

A Message from our Executive Director

We are in a time of rapid change creating financial and emotional challenges and strain for many of you. Particularly during these uncertain times, I want to assure you that Gray Family Foundation remains steadfast in our commitments to you, our grantees, and to your invaluable work.

We value and honor your dedication to providing all people of Oregon the opportunity to foster deep connections to their natural environments and communities. We believe in a shared vision of Oregon as an inclusive, diverse, and equitable state with opportunities for all to strengthen their connection to place through meaningful experiences in nature.

We welcome questions or any concerns you'd like to share. Please reach out to any of our team. You can find our contact information on our website [here](#).

2025 Quarter 1 Grant Recipients

In the first quarter of 2025, the Gray Family Foundation board approved grants totaling \$260,120 to seven organizations for camp maintenance projects. An example of a maintenance project funded in the past is the renovated cabins at Camp Namanu, a Multnomah Education School District Outdoor School site. This project increased access to outdoor learning for students by improving ADA accessibility. You can learn more about the incredible impact of our partnership with Camp Namanu and other grantees [here](#). The board also approved \$50,000 in grants through our Action Fund to Advance Equity.

We are pleased to share in this work and look forward to the opportunity to continue to learn from our grantees. If you have questions about our grant priorities or any of the projects listed on our [grant list](#), please reach out to Nell Tessman, Senior Program Officer, at ntessman@grayff.org.



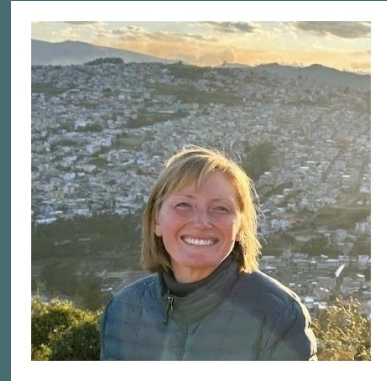
Board and Staff Update

We are thrilled to welcome a new board member, Sage Hatch. Sage is a Citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, born and raised in Siletz, and currently residing in Eugene. He is a Ph. D. Candidate in the Critical & Sociocultural Studies in the Education program at the University of Oregon and working with the Teaching & Learning Designer for the Traditional



Ecological Inquiry Program (TEIP). His unique perspective and joy in working with students and preservice teachers brings valuable new perspectives to Gray Family Foundation's work.

We are also excited to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Sarah O'Brien, who started in February. Sarah previously served as Database & Grants Specialist at St. Andrew Nativity School, where she did everything from writing grant proposals to supporting events to managing the donor database. Sarah just returned to Portland after spending a year driving the Pan American Highway with her family. Welcome, Sarah and Sage!



The Power of Learning Outdoors

In 2016, Oregon passed Measure 99, dedicating funds to ensure ALL students in Oregon can attend **Outdoor School**. Gray Family Foundation is incredibly proud of our work to establish Outdoor School as a state wide program, now managed by [OSU Extension](#), and the successful effort to secure stable funding. This year, we officially transitioned our Outdoor School Trust Funds to make them available for a wider range of grantmaking. A huge philanthropic success!

This [beautiful short film](#), Angel Outside, (produced by OSU Extension and created by LABS media) follows one student and his family's personal journey from fear and homesickness to building meaningful connections to nature and their classmates during a week of outdoor school. It captures the power and impact of Oregon Outdoor School.



Funder-Grantee Conversation Invitation

We want to invite you to an important and timely conversation hosted by the **Blue Sky Funders Forum** and **Justice Outside** on March 18. This virtual convening will bring together nonprofits and funders to discuss how ongoing political shifts—such as new executive orders and federal policy changes—are impacting funding, priorities, and language in grantmaking.

This session is designed to provide a space for nonprofits to share their experiences and for funders to better understand how to continue supporting your work in this evolving landscape.

Funder-Grantee Community Conversation: March 18 | 3:00 - 4:15 pm ET (12:00 - 1:15 pm PT) [Register here](#). *(This will not be recorded so we encourage you to attend in person).*

2025 Grant Dates

- **[Camp Maintenance Grant Program](#):** Applications are accepted quarterly, on a rolling basis: April 18, July 25, or October 3, 2025
- **[Environmental Education](#):** Applications are accepted quarterly after Senior Program Officer approval: April 4, July 11, and September 19, 2025
- **Youth Leadership for the Environment:** Invitation only. Please contact ntessman@grayff.org with any questions
- **[Geography Education](#):** Not accepting new applications in 2025. Please reach out to ntessman@grayff.org with any questions or proposed projects.
- **[Outdoor School](#):** We will no longer be funding organizations or schools for outdoor school in 2025. We welcome questions on other options that are available within our grant programs, please contact grants@grayff.org for more information.

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