



Values-Based Grantmaking Practice

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Mission



Backing the Stewards of Biocultural Diversity

- The Christensen Fund believes in the power of **biological and cultural diversity** to sustain and enrich a world faced with great change and uncertainty.
- We focus on the biocultural – the rich but neglected **adaptive interweave of people and place, culture and ecology**.
- Our mission is to buttress the efforts of people and institutions who believe in a biodiverse world infused with artistic expression and work to secure **ways of life and landscapes that are beautiful, bountiful and resilient**.
- For over a decade, the Christensen Fund has been pursuing this mission through place-based work in regions chosen for their **potential to withstand and recover from the global erosion of diversity**.
- We focus on backing the efforts of **locally-recognized community custodians of this heritage**, and their alliances with scholars, artists, advocates and others.
- We also fund international efforts to **build global understanding of these issues**, and seek out imaginative, thoughtful and occasionally odd partners to learn with.
- Christensen **works primarily through grant making**, as well as through capacity and network building, knowledge generation, **collaboration** and mission-related investments.



In re-imagining what The Christensen Fund might do in the world we settled upon an unusual mission and approach which we believed would enable a **modestly sized** foundation to add **unusual value** in the world.

A Sample of Our Work



Work on:

- Customary Land Tenure, Food Sovereignty and the Traditional Economy
- Cultural Renewal

Grantmaking Strategies:

- Increasing understanding about **alternative development paths** for Melanesia, in particular the merits and practical applicability of **approaches rooted in Melanesian land-based values** and biocultural diversity;
- The development and use of **culturally-grounded and environmentally-informed curricula** in schools and community education programs;
- Support for the strengthening and **diversification of civil society organizations**, including those addressing the range of current threats to biocultural diversity in the region.



Values That Guide Our Grantmaking Practice

Diversity



Resilience



Reciprocity



Solidarity



Values That Guide Our Grantmaking Practice

Networking and Collaboration



Accountability



Self-Determination



Trust



Links to Other Inspiring Resources



- Participatory Grantmaking: Has Its Time Come?
Cynthia Gibson / Ford Foundation
https://www.fordfoundation.org/media/3599/participatory_grantmaking-lmv7.pdf
- Trust-Based Philanthropy
The Whitman Institute
<https://thewhitmaninstitute.org/grantmaking/trust-based-philanthropy/>
- Winners Take All
Anand Gitidharadas
<http://www.worldaffairs.org/video-library/full/event/1902>
- Decolonizing Wealth
Edgar Villanueva
<https://www.amazon.com/Decolonizing-Wealth-Indigenous-Divides-Restore/dp/1523097892>