For decades Lincoln’s cultural centers have helped preserve and celebrate the city’s many unique cultures while providing services and support for clients. In 1999, four of those centers united to form the Cultural Centers Coalition to address common challenges, leverage resources and collaborate on projects to better serve the community. Today, the Coalition is made up of six agencies: the Asian Cultural and Community Center, El Centro de las Américas, Good Neighbor Center, Indian Center, Malone Center and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. In 2015 it received its official 501(c)3 status.

Since 1974, Woods Charitable Fund has granted more than $1.6 million to these six agencies and more than $100,000 to the Cultural Centers Coalition to advance its mission. This fall, WCF was named the Cultural Centers Coalition’s 2015 Partner of the Year at its annual meeting.

“Such unity between cultures and cultural centers is not often seen in other communities,” said El Centro de las Américas Executive Director Roger Garcia. “We really have a unique collaborative here that is dedicated to the betterment of the community.”

Cultural Centers Coalition combines strengths to support all in community

Leaders from five of the six organizations that are members of the Cultural Centers Coalition are, from left, Clyde Tyndall of the Indian Center; Tom Randa of Good Neighbor Community Center; Sheila Dorsey Vinton of the Asian Cultural and Community Center; Larry Williams of the Malone Center; and Suzanne Mealer of Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Roger Garcia, Executive Director of El Centro de las Américas, directed the Cultural Centers Coalition’s annual meeting in October.

Tom Woods, President of Woods Charitable Fund, accepts the Cultural Centers Coalition’s Partner of the Year award.

Grants Paid to Date: $867,000

Grant cycles completed: 3 of 3
Average number of proposals reviewed per grant cycle: 15
Number of grants approved in 2015: 46
Average size of grants approved: $28,098
Smallest grant approved: $1,000
Largest grant approved: $220,000
WCF updates grant-making timetable

Woods Charitable Fund has adjusted its grant-making timetable and will now award grants twice a year. Nonprofit organizations interested in applying must first communicate with WCF staff and be asked to complete an online application form.

In 2016, application deadlines are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry Deadline</th>
<th>Submission Dates</th>
<th>Notification Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>April 15-30</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>October 15-31</td>
<td>May</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If the deadline falls on a weekend, the deadline will defer to the following business day.

Staff gives back through volunteering

Beginning in June 2012, WCF’s board approved an Employee Volunteer Program, providing employees up to 48 hours of volunteer leave to be used throughout the calendar year for volunteering at 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations during WCF’s regular business hours.

Since inception, employees have volunteered a total of 231.25 hours, supporting a variety of Lincoln nonprofits including City Impact’s Impact Reading Center, Center for People in Need, MilkWorks, Community Action Partnership, Center-Poite’s Project Homeless Connect, Mourning Hope, Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Tabitha Meals on Wheels, Volunteer Partners, United Way and more.

WCF’s 2016 Board of Directors

Donna W. Woods
Orville Jones III
Hank Woods
Michael J. Tavlin

Nelle Woods Jamison
Ernesto Castillo Jr.

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Vice Chair
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

WCF’s Staff and Office Information

Thomas C. Woods IV
Joan Stolle
Angie Zmarzly
Kathy Steinauer Smith

President & Board Secretary
Operations Manager
Community Investment Director
Community Investment Director

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Organizations Paid Grants in 2015

Asian Community and Cultural Center
Boys and Girls Club of Lincoln Lancaster County
The Bridge Behavioral Health, Inc.
Center for Legal Immigration Assistance
Center for Rural Affairs
Common Cause Education Fund
Community CROPS
Disability Rights Nebraska
Family Health Services
Food Bank of Lincoln
Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries
Friends of Haymarket Theatre
Hear Nebraska
Heartland Big Brothers-Big Sisters
Legal Aid of Nebraska
Lincoln Community Playhouse
Lincoln Housing Charities
Lincoln Lancaster County
Lincoln Lancaster County Child Advocacy Center
Lincoln Lancaster County Child Guidance Center
Lincoln Orchestra Association
Lincoln Public Schools (2)
Lux Center for the Arts
The Mediation Center

Museum of Nebraska Art
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition
Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, Inc.
Nebraskans for Civic Reform
Nonprofit Hub Foundation
Northeast Family Resource Center
OpenSky Policy Institute
Produce from the Heart
Ruth Davidson Hahn and Company
Seniors Foundation
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center
Tabitha Foundation
TeamMates Mentoring Program
UNL Dept. of Psychology
UNL International Quilt Study Center & Museum
UNL Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools
Vision Maker Media
Voices for Children of Nebraska
Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc.
Willis Cather Foundation
YMCA of Lincoln

Nonprofits able to use WCF meeting room

Looking for a meeting space for your nonprofit organization? WCF’s conference room is available free of charge to nonprofits during regular business hours. Over the past three years, several Lincoln nonprofit organizations have utilized the room and attached kitchen for meetings including Leadership Lincoln, OpenSky Policy Institute, Humanities Nebraska and Junior League of Lincoln and others.

To reserve the room, please visit http://woodscharitable.org/meeting-room/ for more information and a reservation request form.