativity initiative is to make art a central element of problem solving on more issues, across more sectors and in more communities throughout the region. To this end, we make a handful of big investments to inspire, equip and connect artists, arts organizations and non-arts partners to integrate the arts in creative problem solving.

Community Creativity investments have totaled \$9 million, with \$1.8 million invested in organizations serving Native people. In 2018, the Bush Foundation launched a new one-time grant program focused on serving people of color, Indigenous people and rural communities. We look forward to expanding our portfolio to include more grants serving Native nations and people through this opportunity.

Social Business Ventures

Started in 2016, our Social Business Ventures initiative supports organizations that look beyond the bottom line and shareholder profits. They use business strategies to generate social good and create value for the community. As we like to say, these ventures help people do good through business.

The guiding goal of our Social Business Ventures initiative is to make our region the best place in the country to launch and grow social purpose business. We are particularly interested in supporting the growth of businesses that provide a product or service that addresses a social issue.

We have made a handful of investments in the Social Business Ventures initiative, focused initially on the Minneapolis-St. Paul region. As we continue to build this program area, we will explore opportunities to support social business efforts within the Native communities in the region.



COMMUNITY CREATIVITY
GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

First Peoples Fund

Founded in 1995, First Peoples Fund (FPF) is guided by its belief in Collective Spirit®, defined as that which moves each of us to stand up and make a difference, to pass on ancestral knowledge and simply extend a hand of generosity. Its mission is to honor and support the Collective Spirit of First Peoples artists and culture bearers. The organization engages in a purposeful strategy that recognizes the importance of Native art and culture in bringing about social change and empowering and inspiring next generation leaders.

firstpeoplesfund.org



COMMUNITY INNOVATION
GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance

Energy poverty, or a lack of access to modern energy services, affects one out of eight families in the United States. Rates in some communities, like Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, are even higher. In fixed income households, even a modest increase in the cost of heating or cooling can force families to make difficult choices about their resources. While energy assistance is available, funds are limited. Rural Renewable Energy Alliance, a 2017 Community Innovation grantee, collaborates with Leech Lake partners to build a sustainable and shared alternative energy infrastructure. This partnership engages energy insecure households through the Tribal Government Community Action Agency, sustains an education and workforce pipeline with Leech Lake Tribal College and consults local utility agency expertise. Developing and demonstrating this model has the potential to be transformative at the regional and national scale.

rreal.org

PROGRAMS

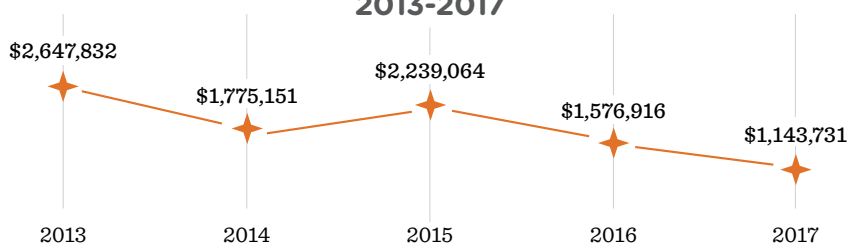
Community Innovation

Our Community Innovation programs are designed to inspire and support problem solving. We want to build a region of problem solvers who are equipped to tackle whatever complex issues come our way. We do this through two programs: Community Innovation grants and the Bush Prize for Community Innovation.

Community Innovation grants fund problem-solving projects that lead to solutions that make the region better for everyone. The Bush Prize for Community Innovation celebrates organizations with a track record of successful community problem solving. As models of true problem solving, they work inclusively, in partnership with others, to make their communities better for all.

Community Innovation programs have invested \$42.8 million since 2013, with \$9.4 million going to Native nations and organizations supporting Native people. In 2017, the Community Innovation Program saw a noticeable drop in applications received from Native nations and organizations serving Native people that met grant program criteria. The team is looking into what may have caused this decline and how to continue supporting the problem-solving efforts of Native nations and Native people in the region.

**NATIVE FOCUSED COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS PAID
2013-2017**





BUSH PRIZE WINNER HIGHLIGHT

Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation

Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation (TVCDC) believes that genius within its community can find solutions to the issues facing Pine Ridge Reservation—and that the solutions must be as big as the historical challenges they face. These guiding principles fuel a comprehensive, grassroots approach that empowers youth and families to improve the health, culture and environment for the 30,000 Oglala Lakota who make Pine Ridge their home. TVCDC, a 2017 Bush Prize winner, builds hope and confidence through creating an ecosystem of opportunity. Over the past 10 years, the organization has engaged more than 20 local partners and hundreds of community members to articulate systemic solutions and deliberate action on key regional issues. Through these ongoing collaborations, TVCDC created a homeownership program to stimulate asset building, economic development and community wealth. The organization is currently constructing a 34-acre community with energy efficient and affordable homes, business incubator spaces, sustainable food production, and a healthy and supportive environment for youth, families and the elderly. Its bold efforts to preserve the Lakota language and instill traditional cultural and spiritual practices in youth are building the next generation of leaders.

