



WESTERN GOVERNORS' FOUNDATION

2023 ANNUAL
REPORT

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SERVICE TO THE WEST

The Western Governors' Foundation (WGF) is committed to securing the legacy of Western Governors through the performance of charitable works in the West. Reinvented as the philanthropic arm of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) in 2018, WGF currently manages two flagship projects: the *Western Governors' Leadership Institute* and *Celebrate the West*, an annual high school art competition.

In 2023, the leadership institute hosted its second annual leadership forum in Boulder, Colorado, in conjunction with WGA's Annual Meeting. Twenty-nine young leaders, selected to represent western states and tribes, participated in the forum and WGA meeting as guests of the foundation. Interest in this premier leadership opportunity is growing exponentially, as reflected in this year's forty-six percent increase in the number of applications received, forty-eight percent increase in the number of delegates selected to attend, and twenty-three percent increase in the number of states and territories represented.

Celebrate the West challenges young artists to create original works inspired by their states or otherwise evocative of the West. The recently concluded eighth annual competition was arguably the most successful in the contest's history, having attracted nearly four hundred entries (a forty-four percent increase over last year and an all-time record). Moreover, the quality of the winning artwork is remarkable and richly reflects the spirit of the West.

As we embark on a new year of service to the West, friends of the region are invited to join our efforts. Working together, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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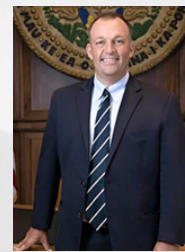
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WESTERN GOVERNORS' LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

In 2023, the foundation hosted the second annual leadership forum of the *Western Governors' Leadership Institute*, a program created to recognize, reward, and promote the effective exercise of leadership by young adults across the West.

State and tribal delegates to the institute were selected through a competitive process and engaged directly with Governors, chief executive officers, university presidents, and other luminaries committed to inspiring a new generation of leaders. The foundation covers all expenses associated with delegate participation.

2023 Leadership Forum

June 25 • Boulder, Colorado

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Jack Waldorf *Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association*

Hon. Matt Mead *Former Governor of Wyoming*

Gubernatorial Staff Panel

Blake Oshiro: *Senior Policy Advisor, Hawai'i*

Rob Creager: *Executive Director of the Wyoming Energy Authority, Wyoming*

Michael Susini: *Deputy Director of Federal Affairs, New Mexico*

Hon. Butch Otter *Former Governor of Idaho*

Hon. Mark Gordon *Governor of Wyoming*

Hon. Jared Polis *Governor of Colorado*

Hon. David Ige *Former Governor of Hawai'i and Vice Chair of the Western Governors' Foundation*

Alicia Huey *Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders*

Scott Pulsipher *President of Western Governors' University*



"The Western Governors' Leadership Institute has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I recall a conversation I had with Governor Mark Gordon about political polarization in the United States and how younger generations may feel a bit detached; but Governor Gordon assured me that there are collaborative efforts to bridge that divide. That reassurance was enough to provide me with a sense of hope." - Isaac Hernandez-Alcaraz, Nevada

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, all of these political divides just shatter once you walk in the room... [These] aren't just politicians or people on screens that we see. Giving us the opportunity to meet them - this added level of personalization - is itself a huge piece of leadership." - Josie Thomas, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (WASCO)

CELEBRATE THE WEST

The Western Governors' Foundation hosted the eight annual *Celebrate the West* art competition, which challenges high school students to create original works of art inspired by their state or otherwise evocative of the West. Nearly four hundred works of art from nineteen WGA member states and three U.S. territories were entered in the competition.

The foundation also announced the recipient of its Chairman's Award for Outstanding High School Art Educator: Samantha Cole from Shepherd School in Montana.

2023 State Winners

Alaska: Christian Jeter, Family Partnership Charter School, *Seven*

Arizona: Nanabaa Blackhorse-Anderson, Desert Vista High School, *Grandma*

California: Ella Tran, Orange County School of the Arts, *Fields of Promise*

Colorado: Sophia Schuh, Ralston Valley High School, *Western Reflections*

Guam: Liam Rocco Padua, St. Johns School, Guam, *Woven Together*

Hawai'i: Annabella Floyd, Kapolei High School, *Love of the Land*

Idaho: Leah Harper, Sugar-Salem High School, *Herd Beneath the Tetons*

Kansas: Makenzie Hall, Chapman High School, *Blooming in Spring*

Montana: Maggie Toeckes Power High School, *Dashing Through the Snow*

Nevada: Katherine Mariscal, Carson High School, *Sand Harbor*

New Mexico: Anya Lacy, Cibola High School, *A Gypsum Dune*

North Dakota: Denise Jiang, *Roar*

Oklahoma: Lola Webb, Regent Preparatory School of Oklahoma, *Grandmother's Doily*

Oregon: Carmen Beltran, Stayton High School, *All of It*

South Dakota: Elle Feser, Yankton High School, *Ol' West*

Utah: Emily Cooper, Highland High School, *Dancer*

Washington: Yuxi You, *Standing on the Prairie*

Wyoming: Calla Shosh, Natrona County High School, *Western Majesty*

View all state winners on our [website](#).



OVERALL FIRST PLACE: Emily Cooper, *Dancer*, UTAH



OVERALL SECOND PLACE AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Yuxi You, *Standing on the Prairie*, WASHINGTON



OVERALL THIRD PLACE: Maggie Toeckes, *Dashing Through the Snow*, MONTANA

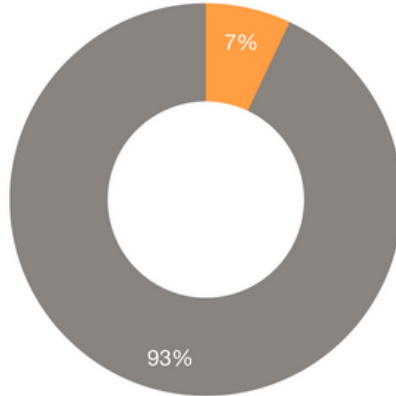


**CHAIRMAN'S AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING
HIGH SCHOOL ART
EDUCATOR:** Samantha
Cole, Shepherd High School,
Montana

WESTERN GOVERNORS' FOUNDATION PROJECTED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

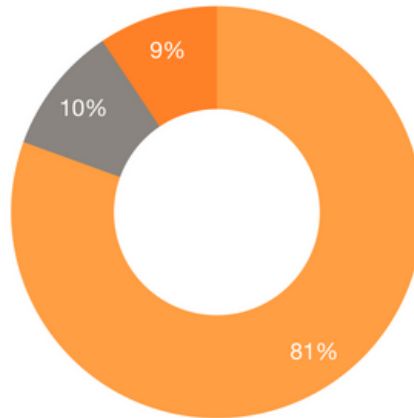
*Projected figures are unaudited and prepared in accordance with GAAP

REVENUES	
Contributions - General	\$20,000
Contributions - Western Governors' Leadership Institute	\$265,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$285,000



- Contributions - General
- Contributions - Western Governors' Leadership Institute

EXPENSES	
Western Governors' Leadership Institute	\$102,503
Celebrate the West	\$12,823
Other	\$11,947
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$127,273



- Western Governors' Leadership Institute
- Celebrate the West
- Other

TAX STATUS

The Western Governors' Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to WGF are considered tax-deductible by the IRS.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND INVOLVEMENT

If you are interested in making a contribution to the Western Governors' Foundation, please contact Jim Ogsbury at jogsbury@westgov.org or visit <https://western-governors-association.square.site/>.

To learn more about the Foundation and involvement opportunities, please visit westgov.org/foundation or contact Anna Thielen at athielen@westgov.org.