thundervalley.org

Leadership

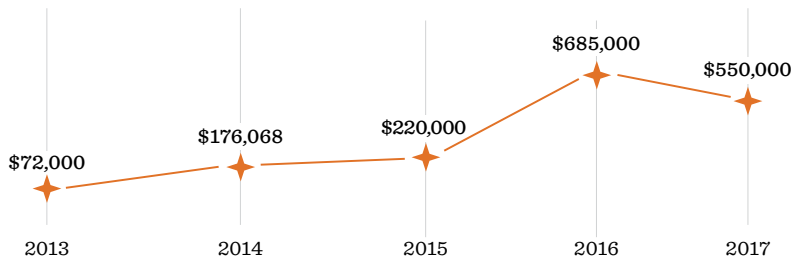
We believe that progress toward more equitable, sustainable and innovative communities is driven by the people who live there. That's why we invest in efforts to inspire, equip and connect people to become more effective leaders in their communities.

Effective leadership is a combination of skills that helps people develop meaningful relationships across cultures, sectors and disciplines. The goal of our Leadership Program is to make sure leaders have the support they need to do their best work.

We directly invest in people through the Bush Fellowship, which awards up to \$100,000 to shape extraordinary leaders, and Change Networks, cohort programs that equip participants to lead in a more equitable and inclusive manner.

The Bush Fellowship program has invested \$11.9 million since 2013. \$1.7 million has been awarded to Native American recipients.

**BUSH FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED TO NATIVE AMERICANS
2013-2017**



BUSH FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Heather Dawn Thompson

Heather Dawn Thompson, a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, wants to engage the private sector to assist the Great Plains Tribes in their efforts to build their strength and self-sufficiency. She is a national expert in Indian law and economic development who seeks greater expertise to respond to dwindling federal assistance and limited grant opportunities for Native nations. She believes that long-term self-sufficiency comes with growth in the financial proficiency needed to compete in a complicated private marketplace. She also believes strong leadership requires the wisdom that the Lakota language and values provide. She is using her Bush Fellowship to pursue corporate finance training, combining it with a focus on traditional Lakota values of leadership, language and self-sufficiency.

OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS

Event Sponsorship

Since 2014, the Bush Foundation has dedicated a limited amount of funds every year to sponsor select events that inspire, equip and connect people to think bigger and think differently about what's possible in their communities. In that time, 22 grants totaling \$285,000 have gone out to support events specifically serving Native nations and people.

President's Fund

In rare circumstances, the President's Innovation and Partnership Fund is used for projects that do not fit into any of the Bush Foundation's open, competitive grant programs. This primarily encompasses partnerships with other funders, situations requiring swift action or to help attract other resources to the region.

We have made six grants totaling \$550,000 specifically directed to Native issues. Grants include supporting Generation Indigenous through the Center for Native American youth and supporting the American Indian College Fund to build the case for capital investments in tribal colleges.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM
GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Native American Development Center

The Native American Development Center (NADC) champions the goal of self-sufficiency for all Native Americans living off-reservation in the Bismarck, North Dakota metro area. The organization provides resources and support to the largest and most diverse urban-based Native American population in the state. NADC provides financial coaching, homeownership counseling and job placement workshops as well as support groups for both youths and adults. NADC values the breadth of Native history and culture and integrates its programming with varied, tribally-linked values to best meet the needs of those it serves. In August 2017, NADC hosted a cultural event open to all area residents to learn more about the area's Native nations and people from a social and cultural perspective.

ndnativecenter.org

PRESIDENT'S FUND GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Tiwahe Foundation

The Tiwahe Foundation strengthens American Indian communities by building capacity through leadership, culture, values and vision. It is the only American Indian community foundation that has provided micro grants directly to American Indians and is building a grassroots approach to an endowment that will provide permanent funds for micro grants. The Tiwahe Foundation's strategic goal is to be a thriving philanthropic resource that facilitates giving to support American Indians. In 2016, they received a grant from the President's Innovation and Partnership Fund to collaborate with other foundations and organizations to build a network of Native leaders in Minnesota, now referred to as the Minnesota Native Alumni Network (MNAN). tiwahefoundation.org



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2017, the Bush Foundation created an Equity Statement ¹ to help guide our work. The statement includes the following:

The Bush Foundation is about place — a region of three states and 23 Native nations. This region's future will be defined by how well every person in it does — at home, in school, at work and in the community. This region's future, therefore, depends on institutions and systems that work well for all people. Too many do not.

As a philanthropic institution, we continue to strive to improve and to do more good every year. That includes how we do our work in, and in support of, Native nations, people and the organizations that serve them. To that end, we plan to publish additional reports on a periodic basis regarding our Native-focused investments. For more information, or to provide feedback on this report, please contact our Native Nations Activities Manager, Carly Bad Heart Bull, at cbadheartbull@bushfoundation.org.

Miigwetch. Pidamaya. Pilamaya. Maacigiraac. Washirihesh. Wate goshday. Thank you.

¹ See the Bush Foundation's Equity Statement at bfdn.org/equity.



101 Fifth Street East, Suite 2400

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Tel: 651-227-0891

Em: info@bushfoundation.org

Web: BushFoundation.org